



គណៈកម្មាធិការ  
សហប្រតិបត្តិការដើម្បីកម្ពុជា  
Cooperation Committee  
for Cambodia  
Comité de Coopération  
Pour le Cambodge

ទស្សនវិស័យ: ការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាពសម្រាប់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា  
**Vision: Sustainable development for Cambodia**

**Preliminary Inputs from the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) on  
The Voluntary National Review (VNR) Cambodia 2019 on Goal 16 and Goal 17 of the Cambodia Sustainable  
Development Goals (CSDGs)  
“Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality”**

## **Introduction**

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs is a collection of 17 new universal agenda with ambitious plan to end poverty, protect the planet and to ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. In Cambodia, the Sustainable Development Goals localization plan was supposed to be finalized at the end of the second quarter of 2018; however, the national high-level committee, as its meeting April 24, 2018, requested revisions and a reduction of the number of indicators. The Government of Cambodia finalized Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) in late 2018.

Civil society is a crucial actor in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has key role to play in raising awareness via public sensitization programs, building capacity development for program integration of SDGs and CSDGs, promoting inclusive partnership with stakeholders (government, private sector and civil society) on financing for development and SDGs related policies prioritization and coherence, and reflecting the progress and achievements as well as challenges of SDGs and CSDGs implementation through public feedback and voluntary national review. Civil society organizations are active in holding policy-makers to account for the commitments they have made.

Within the SDGs process, civil society organizations have closely engaged and monitored the process through possible space and mechanisms such as the Technical Working Group, the inter-ministerial meetings, the engagement with relevant line ministries, the engagement with DP agencies including the UN etc. Below we present some lessons learnt being made by civil society organizations which regard specifically to the SDGs localization and Voluntary National Review process.

## **Lesson Learnt on Localization of Sustainable Development in Cambodia**

The Ministry of Planning leads coordination of localization process of global SDGs into Cambodian context. CSDGs has 18 Goals; including land mine clearance, 88 targets, and 148 indicators. Lesson learnt on the localization process are the following:

- Rather than developing a separate action plan for CSDGs, the overall CSDGs framework will be integrated into the next National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023 and corresponding sectoral plan.
- While a series of inter-ministerial meetings were crucial to the adoption and localization of the CSDGs, currently, there is not a coordinated national mechanism or inter-ministerial process in place for harmonization or monitoring all the CSDGs. Additionally, the M&E capacity from one ministry to another is quite different and this may affect the overall M&E exercise of the CSDGs.
- In the localization process, there was not a guideline for ministries to follow on how to mainstream overall CSDGs' strategies into the ministerial level. In this case, each ministry will have different approach to contextualize the national strategies into their own agenda and data collection structures. As the result, the reporting system among the ministries will be a challenge.
- The Government of Cambodia has limited national budget to support implementation of CSDGs. Not all programs under the CSDGs are financed due to limited fund. The inter-related nature of the CSDGs entails harmonization not only to accelerate achievement, but to ensure sufficient monitoring and to maximize funding expenditure towards the goals. In this case, the Ministry of Economy and Finance has insufficient capacity in developing the monitoring framework for CSDGs, including limited capacity of officials in line ministries on defining indicators, gaps in available data, and

difficulties calculating the baseline and targets. To solve this problem, the government should establish a committee or channel for monitoring mechanism, systematic reporting, and enable opportunity for different line ministries to share lessons learned and good practices.

- Civil society appreciate the chance that they were engaged in the localization process of the SDGs, either through the Technical Working Group or other channels. However, civil society recognized that mechanisms used so far were not inclusive enough to have the key concerns from civil society heard and addressed through those process. There should be a tracking tool agreed upon by both the government and civil society to concretely understand about how those inputs have been taken into the government's account.

### **Reflection on the Cambodia Voluntary National Review 2019**

The Government of Cambodia will deliver a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the 2019 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In the spirit of the collective agreement on 'Leave no one behind', the VNRs must reflect the true status of transformation through an open, transparent and inclusive participatory approach.

- Public Awareness and capacity to implement the CSDGs:

The knowledge on the SDGs in general, and CSDGs in particular is extremely low amongst the general public, and a vast majority have not even heard about it. The Ministry of Planning has not yet officially launched national awareness on CSDGs. Civil society organizations conducted public awareness mostly within the capital city, town and amongst a select group of public, private and other stakeholders, but not extended to a majority of the citizens. Private sector is also a key actor. It is important to establish efforts to partner or initiate CSDGs based programmes and fit them into the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) model. In addition, knowledge on the CSDGs amongst CSOs remains low and limited to Phnom Penh and populated areas. The knowledge on CSDGs is extremely low amongst community-based organization (CBOs). CSOs has not had opportunity to engage in proper learning and awareness.

