***Excellencies Co-Chairs, Special Reporter, Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen***

* **We recognised that** Refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and returnees, face particular challenges in proving their legal identity, as identity credentials are often lost or destroyed during displacement. Ensuring that these populations have proof of their legal identity, is a key element of ensuring that they are not left behind in realising SDG Target 16.9.
* **The Royal Government of Cambodia** has always focused the solution at three stages in the cycle of migration, at the pre-departure, the destination country, and the return and reintegration stages. Laws and policies are in place and enforced, bilateral and multilateral MOUs and agreements between relevant countries, are being used to strengthen collaboration to protect migrant rights, dignity and benefits.
* **Migrants** - adults and particularly, children unaccompanied - and migrants’ children born abroad, often have difficulties in keeping or receiving civil status documents and birth registration, and in exercising their basic rights, and to access basic services, especially those in irregular status, report more serious difficulties in securing birth registration for their children in the host country. Consular authorities or the country of origin play a critical role to remedy these obstacles, particularly as they can act as civil registrar.
* **In line with The GCM** and its objective 4, Cambodia is determined to assist their nationals, and ensure that their consular authorities are providing adequate assistance to persons in need, with regard to legal identity.
* **Cambodia prioritized** the GCM Objective 1, 11 and 23, because it helps to create evidenced based strategies and measures to respond to the concerns and needs of migrants, to protect their rights and overcome risks and all types of exploitation and crime against them, by involving whole-of-government approach to coordinate, and accurately manage shared data of both regular and irregular migrants from departure up to return/reintegration, and to ensure all their children born overseas have legal identity. However, the process remains a challenge.
* **Cambodia’s National Strategic Plan** for Identification 2017-2026 (NSPI), acknowledges the birth registration levels are lower for migrant children. Mobile registration campaigns targeting these marginalized groups can help bridge registration gaps in the short-term.
* **IOM Cambodia** has now been working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to develop, design and pilot the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) e-learning course, as a consular service training course, and e-learning platform for Cambodian consular officials, labour attachés and diplomats, to respond to the increasing demand for assistance and protection by Cambodian migrant workers, and citizens abroad. It is expected that, the e-learning course contributes to improved support and assistance to Cambodian migrants overseas.

**Concluding remarks:**

**Finally**, I want to reiterate that, it is important to address the core issues, which contribute to the challenges of undocumented migration and legal identity. Cambodian Government remains committed to strengthen national efforts, to include migrant workers, Improved access to skill development opportunities for migrants, to be a key in the realisation of the full benefits of labour migration. Similarly, improved access to civil registration and health services and strengthened border management, can contribute to reducing irregular migration, and to the benefits of all vulnerable populations in the country.

I thank you so much Excellencies!

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