Mr. President, distinguished delegates, UNICEF colleagues, on behalf of the East Asia Pacific Region it is my privilege to present the 2019 - 2023 Country Programmes of Cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Together, these two Country Programmes of Cooperation epitomize UNICEF East Asia Pacific’s engagement in lower middle income countries across the region. They also reflect UNICEF’s commitment to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in close collaboration with sister UN agencies and through the UN Development Assistance Framework and the Common Chapter.
While they are unique in many ways, these two countries share notable similarities that to a large extent, reflect trends in the region.

**[SLIDE 3]**

Cambodia and the Philippines are both experiencing rapid urbanization. Projections for Cambodia suggest that by 2030 over a third of the country’s population (more than 5 million\(^1\)) will reside in urban areas.

While in the Philippines, the urban population is predicted to reach 56 per cent by 2050. Children – whose personal, cognitive, physical and socioemotional development are powerfully influenced by the new urban experience – should be the clear winners of this urban century.

For this to happen, immediate access to essential social services, child sensitive social protection, infrastructure and

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\(^1\) UNFPA Cambodia Urbanization Report, 2014.
safe and sustainable environments are necessary. Recent analysis conducted by UNICEF concludes that the most vulnerable children in urban areas fare worse than their peers in rural areas.

[SLIDE 4]

In both countries, adolescents constitute one fifth of the population. (Cambodia: 19.67 per cent adolescents\(^2\); Philippines: 20.5 per cent adolescents\(^3\)). This dynamic and highly mobile group is poised to enter the workforce and, if well equipped, have the potential to be major contributors to sustainable development, social transformation and economic growth.

However, many adolescents are at high risk of dropping out of school, and sadly, are subject to teenage pregnancy, child marriage, violence and child labour.

\(^2\) State of the World’s Children, 2017
\(^3\) 2015 Philippines Census of Population and Housing, Philippine Statistics Authority
Building on the strong achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, Cambodia and the Philippines have taken bold steps forward to ensure that they deliver on the promise to leave no one behind.

Both have signed an ASEAN declaration to eliminate all forms of malnutrition and both have committed to universal social protection and to universal health coverage. We applaud their courage. The two Country Programmes of Cooperation reflect UNICEF’s pledge to support their ambitions.

[SLIDE 5] – Cambodia CPD
Cambodia’s continued growth and development has led to major improvements in the quality of life of the population.

Poverty declined significantly from 48 per cent in 2007 to 13 per cent in 2014. Improvement in sanitation coverage resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in open defecation. Enrolment in
Early Childhood Education increased by 250 per cent in 10 years to reach 40 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years.

But, the impact is yet to be felt by everyone. For example, a child from Ratanakiri is three times more likely to die before the age of five than a child in Phnom Penh\(^4\). One in three children (32 per cent) under the age of five is stunted and a half of all children have reported experiencing severe beating.

**[SLIDE 6]**

The 2019 – 2023 Cambodia Country Programme of Cooperation will seek to remove bottlenecks such as inadequate implementation of policies, insufficient budget allocations, and weak human resource capacity that limit access to and use of quality social services by the most vulnerable.

Programme delivery, while rooted in evidence of what works on the ground, will shift to more upstream support, with a

\(^4\) Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey, 2014. A poor child (lowest quintile) is 4 times more likely to die before 5th birthday than a child from richest household (highest quintile), CDHS, 2014
strong focus on systems strengthening, policy implementation, and positive social norms, behaviours and practices to drive results at scale.

Furthermore, the programme will prioritize engagement with adolescents on child marriage, teen pregnancy, 21st century skills and empowerment and participation.

The 2019 – 2023 Country Programme of Cooperation is endorsed by the Royal Government of Cambodia and is fully aligned with the National Strategic Development Plan and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

[SLIDE 7] – Philippines CPD
Ranked globally as one of the most vulnerable countries to natural hazards and to the impacts of climate change, the Philippines has one of the world’s longest-running armed conflicts (going on for about 50 years). The country achieved universal coverage of primary education, reduction of infant
and under-five mortality and expansion of access to clean water and sanitation.

But, 3.4 million children are stunted\(^5\), 80 per cent experience some form of violence\(^6\) and only 42 per cent of eligible children access early childhood care and development\(^7\). Online child abuse makes up half of all reported child abuse cases. While on average one in five Filipinos is poor\(^8\), in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) more than half\(^9\) of the population live below the poverty line. In this part of the country, there are also growing concerns about the recruitment of children and young people by armed groups.

\[\text{SLIDE 8}\]

Building on the lessons of the previous cycle, the 2019 - 2023 Country Programme of Cooperation will continue to strengthen

\(^5\) 2015, National Nutrition Survey, FNRI
\(^6\) 80% had experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, whether in the home, school, workplace, community or during dating. The estimated total prevalence of violence against children among males was 81.5 percent and 78.4 percent among females (2016 National Baseline Study)
\(^7\) Department of Social Welfare and Development, 2012
\(^8\) 21.6% of the population live below the poverty line (World Bank)
\(^9\) 53.7%
the integration of disaster readiness, climate change and resilience.

In addition to adolescent development and urban poverty, UNICEF will capitalize on the Philippines’ strong appetite for innovation and will engage in transformative partnerships with the private sector to reduce stunting, neonatal mortality and violence and to expand immunization coverage and access to early childhood care and development.

Reducing disparities in the Philippines requires tackling the complex, multi-sectoral challenges in the ARMM. Building on the 2017, ARMM-specific situation analysis of children, UNICEF will prioritize efforts to build peace and rebuild the lives of children and adolescents who have been ravaged by years of conflict through direct programme delivery in Mindanao. The Philippines programme is endorsed by the Government of the Philippines and is aligned with Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the UN Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development.
[SLIDE 9]

With this I conclude my presentation. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia and of the Republic of the Philippines for their valuable contributions and support throughout the formulation process as well as to the UNICEF teams in Cambodia and the Philippines.

UNICEF is looking forward to making a substantive positive change in the lives of children in both countries.

Thank you for your kind attention.