The Government should speed up the official launching progress to the public without delay. If CSDGs is to be implemented in the spirit of leaving no one behind, then the Ministry of Planning, other line ministries, the United Nations Agencies in Cambodia, and all stakeholders must take immediate action and scale-up the public awareness on CSDGs to all segment of the society. To achieve this mission, the Ministry of Planning should build a clear and comprehensive plan to promote public sensitization on CSDGs. Another key challenge is how to mainstreaming CSDGs into policy framework at sub-national level due to the fact that local authority has low level of knowledge on CSDGs. To ensure effective operation of CSDGs, thus, the awareness at sub-national level is very important. Besides, capacity development of the local authorities should be provided adequately.

Data governance should be strengthened at all levels and among stakeholders. Different stakeholders who are engaged in the VNR process should be given inclusive space not only to aware about the process but to contribute and validate data used by one another. Data governance for CSDGs is not only important at the VNR process but also for the whole implementation of this agenda.

## **Roles of Civil Society Organization in the Voluntary National Review**

In order to have a meaningful engage with the government, CSO seeks for inclusive space and clear milestone for themselves. Civil society organization (CSO) plays a significant role in promoting the approach of open, inclusive and transparent participatory method on VNR reporting among all relevant stakeholders. CSO expresses strong commitment to engage in the public awareness on SDGs and VNR process at both national and sub-national level. Regarding the VNR process, CSO actively participates in the HLPF VNR process and learned the best practices from other countries.

The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) is playing a key role in order to coordinate civil society organization to actively engage with the government on CSDGs and VNR process. CCC is a leading membership organization with nearly 200 local and foreign associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Cambodia. CCC has been playing a unique role since 1990 as an enabling agent to facilitate civil society organizations (CSOs) to collectively, responsibly and accountably work together for good governance, enabling environment and sustainability of CSOs in Cambodia. CCC has worked collaboratively with other civil society organizations who are closely engaged and monitored the SDGs process to ensure that we can reach consolidated voices before conveying them to the government and other stakeholders. Besides, CCC has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 15 provincial NGO networks to focus on 1) Strengthening of network and its members, 2) Improving Resource Mobilization both finance and non-finance, 3) Enhancing shared voiced among CSO for effective advocacy.

### **CCC's Input on Goal 16 and 17 of CSDGs**

Besides, the desk review on key relevant government policy documents, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) conducted regional consultation workshop to collect inputs from CSOs at provincial level on Goal 16 and 17 of CSDGs for the voluntary national review report. The regional consultation workshops were conducted in three different provinces; Siem Reap, Kampong Cham and Kampot province, with approximately 100 participants representing CSOs from 21 provinces in Cambodia. The participants were invited to join in group discussions on progress, challenges, and rating the implementation of Goal 16 and 17 of CSDGs. The result of the group discussion was separately presenting for validation purpose among the participants in each regional workshop.

After the regional consultation workshops, key leading sectoral CSOs organized a national consultation workshop on engaging civil society in the voluntary national review 2019 process in Phnom Penh. The leading sectoral CSOs are the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), NGO Education Partnership, Health Action Coordinating Committee (HACC), SILAKA, World Vision Cambodia (WVC), and Open Development Cambodia (ODC). There were 68 participants from civil society organizations, provincial network, experts, development partners, etc. The national consultation workshop aims to: 1) to share understanding of main step, methods required for the preparation of Cambodia's 2019 VNR, and experiences on data gathering process and challenges; 2) to reflect the progress and achievement as well as challenges of CSDGs implementation through public feedback and VNR; and 3) to show solidarity spirit among CSOs in engaging in the public sensitization and inclusive partnership with development actors and government institution.

