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PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY BUN ENG CHOU

SECRETARY OF STATE

THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
AND PERMANENT VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

AT THE
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

NEW YORK, 19 MAY 2022

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, allow me to express my profound thanks, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, for giving a chance to Cambodia to act as a GCM Champion Country initiative;

Cambodia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the GCM Champion Countries. Cambodia supports the adoption of **the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum and is committed to** working closely with all partners and stakeholders in advancing the 23 objectives of the GCM. In this connection, let me highlight as follows:

One. To promote inclusive societies in COVID-19 response and recovery,

The Royal Government of Cambodia, will continue to increase national efforts and cooperation with all stakeholders to include migrants in the national response to Covid-19 and healthcare coverage through “National Policy on Migrant’s Health” by addressing the specific vulnerabilities to mental and physical health issues, faced and are facing during migration cycle. The Migrant Health Policy endorsed in 2021 with its 10 years National Strategic Plan will be operationalised by the whole government and society approach. Cambodia aims to achieve concrete improvements in universal health coverage and migrants’ access to essential health services by the next IMRF. Furthermore, women are targeted to be given health consideration, economic opportunities, skills development and recognition to prevent them further from labour exploitations and trafficking in persons.

Two- To promote safe and regular migration

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has made its commitment to fulfil the objectives set out in the Compact by selecting three priority objectives: objectives 1, 11 and 23 to be key step forward, and will address other relevant objectives by strengthening internal, regional and global cooperation. As a supporter of the GCM since its inception, and as a member of the GCM ‘Champion’ initiative’; we will use this opportunity to share lessons learned, key insights, and best practices with other countries from the national efforts to implement the GCM, and will achieve its National Implementation Plan (2023-2025) actively. By the next IMRF (2026) it will be able to demonstrate concrete results and improvements achieved .

Three- To ensure that Children in migration are also well protected

Migrants, especially those who are in undocumented status, both adults, children unaccompanied - and migrants’ children born abroad, are in keeping or receiving civil status documents and birth registration; and encounter difficulties in exercising their basic rights, and to access basic services, including education and decent work, due to the lack of legal identity and related legal documents. Those children may fall into worst situation than their parents as they may face any forms of discrimination, exploitation, violation, trafficking and become displaced persons, stateless people and/or slave. In response, the consular authorities of the country of origin can play a critical role to remedy these obstacles. **In this regard**, collaboration between origin and destination countries is necessary for gathering accurate and disaggregated data, especially of children, to enable both countries to set up appropriate solutions or procedures to encounter the gaps in ensuring that **children on the move, migrant’s children and children left behind** are well protected.

In conclusion, Cambodia reiterate its strong support for the Progress Declaration and attaches great important to the implementation of GCM objectives by addressing the challenges and gaps in policies and practices, strengthening collaboration with all stakeholders, both government, non-governmental organizations and private sector and sharing best practices among GCM Champion Countries and other Member States.

We look forward for the continued support from IOM and UN Migration Network to enabling the efforts of Champion Countries and others in achieving the implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular migration.

Thank you, Mr. President!