

**Draft Ministerial Statement**  
**By H.E. Tin Ponlok**  
**Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of the National Council for Sustainable Development**  
**Kingdom of Cambodia**

**High-level Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting on the Istanbul Programme of Action**  
**Via Online Video Conference**  
30 August - 2 September 2021

*Excellencies Co-Chairs, Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,*

It is my pleasure to join you virtually today for this important event, as we assess the progress made in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Up until 2020, Cambodia has made remarkable progress in achieving the targets set in the IPOA, including an average annual growth rate above the 7% target, significant poverty reduction, and meeting for the first time all the criteria required for LDC graduation at the 2021 Triennial Review. After graduation from Low Income Country status, Cambodia still managed to increase access to external development resources, with increasing foreign direct investment, concessional loans, and climate finance. Around 97.4% of Cambodian villages had access to energy by December 2020.

Unfortunately, like all countries in this room, we have been severely affected by the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years.

the woerandCambaia the (e)3(4)nd 319(4)untw)820(096)7iti the high(4)st 420v(4)cacinatiin rate ins that

hocke(TTEBT1 0 0 1 071664 313.73 Tm(TTE M P MID 6Lang (en-US)BDC BT1 0 0 1 72.024293.73 Tm(I)36

past 10 years, but also learn from the impacts of the COVID pandemic to chart a course for LDCs towards a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive development.

I thank you for your attention.