**Goal 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels**

| Targets  | Progresses   | Challenges  | Available Data/<br>Key Government<br>Planning Document   | Evaluation/<br>Reflection     | Next Step/<br>Recommendation  |
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| <p><b>16. 3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Royal Government of Cambodia made key efforts to improve legal and judicial system. Some necessary legal frameworks were introduced in order to enhance the competent, independence and impartiality of judiciary which are crucial for strengthening the rule of law.</li> <li>- Major laws, including the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code, and Civil Code, and other laws and regulations related to political, economic, social and cultural sectors were</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every Khmer citizen shall be equal before the law, enjoying the same rights, freedom and fulfilling the same obligations regardless of race, color, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency, birth origin, social status, wealth or other status. Therefore, all persons should enjoy rights to fair trial, equal before the law without any discrimination because of their social and political statuses.</li> <li>- In practice, many Cambodian people still express their concerns on fair trial right, right to be treated equally before the law and the equality of accessing to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good Governance</li> <li>- Legal and Judicial Reform.</li> <li>- World Justice Project.</li> <li>- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia.</li> <li>- National Report Submitted in Accordance with Paragraph 15 (A) of the Annex to Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia</li> </ul> | <p>Initial planning phase</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Royal Government of Government (RGC) should ensure that no one in Cambodia is left behind to enjoy their rights and freedoms without discrimination regardless of race, color, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency, birth origin, social status, wealth or other statuses.</li> <li>- The RGC should establish effective mechanism (s) to provide better access to justice without any discrimination, access to legal educations and judicial information, and including the</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>promulgated to contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The rotating of the judges and prosecutors from area to another area is deemed as the strategies of the Government in fighting against corruption within the judicial system.</li> </ul> | <p>justice. Some enforcement of some laws for instances; the Law on Peaceful Demonstration had been paused in 2017-2018, Law on Association and Non-Governmental Organization (LANGO), the Trade Union Law are remaining some challenges. Some provisions of those law can be implied for the restriction without the due reasons in justifying with the principles of just, fair and reasonable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition, accessing to justice for the poor Cambodian is remaining the gaps within society.</li> <li>- There is a concern about the independence of judicial system and enforcement of the laws politically motivated due to the victims' political status. The realization and understanding of laws and its procedures of enforcement are remaining very limited among the public. The lack of</li> </ul> |  |  | <p>strengthening legal aid services for the poor and vulnerable, especially for children and women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The some more instructions of the legislations should be made to avoid the gaps of ambiguous interpretation of the laws. The power of the law should be above the individual's directions.</li> <li>- The government should ensure that the list of court fee is publicly displayed in Khmer in all courts and that any additional fees that court clerks may legitimately charge are also verified and publicly available.</li> <li>- Make dissemination of the laws and regulations as much as it can and enhance access to judicial information, decisions and other</li> </ul> |
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|  |  | <p>public awareness to realize the objectives of the enacted laws causing people see the enforcement of the laws in difference pictures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Means of dissemination of laws and regulations from national to sub-nation level is still the big challenge. There are reports and cases documentation from different locations of inconsistency exercising of the law and executive regulations by the competent authorities of law and regulation at sub-national level. The interpretation of the laws and regulations by authorities are remaining the problem.</li> <li>- Quality of service delivery of civil servants needs to be systematically addressed. There are documentations of poor services delivered by public servants including: rude manners, lack of knowledge, bureaucracy and ineffectiveness, unreasonable</li> </ul> |  |  | <p>related laws and regulations for the public awareness on laws and its enforcement including court decisions and proceedings, periodic administrative reports and administrative information regarding pending cases, status and schedule information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should provide more and deepen training to judges and prosecutors on international human rights laws and standards, and to apply those international human rights laws and standards in case proceeding and decision making.</li> <li>- Building public truth on the judicial system by ensuring the corruption less and independence</li> </ul> |
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|   |   | <p>delay, political discrimination etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The interpretation of the laws such as judges and prosecutors is generally based on national laws, both in the case proceeding and decision makings without considering the substances of the jurisprudence of international human rights laws which Cambodia has ratified.</li> </ul>  |  |                               | <p>of making decisions without any fear in term of exercising their competent and sovereign powers</p>  |
| <p><b>16.5</b><br/><b>Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good governance has been placed at the center of the Government strategy, and anti-corruption is one of the top priorities.</li> <li>- There are some positive efforts in improving the legal and regulatory framework on fighting against corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Council and anticorruption unit set up strategy and policy in</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corruption is a common and cross-cutting issue which affects daily life of Cambodians. Particularly, corruption in the judiciary and systematically organized are still the key challenges which needed urgent and immediate response in order to promote justice for all and transparent society.</li> <li>- At commune and Sangkat level, the report shows existence of unreasonable delay of documents issuance</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Administration Reform.</li> <li>- Good governance/fighting corruption.</li> <li>- Overarching environment for implementation of the Strategy/Favorable Macro Economic and Financial Condition and Environmental Sustainability.</li> </ul> | <p>Plan or action started</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should take immediate action for fundamental anti-corruption reform in an effective manner without unreasonable delayed. The principle of zero tolerance towards corruption should be begun to apply.</li> <li>- Recommending to amend some articles of the current Law on Anti-Corruption including: public asset declaration</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>fighting against corruption or the Strategic Plan in fighting against corruption.</p> | <p>or verification for long period of time without notification and feedback to applicants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The implementation of the Anti-corruption law required a lot of efforts, resources and participation from all stakeholders in in order to ensure the law is more effective and in transparent manner. For instance, asset declaration requirement is in confidential. Those who committed corruption are not accountable before the law. As the result, the publics, including CSOs, are reluctant to report corruption allegation to the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). The tolerance towards corruption makers is the big issue.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corruption Perception Index (2018), International Transparency.