

# **National Statement of Commitment**

## **To Transform Education System in Cambodia**

*(Draft as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022)*

1. We reaffirm that education is a fundamental human right enshrined by our constitution, and a prerequisite condition for constructing an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, peaceful and prosperous society and economy.
2. We take note of the Bangkok statement 2022 towards effective learning recovery for all and transforming education system in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. We take note of the ASEAN regional guidelines on Reopen, Recover and Resilience in Education based on which we develop our national strategy on learning losses and resilience of education system.
4. We recognize the urgent needs for safe school reopening, to ensure retention and transition of all learners particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, to address learning recovery, and to promote the health and well-being of all learners.
5. We underscore the need for transformation of education systems towards a more equitable, quality education, inclusive, relevant and resilient model to address the learning crisis and build an equitable, inclusive, sustainable and knowledge-based society in line with Cambodia's national aspirations.
6. We acknowledge the fundamental role of youths and community volunteers and promote youth empowerment in building our society and fully engage them in the formulation of this national commitment.
7. We acknowledge the multi-actor partnership and co-operation of all relevant stakeholders including NGOs in building education systems and society as a whole. Therefore, we fully engage them in the formulation of this national commitment.
8. We reaffirm our national commitment to ensure effective implementation of Cambodia education roadmap 2030 in order to achieve SDG4 goal.
9. We, therefore, commit to the following priority actions in Cambodia:
  - a. We strive to keep “*schools open and ensure learning recovery and continuity of learning*” for education in the “New Normal” to ensure health safety, including

mental health, for education staff and students. Link to this commitment, we invest more on health infrastructure at schools, vaccination programs for teachers and students, social safety nets for children, food safety and security, school meals and scholarships to vulnerable and poor children. We address learning losses by involving all stakeholders to support schools, promoting Early Grade Reading and Early Grade Mathematics. School must use appropriate formative and summative assessments to identify learning losses and prepare remedial interventions to support students in improving learning.

- b. We commit to ***reform schools to implement school-based management (SBM)*** effectively, to focus on: (i) **accountability** of schools to the community in delivering quality education and skill development programs (ii) **autonomy** in implementing school improvement plans (iii) **assessment** to ensure transparent and reliable assessment results to improve teaching and learning (iv) **participation** to involve parents and stakeholders in school oversight.
- c. We commit to ensure ***“high-quality teaching force”*** by improving teachers’ capacity through (i) PRESET, INSET and Continued Professional Development (CPD) to improve content knowledge, pedagogy and teaching methods, and the use of technology; (ii) investment necessary infrastructures; libraries and teaching resources; (iii) implementation of leadership programs; (iv) improvement to the teaching practicum; (v) implementation of quality assurance, and (vi) support of teacher career.
- d. We commit to ensure teachers and students are equipped with digital skills. Therefore, ***“digital education”*** will focus on: (i) improving existing digital platforms and establishing digital and remote education centers; (ii) producing instructional videos for core subjects from K1 to 12, and creation of an e-learning system; (iii) integrating the use of technology into everyday teaching and learning; (iv) developing digital infrastructure in schools, such as ICT rooms and Learning Management Systems; and (v) implementing education programs focused on specific ICT skills such as coding, App development, robotics, etc.
- e. We commit to attract more students to ***“STEM education”*** and provide more investments for: (i) increasing the number of New Generation Schools and Technical High Schools; (ii) improving the quality subject knowledge and pedagogy of STEM teachers; (iii) developing and implementing effective STEM teaching methods; (iv) investing in labs, ICT classrooms and 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries; (v) creating study clubs, STEM festivals, competitions, and partnerships with higher education institutions and private companies and (vi) developing curricula with flexible micro-credentialing models for technical education.
- f. We commit to ***“Developing 21st century skills for young people”*** through youth development programs which focus on: (i) hard and soft skills, 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, entrepreneurship, leadership, and global citizenship; (ii) vocational training programs with clear links to employment opportunities; and (iii) participation of young people in socio-economic development.

- g. We commit to “*creating the Center of Excellence in Higher Education*” through Higher Education reform, which focus on: (i) strengthening governance of Higher Education Institutions (HEI), increasing qualifications of lecturers, updating curricula and learning resources, the use of technology and blended teaching methods, promoting research and development, and increased investment in infrastructure; (ii) establishment of a Cyber University to promote the effective use of digital technology for teaching and learning, as well as sharing educational resources between HEIs; (iii) linking education to the labor market; and (iv) partnerships between universities and private sector.
- h. We commit to “*strengthening education systems and building institutional capacity*” by creating a national political, socio-economic and legal environment conducive to educational transformation. We transform education system to become more resilient to withstand future crises, climate change, disasters, and other shocks. We adopt a result-based management approach as a long-term strategy for sustainable growth and take action to implement, monitor and evaluate policies and strategies. We build capacity of teachers, education leaders and managers, and transform schools into effective and resilient centers of learning.
- i. We strive to increase education budget from the current level of 18% to 20% of current government budget. We acknowledge the importance of allocating and spending more efficiently through result-based performance. We promote cooperation and partnership with all stakeholders, including NGOs, international financial institutions and global actors, and strengthen public-private partnership in order to implement the country level “*Transforming education paradigm*”.