

**Guideline
on National Multi-stakeholder Consultation
May 2024**

I- Background

Under the proactive and wise leadership of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Royal Government of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly recognises the needs to strengthen and expand the foundations for resilient economic growth and inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. In the past years, the Royal Government has acknowledged and placed importance to building and strengthening inclusive partnerships by creating an environment conducive to participation of all relevant development actors in national development policies.

The Royal Government has built and strengthened inclusive partnership through establishing, participating, and implementing various partnership mechanisms. In 2007, for instance, the Royal Government spearheaded the restructuring of the Consultative Group Meetings, which had been led by development partners, into the Cambodian Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) mechanism under the leadership of the Royal Government, together with coordination structures at technical level including the Government-Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC) and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). For private sector development, the Royal Government has established the Government Private Sector Forums, with 19 forums so far been convened. To strengthen partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Royal Government has put in place the consultative mechanism with NGOs. Since 2019, the Royal Government has continued to launch various inclusive partnership mechanisms that aim to address the challenges resulted from Cambodia's socio-economic transformation such as mechanism for the preparation for the least developed countries (LDC) graduation, mechanism for monitoring progress of the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs), and mechanism for monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the Pentagonal Strategy - Phase I (PS-I).

The Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy (DCPS) 2024-2028, endorsed by the Royal Government on December 29, 2023, sets the National Multi-stakeholder Consultation as an inclusive partnership mechanism that offers a diverse range of development stakeholders including development partners, NGOs, private sector and academia an opportunity to engage in discussion with the Royal Government on agenda related to the socio-economic development especially in the context where Cambodia is moving vigorously towards LDC graduation and achieving the Cambodia Vision 2050.

To implement the priorities of the DCPS 2024-2028, this guideline is prepared to identify objectives, goals, guiding principles, process, roles and responsibilities and follow-up mechanism for the conduct of the National Multi-stakeholder Consultation.

II- Objectives and Goals

The objectives of the National Multi-stakeholder Consultation is to continue building and strengthening inclusive partnerships under the government ownership in development to support and contribute to the implementation of national development goals as articulated in PS-I and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2024-2028, to support Cambodia's LDC graduation, achievement of CSDGs and a high-income country in 2050.

Specifically, the goals of the National Multi-stakeholder Consultation mechanism include:

- (i) To formulate, monitor and evaluate national development policies and strategies;
- (ii) To discuss, orientate actions and seek solutions to address challenges that are of strategic importance to socio-economic development;
- (iii) To enhance the legitimacy and credibility of government's policies by encouraging the wide participation of all development actors;
- (iv) To enhance the implementation of development effectiveness principles such as ownership in development, inclusive partnerships, mutual accountability, transparency and focus on results; and
- (v) To strengthen the collaboration between the Royal government and development stakeholders through sharing knowledge, know-how based on expertise and experiences in implementing the national development strategies.

III- Guiding Principles

This guideline sets out some guidelines for the implementation as follows:

- (i) **Ownership** - A ministry/agency representing the Royal Government determines a theme or topics, matching with the national priorities as well as prepares an agenda and composition of participation to ensure an effectiveness of the consultation.
- (ii) **Inclusiveness** - A consultation accommodates a wide range of relevant development stakeholders including development partners, private sector, NGOs and academia.
- (iii) **Collaboration** - The Royal Government and development actors continue to strengthen partnerships to increase development effectiveness.
- (iv) **Coordination** - A consultation provides an opportunity for discussion, monitoring and reviewing, as well as for policy orientation.

IV- Process, Roles and Responsibilities

National Multi-stakeholder Consultation shall be convened on a biennial basis or as deemed appropriate within a reasonable period of time, under the leadership of the host ministry/agency. Participants shall comprise of senior representative of all relevant stakeholders, who are capable to make decisions on the outcomes. The host ministry/agency determines a theme or main topics, which are yet to be covered by any other specific consultation mechanisms, and put forward for discussion in this national consultation mechanism.

i- Theme or Key Topics:

The theme or key topics for the National Multi-stakeholder Consultations have a cross-sectoral or inter-ministerial scope and are of strategic importance to socio-economic development. These can cover 1) job creation and poverty reduction; 2) socio-economic census and survey; 3) improvement of public health and better access to quality healthcare services; 4) social protection, including special social safety nets for vulnerable populations and universal health coverage; 5) enhancement of learning outcomes and skills development; 6) sustainable resource management and climate change conservation and

adaptation strategies; 7) enhancing good governance at all levels of administration; and 8) mobilization, coordination and management of financing for development, etc.

ii- **Composition**

- a) **Chairperson** - Referring to a head of ministry/agency or his/her appointee who is capable to act as a chairperson.
- b) **Secretariat** - A host ministry/agency may consider establishing a secretariat for monitoring the implementation of national strategies within their mandate, coordinating the organization of consultations and preparing reports. To avoid a duplicate structure, ministry/agency is encouraged to use the existing secretariat to serve as the secretariat of the National Multi-stakeholder Consultation. On this basis, the secretariat is required to have: 1) Terms of Reference and 2) capability to communicate with all development actors.
- c) **Relevant Ministries/Agencies** - Referring to heads of ministries/agencies or representatives who are in engaging in discussions on the progress of national strategies implementation within their respective mandates.
- d) **Development Partners** - Referring to high representatives of countries or their agencies including ambassadors, heads of cooperation, or representatives who have strong commitment to supporting a chairperson in reaching his/her decisions.
- e) **Private Sector, NGOs and Relevant Stakeholders** - As a policy-level forum, the representatives have to demonstrate a high competent and commitment to engaging in the discussions on the set theme or topics of the consultations.

V- **Post-Consultation Monitoring**

A host ministry/agency shall monitor and consolidate the progress in the implementation of activities that are concurred in a consultation for reporting purposes in the following consultations.