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia</li> </ul> | <p>for those who are entitled to be declared, and extend the declaration requirement to spouses of those who are entitled to be declared and immediate family members. A law or regulation on banning family members from working together in the same office or institution or policy of shifting the office regularly to eliminate patronage, cronyism and nepotism in the office or institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Giving more supports to education programme on fighting against corruption and public awareness on corruption-related regulation and practices. The government should make effort to promote active participation of Civil Society Organizations in</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The public revenues from taxes collection have been gradually increased. Improvement in corporate registries and strategies of revenue collection is a milestone achievement. Besides, the General Department of Taxation undertakes reforms including auditing of businesses, online registration and declaration platform and increasing numbers of Govt. staff etc.</li> <li>- Reduction of petty corruption in providing some essential public services, and one-window service, to the people such as civic registration, identity card, etc.</li> </ul> |  |  |  | <p>preventing and fighting against corruption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition, the government should engage public participation in fighting against corruption, and confidential reporting system, and effective mechanism in handling complaints against corruption, etc.</li> <li>- The government should adopt the Law on the Protection of Reporting Person and on the Protection of Witness, Expert and Victim and the Law on Access to Information.</li> <li>- Enforces the Law on Anti-Corruption against the offender without distinction of political tendency and social status and with zero tolerant.</li> </ul> |
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|  |  |  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Strengthening the administration of state-properties inventory [state resources] and the management public administration and effective administration of government budget within public institutions. Allocating more budget on prioritized areas including agricultures, public works, education, health care, land management, etc.</li><li>- Improves the implementation of standard of ethics and discipline of public servants to gain the truth. Giving more truth to taxpayers.</li><li>- Begin to criminal punishing against enterprises or business owners who escape the liability as the taxpayers.</li></ul> |
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| <p><b>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government has been implementing the Public Financial Management Reform Program in order to provide better and effective public financial management in the Government institution.</li> <li>- In order to bring public services closer to the people, the government has implemented decentralization and deconcentration (D&amp;D) reform through the National Program for Democratic Development at the Sub-national level. The “One Window Service” administration is the new appreciated reform. As the result, we observe the existence of consultation forum, technical meeting and dialogue at sub-national level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism is still a key challenge at sub-national level on the implementation of the reforms. The transparency and accountability of expenses in Government institutions are remaining in questions. The constituents have limited space to make decision and join in open, inclusive partnership with local authorities. The inclusive participations (especially from the public) to the drafting process of budget law is limited.</li> <li>- In practice, public servants, for some extent, is remaining a bit poor record of ethics or code of conduct and discipline when providing public services and communication to people. Sub-national authorities still lack of programme expertise, skilled-full person, human</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D &amp; D Reform</li> <li>- NSDD</li> <li>- Public Finance Management</li> <li>- Enhancing Implementation of Policy and Gender Equity.</li> <li>- Good Governance.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia</li> </ul> | <p>Plans or actions started</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since Cambodia has transformed to a least-middle income nation, the amount of international aid is starting decreased. The needs of improving the public financial management is very important.</li> <li>- The government should commit to promote multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusive partnership in designing or drafting and adopting, policy and laws by creating platform for debates among the government, development partners, civil society and private sectors. The open-minded culture should be promoted.</li> <li>- The Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF)</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition, the government strengthen the quality and public service delivery. The theme of public services is responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency. To do so, there is the Policy on Public Service and the Guide on Public Service Standard. For instance, key respondents report some positive signs on personnel development and institutional capacity improvement like the existing of attendant scanning machine, and other progress in key sectors such as sanitation, education, and clean water.</li> <li>- At sub-national level, the Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF) has been a significant progress that citizens can participate to improve quality of public services</li> </ul> | <p>resources, budget allocation and decision-making power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As documented, public services delivery some but not all, have applied in double standard, especially among civil society organizations working on development agenda verses the human rights, advocacy and democracy civil organizations. While those working on development programme build easy communication channel with local authorities, the CSOs working on advocacy, human rights, and democracy might not be equally treated.</li> </ul> |  |  | <p>should be implemented beyond health center, primary schools and commune. It should also be implemented at district, provincial and ministry levels. Within this platform, all stakeholders can advocate for having the multi-stakeholder forum in place to help ensuring that all development actors have the inclusive space to talk about their own agendas as well as to share some perspectives to overcome any common development challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improves the implementation of standard of ethics and discipline of public servants.</li> <li>- While the salary of the public servants is increasing year by year, the needs of work productivities and</li> </ul> |
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|  | at commune, health center and primary schools. |  |  |  | quality are very important too. |
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| <p><b>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government expresses commitment to promote genuine partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sectors in all aspects of social and economic development. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA) had meetings with domestic civil society organizations and international Non-governmental organization respectively. Recently the government issued a directive guideline to all ministries and government institutions to include the participations of all relevant actors into the decision making process.</li> <li>- The government has been implementing three</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meaningful participation in decision-making process is remaining limitation at sub-national level particularly in Commune Investment Plan (CIP), and Commune Development Plan (CDP). The decision mostly makes by upper echelon.</li> <li>- Moreover, sub-national authorities do not have consistent platform to engage their constituencies in decision making process. Especially, the adoption of priority issues in Commune/Sangkat.</li> <li>- Besides, there is lack of mechanism to inform to the people on decision priorities and responsive services, including consultation, from the authorities.</li> <li>- At sub-national level, some consultative approaches, e.g. with the people, and civil society organizations, had</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- D &amp; D Reform</li> <li>- NSDD</li> <li>- Public Finance Management</li> <li>- Enhancing Implementation of Policy and Gender Equity</li> <li>- Good Governance.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia.</li> </ul> | <p>Initial planning phase</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since Cambodian has transformed to a least-middle income country, the amount of international aid is starting decreased and aid providers are turning their attention to other countries. The government have to allocate sufficient national budget to support sub-national governance in their areas of responsibility.</li> <li>- To achieve reform at sub-national level, the government should establish tools for human resources management and further strengthening capacity develop, such as job description, role and responsibility, regular performance appraisals, working time, and other, for implementation.</li> </ul> |
