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Intervention by

His Excellency Chhea Keo, Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the UN,

As a Lead Discussant at the 2025 ECOSOC Operational
Activities for Development segment under the theme

**“SDG financing at the country level: dialogue with UN
country teams and other actors”**

ECOSOC Council Chamber

New York, 21 May 2025

**Mr. Chair, Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

1. At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to **His Excellency Krzysztof Maria Szczerski**, Vice President of ECOSOC, for inviting me to serve as a lead discussant in this important session.
2. Like other developing countries, Cambodia has greatly benefited from the UN Country Team (UNCT)'s steadfast support for advancing the SDGs, particularly in the areas of poverty reduction and education.
3. As we are on track to graduate from the Least Developed Countries category by 2029, we are grateful for our partnership with UNCT, which has meaningfully contributed to Cambodia's development and SDG achievement.
4. In this regard, I wish to highlight 3 brief points on how our partnership with UNCT has helped advance the achievement of SDGs in Cambodia.
5. **First**, since 2021, Cambodia and UNCT have jointly advanced the **Integrated National Financing Framework** (INFF) to better align financing with national development priorities and catalyze blended finance solutions.
6. The INFF is now embedded into our **National Financing Policy Framework**, enabling more strategic mobilization, prioritization, and coordination of public and private resources.
7. **Second**, with the support from UNCT, we are developing blended finance instruments, such as local currency-denominated bonds, to attract private investment in the SDG-priority sectors and to bridge SDG financing.
8. A notable example is Cambodia's first fixed coupon bond - worth KHR 41.7 billion (about \$10 million) - issued in 2022 to support COVID-19 recovery efforts and advance SDGs implementation.
9. We are also advancing major Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), including the \$1.5 billion Techo International Airport and the \$200 million Sihanoukville Logistics Complex. A Green Special Economic Zone is also planned to promote low-carbon, skills-based growth.

10. **Third**, to scale up impact, we encourage UNCT to provide enhanced support for strengthening Cambodia's national capacity in structuring PPPs and blended finance, and to explore more innovative financing mechanisms.
11. Before concluding, I would like to reaffirm Cambodia's firm commitment to working closely with the UN and all development partners to bridge financing gaps and promote inclusive development for all, ensuring no one is left behind.

Thank you for your attention!