



Remarks

By

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

**At the Global COVID-19 Summit: “Ending the Pandemic and
Building Back Better”**

From Phnom Penh, 22 September 2021



- *His Excellency Joe Biden, President of the United States of America;*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

The global outbreak of COVID-19 is a common crisis. Hence, Cambodia agrees with the view that **“no one country can stop this alone. We need to work together, support each another, and remember that no one is safe until all of us are safe.”** At the same time, I would like to emphasize that **“we must jointly stop this crisis to the best of our abilities and capacities in a sincere, responsible and humanitarian manner without any hidden political agenda”**. In this regard, Cambodia is pleased to join the international community in committing to the **“Draft Targets”**, which is the key outcome of this Global COVID-19 Summit.

In fact, as of the third quarter of 2021, the situation of COVID-19 still remains highly uncertain, with the risk of new waves of more virulent coronavirus variants, and disrupts general socio-economic activities. With the enthusiasm for the initiative to launch the **“Draft Targets”**, Cambodia would like to urge all participating countries to turn these **“Draft Targets”** into real and pragmatic actions. In addition, Cambodia is in the view that all countries must work together and unite in solidarity to realize this main goal, do not discriminate against races and political tendencies and avoid using the fighting against COVID-19 as a political agenda or to serve one’s own political agendas.

As vaccine is an essential good in saving lives, Cambodia welcomes the set target of vaccinating at least 70% of the world’s population. To achieve this target, Cambodia calls on all stakeholders to set **all vaccines, recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), as a key global strategic good without discrimination against the types and sources of the vaccines**, and as a public good with an affordable

price that all countries have access to and can use them on demand. Furthermore, Cambodia also calls on all governments to enable the production of COVID-19 vaccines widely in potential countries and regions, through financing and providing incentives for investments in the production of vaccines. At the same time, Cambodia would like to appeal to all governments not to hoard vaccine for their own countries or keep the vaccines they produce only for themselves.

- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

For Cambodia, we have responded to this crisis energetically with a comprehensive strategy. In the fight against COVID-19, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has identified vaccination as a **key strategic measure**, combined with three other measures including: (1) preventing and detecting infections in a timely manner, (2) strengthening the capacities for effective treatment and use of drugs and (3) thoroughly implementing administrative, health and legal measures, as well as attracting active participation from the public from all walks of life. Concerning the socio-economy, the RGC has already introduced nine rounds of intervention measures to help stabilize businesses and the livelihood of citizens, especially workers-employees, poor families, as well as those vulnerable from the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

As a result of the aforementioned efforts, Cambodia has become a country with a high vaccination rate. As of 22 September 2021, out of the total population, approximately 66% of the population aged 12 and above have been vaccinated. In addition, on 17 September 2021, the RGC decided to launch the vaccination campaign for children aged 6 to 12 and the booster shot vaccination campaign for all citizens aged 18 and above. On this basis, Cambodia has been gradually achieving the herd immunity as the cases of infection, illness and death have been declining remarkably.

For the way forward, Cambodia will continue to implement the measures of prevention, treatment and vaccination, as well as preparing a comprehensive risk-assessment framework to re-open full socio-economic activities, on a step-by-step approach and in a vigilant manner. Moreover, the RGC will continue to promote investments in the social sector, especially the strengthening of social protection and health systems, so as to respond timely and effectively to any pandemic that may happen in the future.

Concerning the initiative of this Summit, Cambodia is committed to participating with its own capacity and comparative advantages, by opening up and creating an environment conducive to the production of essential and necessary products such as masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other medical equipment. This contribution will ensure that the world has access to necessary high-quality products at affordable prices, and can meet demands timely, as Cambodia has comparative advantages in terms of labour and costs. The RGC will continue to

promote investments in this sector by providing incentives and facilitating all processes to ensure the successes of these investments.

In conclusion, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all friends and development partners for the continued support to Cambodia in the fight against COVID-19. Cambodia is always ready and will continue to participate as actively as possible with all countries and stakeholders in the fight against COVID-19 to bring the world back on the path of inclusive and sustainable development and prosperity.

Thank You!