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|  | <p>reforms: 1) Decentralization and Deconcentration (D&amp;D), 2) Sub-National Democratic Development (SNDD), and 3) Public Financial Management. The engagement of all relevant stakeholders into issue based through the creation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) have been implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government removed requirement to notify local authorities three days in advance of CSOs' planned activities.</li> <li>- Establishes an inter-ministerial working group led by the Ministry to address CSOs' requests and concerns, including issues related to the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) as well as suggested amendments.</li> </ul> | <p>been exited, but lack of meaningful contribution. As recorded, stakeholders are invited to listen to their presentation or what had been prepared by the authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The knowledge of civic engagement from local people is very constraint. The lack of public involvement impact on monitoring and reporting system when the Plans are implementing in their commune/Sangkat.</li> <li>- Cambodia is a lower-middle income nation where the amount of international aid is expected to be diminished.</li> <li>- Sub-national authority still lacks of local self-governance, finance, human resources and decision-making capacity. These issues limit power and autonomy of the sub-national authority to coordinate and perform their functions and tasks in transparent,</li> </ul> |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should promote multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusive partnership in designing or drafting and adopting law and policy by creating platform for debates among the government, development partners, civil society and private sectors.</li> <li>- At sub-national level, local authorities should be encouraged to apply the Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF). Within this platform, all stakeholders can advocate for having the multi-stakeholder forum in place to help ensuring that all development actors have the inclusive space to talk about their own agendas as well as to share some perspectives to</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government takes actions in areas where sharp gender disparities exist. E.g. women participation in politic, capacity building for women, increasing women’s representation in key decision making positions, etc.</li> <li>- The government, especially the Ministry of Planning, is working with stakeholders in partnership on implementing CSDGs.</li> <li>- One-Window Service is an effective mechanism initiated by the government in order to simplify its administrative process and timely delivery of public services to be accessible to citizens, businessmen, and small entrepreneur.</li> </ul> | <p>accountable, and public service efficiently.</p> |  |  | <p>overcome any common development challenge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improves the implementation of standard of ethics and discipline of public servants.</li> <li>- While the salary of the public servants is increasing year by year, the needs of work productivities and quality are very important too.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreement.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government established a Joint Technical Working Group (the “Working Group”) to draft the Law on Access to Information. This Working Group has led by the Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Swedish Embassy and UNESCO. The drafted law has been finalized at the technical working group level already.</li> <li>- The 1993 Constitution of Cambodia, article 31, provides fundamental rights that guarantee the equality before the law for its citizens.</li> <li>- The Constitution also guarantee the protection of liberty without any distinction. The protection extends to freedom of speech, expression, free</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are concerns on the deterioration of the freedom of expression, information, and association in Cambodia. In addition, the Law on Telecommunication establishes a series of criminal charges related to expression while using telecommunication devises. The inter-ministerial Prakas on website and social media control issued on May 2018 by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication orders to “block or close” websites and social media pages containing content “considered as incitement, breaking solidarity, discrimination and willfully creating turmoil leading to undermining national security, public interest and social order.” The Prakas severely impact on the right to privacy and to the freedom of expression online in Cambodia.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good Governance</li> <li>- Legal and Judicial Reforms</li> <li>- The Implementation of the Strategy/Peace, Political Stability, and Social Order.</li> <li>- The Development of Physical Infrastructure/Development of Information and Communication Technology.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia.</li> </ul> | <p>Initial planning phase</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Without further delay, the government should speed-up the enactment process of the Law on Access to Information, to facilitate discussion and approval at the parliaments.</li> <li>- To publicly and effectively educate the general public about the right of citizens to access to information and its importance at both national and sub-national level.</li> <li>- To strengthen law enforcement and rule of law effectively in order to safeguard people’s liberty and fundamental freedom without discrimination.</li> <li>- Strengthening the provision of “one-window service”, or similar mechanism,</li> </ul> |
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|  | <p>movement, right to association or assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government expresses commitment to promote genuine partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) in all aspects of social development. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA) had meeting with domestic civil society organizations and international Non-governmental organization respectively. Similar consultative platform will also organize at municipal/provincial level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some articles of the Penal Code of Cambodia are being criticized that they ae being used to restrict on freedom of expression and debate, including provision on conspiracy. In addition, the amendments to the Constitution and the Penal Code promulgated in 2018 use broad terminology which might interpret to restrict the freedom of speech.</li> <li>- The Law on Access to Information is yet officially promulgated. Thus, people has limited capacity to request for available and reliable information from public authority. For instance, lack of statistical data, and some information is only available online in the official website of the institution, and ordinary people might not familiar with using of internet.</li> <li>- In addition, key respondents experienced difficulties to get</li> </ul> |  |  | <p>which has roles and responsibilities to provide information, data and other relevant needs to the public in compliance with the Law on Access to Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regarding the terminology used in the Penal Code and the amended Constitution in 2018, the government should define more precise language to meet international standards and avoid the risks to freedom of speech.</li> <li>- To provide better access to legal and judicial information and government official reports.</li> <li>- The government should encourage the use of press freedom and freedom of expression in according to principles of pluralistic democracy,</li> </ul> |
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|  |   | access to information as there is no consistent mechanism to request for information from public authorities both at national and sub-national level.   |   |                        | rule of law, and protection of human rights and human dignity.<br><br>- To disseminate and enhance access to judicial information and other related laws and regulations and government policy for the public awareness on laws and its enforcement including court decisions and proceedings, periodic administrative reports and administrative information regarding pending cases, status and schedule information. |
| <b>16. b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.</b> | - The government expresses commitment to promote genuine partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) in all aspects of social development. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of | - In practice, to some extent, people still express their concerns on fair trial right, right to access to justice and equality before the law. The implementation of the Law on Peaceful Demonstration, Law on Association and Non-Governmental Organization | - Good Governance<br>- Legal and Judicial Reforms<br>- The Implementation of the Strategy/Peace, Political Stability, and Social Order. | Initial planning phase | - The government should ensure that no one in Cambodia is left behind to enjoy rights to fair trial and freedoms without discrimination regardless of race, color, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency,   |

