**Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary**

Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights

Of Internally Displaced Persons

Palais de Nations, 1211 Geneva 10,

Switzerland

28 February 2020

**Subject: Cambodia’s Input to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of internally Displaced Persons with Disabilities**

**Dear Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary,**

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has recently received your letter, dated on 30 January 2020, seeking contributions from member States and other stakeholders for your upcoming report to the Human Rights Council which will focus on the protection of internally displaced persons with disabilities.

In this regard and in the name of RGC, I am pleased to share with you some Cambodia’s achievements and contributions as followings:

* The RGC gives a high priority to disability sector by promulgating a Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009, ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012, being a signatory country of Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022, Incheon Strategy-*Make the Right Real* in 2013, and developing and implementing a number of national legislations and strategic plans.
* Cambodia had ended its internal civil conflict more than 20 years ago under the **“Win-Win”** strategy led by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the RGC. Moreover, Cambodia has been developing and implementing numerous national plans such as National Disability Strategic Plan, National Action Plan to Reduce the Risks of Disaster, National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women, etc. These measures lead to fewer problems of internally displaced persons with disabilities in Cambodia.
* Q1. Cambodia is analyzing data of PWDs in General Population Census 2019, but IDPs with disabilities will probably not be available base on Cambodia context. In daily life people of Cambodia including PWDs has moving from one another in difference purposes to fulfill their quality of life.
* Q2. No report about the situation of IDPs with disabilities is available, but the RGC has the progress report on persons with disabilities in Cambodia.
* Q3. There are no specific policies and frameworks for IDPs with disabilities. However, they receive benefits from existing different types of national legislations such as Prakas No 052 MoSVY, on the organizing and functioning of National Center for elder protection, dated on 25 January, 2018; Prakas No1649 MoSVY, on the organizing and functioning of Phnom Penh Social Welfare Center for temporary stay, dated 7 July, 2016; Sub-decree No 90 ANKr on Revision of Article 7 of Sub-decree No116 ANKr ​ about allowance Policy for Victims who stay in State Center, etc. However, number of IDPs with disabilities benefits from these policies are not available.
* Q4. Provision of land concessions and houses to persons with disabilities is a good practice. For instance, RGC, from 2014 to 2018, established three Veteran with Disabilities Villages namely Phnom Chhat Veteran Development Centre in Banteay Meanchey province, Koulen Veteran Development Center in Siem Reap province and Taken Koh Slar Veterans Development Centre. Totally, Cambodia built 2,965 houses for Veterans with disabilities.
* Q5. The RGC had established Disability Action Working Groups in each Ministry/Institution at the national level and Disability Action Councils at the provincial and capital level to facilitate and provide direct services to persons with disability while the Disability Action Council is an institution responsible for facilitating and consulting on disability sector throughout Cambodia and is a respective institution responsible for preparing the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) . In addition, the RGC encourages not only the private sector, DPOs, NGOs and civil society, but also development partners and persons with disabilities themselves to participate in the implementation and they are considered as very important partners.
* Q6. Cambodia Red Cross developed its own Strategy 2011-2020 with the goals to change the mindsets by covering four core sectors including: (1) Disaster Management; (2) Health and Care in the Community; (3) Promotion of the Movement’s Fundamental Principles; and (4) Humanitarian Values and Organizational and Resources Development. Cambodia Red Cross has branches in all 25 Provinces/Capitals, 126 000 members, 20456 volunteers and 29099 Red Cross youths among whom 75 are persons with disabilities. Cambodian Red Cross ensures to respond to the necessary needs of persons with disabilities during the situations of risks, armed conflicts, and natural disasters. In addition, Cambodian Red Cross has put much efforts and attentions to fulfill its missions and mobilize humanitarian forces through the management of disasters, health and care in the community and promotion of the movement’s fundamental principles and humanitarian values to continue providing supports to vulnerable people including children, pregnant women, the elderly, especially persons with disabilities. Core values of Cambodian Red Cross’s mandate is to ensure the responses to the fundamental needs of persons with disabilities during the situations of risks, armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. Moreover, Cambodian Red Cross tried to change the mindsets, behaviors and characteristics to eliminate superstition and bad practices by creating diverse culture and integrate disability issues in the society.

Local authorities cooperated with relevant stakeholders such as Cambodian Red Cross, National Committee for Disaster Management, and Department of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation to provide shelters, foods, clothes, health care services, latrines, rain-water tents, wells, and wheelchairs for persons with disabilities; to provide vocational trainings and loans to persons with disabilities who victims of mines and wars following specific criteria; and to visit them without discrimination. Cambodian Red Cross implemented activities in compliance with international standards to assist and care persons with disabilities by considering them as vulnerable persons like the elderly, children, and persons with no family support during the natural disasters. Cambodian Red Cross conducted an training on first aid supports to 25 persons with disabilities with the aims to demonstrate the capacities of persons with disabilities to provide first aid supports when needed.

* Q7. Under the political wills of the RGC with in 6th mandate, policies and frameworks are encouraged to properly implement. National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023 is one of the RGC’s commitment to improve quality of life of PWDs. Taken into consideration of action in 2020 in order to prepare for disaster prevention 1) Build and implement disaster risk reduction plan of each sector in order to increase protection and intervention and ensure safety of vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities; 2) Build capacity on disability for relevant officials and authorities in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are prioritized objective in intervention; 3) Develop new knowledge and methods to families with disabled members and disaster response institutions at all levels in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are safely rescued;4) Determine geography vulnerable to disaster risk and prepare safe location for persons with disabilities to stay;5) Identify and map residence of persons with disabilities in order to ensure that all information about disaster is informed in advance; and 6) Prepare equipment, material, food, shelter and specialized mechanism with special focus on persons with disabilities.

Please accept, **Ms. Cecilia**, the assurances of my highest consideration

Sincerely yours,

For Minister

**Sem Sokha**

Secretary of State Ministry of Social Affairs,

Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and

Vice President of the Disability Action Council