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Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take great pleasure and honor in participating in this panel. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I wish to express my warm greetings to all of you who are here today.



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Established as a full ministry in 1997, the Ministry of Women's Affairs plays a critical role in advocating for gender equality and in building capacity of sector ministries and institutions to integrate gender in their respective sectors. It acts as a catalyst and advocate to mainstream gender priorities in planning and operational processes and move public institutions, development partners, civil society and the private sector to integrate gender equality into their policies and programmes.

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development partners. In this respect, the partnership principle for Cambodia's PFM-RP was signed by the RGC and key donors. UNDP, as one of signatories, is in good partnership with the government and partners to build on joint commitment and support to these principles toward achieving intended PFM-RF platform 3 "improved linkage of the priorities and service targets to budget planning and implementation".

The PFM-RP Stage 2 was launched in 2008. It is one of the key elements of the «Rectangular Strategy» with its long term vision to build an International standard of public financial management system by 2015.

As part of gender mainstreaming efforts, considerable progress has been made in the past few years into the PFM-RP through the joint collaboration between MoWA, MEF and key development partners.

In the Consolidated Action Plan 2 (CAP2) of the PFM-RP, gender consideration was clearly integrated into the Objective 32.1, "Develop policy on integration of the budget. Continue to improve integration of recurrent and capital budgets through such ongoing initiatives such as Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Budget Strategic Plan (BSP), and Programme Budgeting (PB). Integrate poverty

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## **2- Progress and challenges, and the way ahead**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia has been recognized for its achievement in putting a strong base for gender mainstreaming. As you noted, we were able to:

- Provide top-level political leadership to prioritize and advance gender equality,
- anchor gender equality in the governmental agenda at the macro level and create mechanisms for implementation across all levels,
- Innovate in choosing high impact strategies through our work to make major reforms of Cambodia gender responsive through concrete actions: This is the case with the Public

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formal sector where they make currently less than a third. The success of the Cambodian garment sector provided an opportunity for young rural women to enter the wage economy, with 90 percent of employees being women.

In addition to the law on domestic violence, a National Action Plan to Combat Violence against Women was approved last year. However, knowing that women continue to be subject to violence, with 22.5% of married women having experienced violence within their home, and few of them seeking assistance, we are strengthening the preventive efforts and exploring the establishment of integrated services through one-stop service centres for victims of violence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite good progress there are still a number of challenges as I have just outlined. The CMDG 3 and some gender goals within other CMDGs such as numbers of girls in higher education, improving rates of literacy, female share of wage employment are considered under the category "need attention". There is a need to have a more coherent and comprehensive approach to gender equality that can effectively prioritize, plan and allocate more resources to address these challenges. This brings me to the last point of my statement.

### **3- Aid-effectiveness and aid coordination mechanisms in support of our agenda.**

Effective partnering and shared goals are central to realising the objectives of development effectiveness and move the gender equality agenda in Cambodia. In this context, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2015) has identified gender equality as one of the five UNDAF outcomes. Along the lines agreed in Paris, Accra and now Busan, Cambodia is keen on enhancing partnership and dialogue mechanisms towards more aid effectiveness. We recognize that Programme-based Approaches (PBAs) are a promising method for enabling sector or thematic programmes to become better organized by aligning actors and processes around common goals and priorities and to ensure government leadership and donor harmonization. With fiv

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addressed as a cross-cutting dimension in other sectors such as health and education, the lack of a joint M & E framework that would allow for systematic measurement of jointly formulated milestones makes it difficult to assess gender responsiveness of major programmes supported by development partners. Obviously, there is still a need to deliver on promises of CSW 2008, increase financing for gender equality goals and support more Cambodia's MDGs' agenda in a harmonized manner. Here, let me emphasize that advancement towards achieving MDG targets on gender equality in Cambodia requires:

- More involvement from our financial institutions and in particular from the MEF. Despite the principles enshrined in our policies to bring gender equality to the forefront of operations, there is still a lack of understanding and adequate tools to truly and systematically mainstream gender equality measures;
- An increase in funding for gender equality and a coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism able to link activities by development partners among each other and to the programmes of the RGC and align them to the national development goals on gender equality and women's empowerment.

I thank you for your attention.