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|  | <p>Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA) had meeting with domestic civil society organizations and international Non-governmental organization respectively. Similar consultative platform will also organize at municipal/provincial level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government removed requirement to notify local authorities three days in advance of CSOs' planned activities.</li> <li>- Establishes an inter-ministerial working group led by the Ministry to address CSOs' requests and concerns, including issues related to the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) as well as suggested amendments.</li> </ul> | <p>(LANGO), the Trade Union Law are sometimes not questionable for equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As documented, public services delivery applies in double standard, especially among civil society organizations working on development agenda verses the human rights, advocacy and democracy. While those working on development program build easy communication channel with local authority, the CSOs working on advocacy, human rights, and democracy might not be equally treated.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Development of Physical Infrastructure/Development of Information and Communication Technology.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia.</li> </ul> | <p>birth origin, social status, wealth or other status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should train judges and prosecutors on international human rights laws and standards, and to apply those international human rights laws and standards in case proceeding and decision making.</li> <li>- To publicly and effectively educate the general public about the right to access to information both national and sub-national level.</li> <li>- To strengthen law enforcement and rule of law effectively in order to safeguard people's liberty and fundamental freedom without discrimination.</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The government, especially the Ministry of Planning, is working with stakeholders in partnership on implementing CSDGs.</li></ul> |  |  |  |  |
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**Goal 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

