Madame Director-General, Irina Bokova,

Dr. Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General,

Mr. Co-Chair of the Education 2030 Framework for Action, Dankert Vedeler,

Excellencies Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and as Minister of Education, I would like to thank UNESCO for organizing this High-Level Meeting on Education 2030. At the outset, I reaffirm Cambodia's strong commitment to the Incheon WEF Declaration, the new Framework for Action and the proposed 2030 Education Agenda. Cambodia supports and commits to the SDG #4. The important Education Agenda that we are adopting today fully reflects the reform efforts that Cambodia has undertaken during the last two years and in the years ahead.

I am pleased to inform you and the international community that Cambodia has made remarkable achievements in education since 2000 through implementation of EFA National Action Plan and Education Strategic Plans. The positive and remarkable progress has been made on Early Childhood Care and Development, Universalization of Primary Education, Gender Parity and Equality goals, which are likely to be achieved by 2015. We are now focusing on learning opportunities, life skills, adult literacy, improving quality of Education,
increasing the supply of qualified teachers and implement gender-sensitive policies.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is increasing budget for education and we are mobilizing support from development partners, GPE and the private sector to continue the reform momentum.

We have developed and started implementation of an ambitious Teacher Policy Action Plan to make teaching an attractive profession, training and professional development of teachers, career pathways, in-service qualifications upgrade, technical and professional support and social benefits and security. Over the next 10 years we aim to upgrade qualifications of over 55,000 teachers.

We will be focusing on national examination reforms, review in curriculum and textbook, school inspection and learning assessment, school environment and quality assurance to address the skill mismatch and promote economic diversification and to ensure that the basic and higher education are relevant for the development aspirations of Cambodia.

In the coming years, we will significantly increase the number of youth and adults with strong literacy, numeracy and soft-skills combined with technical and vocational skills, for gainful employment and entrepreneurship.

I would like to reaffirm our ambitious efforts to have Quality Education, taking on our commitments and count on the support and partnership from the international community in these efforts.

Thank you for your attention!

(end).