| Targets  | Progresses   | Challenges  | Available Data/<br>Key Government<br>Planning Document  | Evaluation/<br>Reflection       | Next Step/<br>Recommendation  |
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| <p><b>17.1 Strengthen domestic resources mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ministry of Economy and Finance led the Public Financial Management Reform Program in order to improve standard on management and accountability in mobilization of resources.</li> <li>- The reform aims to increase effectiveness and efficiency of public resources to fund government’s national expenditure. Theme of the reform is: “a more credible budget, effective financial accountability, an affordable and prioritized policy agenda, and the government management is fully</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corruption is a common and cross-cutting issue which affects daily life of Cambodian. Monitoring and evaluation mechanism on how to use national budget at national and sub-national level is still a key challenge at sub-national level on the implementation of the public financial reforms.</li> <li>- The implementation of the Anti-corruption law is not effective and in transparent manner.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World Bank</li> <li>- Good governance/fighting corruption.</li> <li>- Overarching environment for implementation of the Strategy/Favorable Macro Economic and Financial Condition and Environmental Sustainability.</li> <li>- Corruption Perception Index (2018), International Transparency.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia</li> </ul> | <p>Plans or actions started</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should take immediate action for fundamental anti-corruption reform in an effective manner without unreasonable delayed.</li> <li>- Proposes for an amendment to some articles of the current Law on Anti-Corruption including: public asset declaration, and extend the declaration requirement to spouses and immediate family members. The principle of zero tolerant to corruption makers should be applied.</li> <li>- Continues to provide more supports</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>accountable for program performance”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased revenue from tax collection. Improvement in corporate registries and revenue collection is a milestone achievement. Besides, the General Department of Taxation undertakes reforms including auditing of businesses and online collection platform, etc.</li> </ul> |  |  |  | <p>educational program on fighting against corruption and public sensitization on corruption-related acts and practices. The government should make effort to promote active participation of Civil Society Organizations and public in preventing and fighting against corruption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage public to report on corruption scandals by adopting the Law on the Protection of Reporting Person and on the Protection of Witness, Expert and Victim and the Law on Access to Information.</li> <li>- Enforces the Law on Anti-Corruption against the offender without distinction of political tendency and social</li> </ul> |
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|  |   |  |   |                           | status and with zero tolerance.   |
| <p><b>17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication technology.</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government has been implementing three reforms: 1) Decentralization and Deconcentration (D&amp;D), 2) Sub-National Democratic Development (SNDD), and 3) Public Financial Management. Presently, civil servants both at national and sub-national level participate in capacity development, especially on how to use technology and communication channels including social networks, telegram and other means.</li> <li>- Many government institutes/ministries are recruiting potential youth, educated people into the public office.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harmonization process on using technology and science in public institution is still challenging. For instance, knowledge gap on technology and science program between the young and elder generation is obviously existing in public institutions.</li> <li>- The funding in order to mainstream scientific and technological knowledge and its application to high school, vocational and technical training and higher education is remaining low and limited.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Development of Physical Infrastructure.</li> <li>- Development of information and communication technology.</li> <li>- Capacity building and human resource development.</li> <li>- Strengthening and enhancing education, science and technology and technical training.</li> <li>- Open Development Cambodia.</li> </ul> | Plans or actions started. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government plays an important role to develop skills and human resources capacity in science and technology, especially in the priority sectors including agriculture, livestock farming, healthcare and environment.</li> <li>- The government should secure or increasing more funding to mainstream scientific and technological knowledge and its application to high school, vocational and technical training and higher education.</li> <li>- The government should promote research and</li> </ul> |

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|  |  |  |  |  | <p>development including the introduction of a research network model linking universities, public institutions and industry. Promote freedom of expression and stringent the copy right and related right law to encourage competition of opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The government should further develop the technological program and telecommunication sector as a modern with state supported budget with high quality service in accordance with international standards, and at competitive rates, with nationwide coverage for sake of the public.</li> <li>- Improves the implementation of standard of ethics, code of conduct and discipline of public</li> </ul> |
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|   |   |   |  |  | servants on how to use social networks and other communication tools. |
| <b>17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals.</b> | - The government expresses commitment to promote genuine partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) in all aspects of social development. The Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA) had meeting with domestic civil society organizations and international Non-governmental organization respectively. The new directive circulation of the government order to ministries of the government to open space for civil society and private sector to involve in all development processes or drafting | - Knowledge of the CSDGs is very important for civil servant for its effective implementation. Sub-national authority still lacks of local self-governance, finance, human resources and decision-making capacity. These issues limit power and autonomy of the sub-national authority to coordinate and perform their functions and tasks in transparent, accountable, and public service efficiently. |  |  |   |

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|  | process of any making policy. Similar consultative platform will also organize at municipal/provincial level. |  |  |  |  |
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| <b>0. No Policy/Plan</b>  | <b>1. Initial planning phase</b>                                   | <b>2. Plans or actions started</b>  | <b>3. Delivery underway</b>   | <b>4. Successful implementation</b>   |
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| a) <b>No/weak</b> Policy/legal framework available                                  | Policy/legal framework in planning phase                           | <b>Some</b> Policy/legal framework available                                    | Policy/legal framework agreed   | <b>Strong</b> Policy/legal framework in use                                     |
| b) <b>No/weak</b> plans and strategies exist  | Plans & strategies in planning stage                               | <b>Some</b> Plans and strategies exist  | Plans & strategies agreed   | <b>Strong</b> Plans and strategies exist  |
| c) <b>No/weak</b> Agencies with clear mandate available                             | Agencies planning their engagement                                 | <b>Some</b> Agencies with clear mandate available                               | Agencies beginning to develop their implementation                            | <b>Strong</b> Agencies available with clear mandate                             |
| d) <b>No/weak</b> implementation of policies, plans and strategies on regular basis | Implementation of policies, plans and strategies in planning phase | <b>Some</b> implementation of policies, plans and strategies on irregular basis | Implementation of policies, plans and strategies has started across all areas | <b>Strong</b> implementation of policies, plans and strategies on regular basis |
| e) <b>No/weak</b> Awareness and capacity building available                         | Planning on awareness and capacity building needs                  | <b>Some</b> Awareness and capacity building available                           | Awareness & capacity building activities are beginning                        | <b>Strong</b><br>Awareness and capacity building available                      |
| f) No baseline indicators set   | Planning and consultation on baseline indicators                   | <b>Some</b> baseline indicators set   | Baseline indicators being finalized   | <b>Strong</b> baseline indicators set   |
| g) <b>No/weak</b> monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available                   | Monitoring, evaluation & reporting plans are agreed                | <b>Some</b> monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available                     | Monitoring, evaluation & reporting underway on all Indicators                 | <b>Regular</b><br>monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available               |
| h) <b>No</b> access to information is available                                     | Initial agreement on access to information                         | <b>Some</b> access to information is available                                  | Access to information is underway on all Indicators                           | <b>Strong</b> access to information is available                                |

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| i) <b>No/weak</b> transparency and accountability mechanism available | Initial planning for transparency & accountability mechanism | <b>Some</b> transparency and accountability mechanism available | Transparency & accountability mechanism being implemented across all Indicators | <b>Strong</b> transparency and Accountability mechanism available |
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You should consider the following areas to provide a score of 0-4 for each target.