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For information

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Executive Board**

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Executive Board**

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
Executive Board**

**World Food Programme (WFP)
Executive Board**

Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS
First regular session 2025
27-31 January 2025, New York
Executive Board of UN-Women
First regular session 2025
10-11 February 2025, New York

Executive Board of UNICEF
First regular session 2025
4-7 February 2025, New York
Executive Board of WFP
First regular session 2025
18-21 February 2025, Rome

Report of the joint field visit to Cambodia by members of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, 28 October – 1 November 2024

I. Background

1. The joint field visit to Cambodia of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the World Food Programme (WFP) took place from 28 October to 1 November 2024. The delegation included 17 members from the four Executive Boards.
2. H.E. Mr. Muhammad Muhith, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and the 2024 President of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

Executive Board, facilitated the overall coordination of the visit. The complete list of the delegation is contained in the annex.

3. The purpose of the joint field visit was to help the members of the Executive Boards to more effectively understand the extent and ways in which United Nations organizations work together and contribute to the achievement of national development plans and Sustainable Development Goals.

4. More specifically, the mission focused on key themes (“stories”), on which United Nations agencies jointly contribute to the achievement of progress and results in Cambodia, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. These included:

- (a) *Climate change* – how Cambodia is impacted by climate change and how the UN is coming together to support key social protection, preparedness and resilience initiatives that are inclusive and gender responsive.
- (b) *Gender equality* – how the potential of women and girls is being realized in Cambodia, highlighting joint actions that are ensuring that women can participate in and contribute to development gains equally.
- (c) *Youth empowerment, good governance, civil engagement and movement building* – how the “youth dividend” is leveraged in Cambodia, ensuring that the young people of today are equipped and prepared to be Cambodia’s leaders of tomorrow.
- (d) *Resilient systems* – how the United Nations has come together in support of Cambodia’s ambition to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status, and to ensure that everyone benefits from development gains through the development of resilient systems that leaves no one behind.

5. The mission started for the entire delegation in Siem Reap and ended in Phnom Penh.

6. The first day of the mission, in Siem Reap, began with the full delegation participating in meetings with the heads of the agencies and the Resident Coordinator. In planning for the visit, the heads of the agencies wanted to demonstrate the results and impact of their work by presenting it through the eyes of a ten-year old girl whose name was Rasmi and who lived – as most Cambodians do – in rural Cambodia. Relying on the story of Rasmi, the heads of agencies demonstrated the real impact of the United Nations support to the ambitious policies of the Government of Cambodia in the four key areas indicated above.

7. The day continued with a visit to the Land Mine Action Museum where the delegation met with senior officials from the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

8. This was followed by a visit to the Angkor Wat temple complex, which exposed the delegation to Cambodia's rich and turbulent past before delving into the present and future of Cambodia.
9. On the second and third days of the mission the delegation was split into three smaller groups, with participants assigned to groups based on their preference: Group 1 (Northeast), Group 2 (Northwest) and Group 3 (Phnom Penh).
10. All groups had an opportunity to be exposed to and learn about the four above-mentioned themes and to see the intersecting work of all the United Nations agencies.
 - (a) *Group 1 – Northeast (Preah Vihear)*: This group focused on resilient health and education systems, youth empowerment and 'leave no one behind.' This visit involved observing joint United Nations outreach activities to remote populations in health, youth peer education, malaria control, civic engagement, youth empowerment, and in addressing gender-based violence and supporting gender equality.
 - (b) *Group 2 – Northwest (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, and Pursat)*: This group focused on livelihoods, social protection and resilience building and visited a range of project sites: a demining field; a landmine victim assistance and rehabilitation centre; a community where the identification of poor households (IDPoor) programme is ongoing and four households are receiving social assistance; a school benefitting from the school feeding programme; and an evacuation centre for disaster risk management. Civic engagement and gender equality and empowerment were the cross-cutting issues observed.
 - (c) *Group 3 – Phnom Penh*: This group focused on inclusivity, youth empowerment, gender equality and actions on leaving no one behind, meeting key United Nations stakeholders in and around Phnom Penh, including youth networks, disability rights groups, women's rights groups, female entertainment workers and service providers in mental health, as well as visiting a women's crisis centre shelter that provides services to those experiencing gender-based violence.

II. Overview of Cambodia

11. The Kingdom of Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy where the King reigns but does not govern, and the Constitution recognizes the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary. The Kingdom has a parliamentary system with two houses – the National Assembly and the Senate – with the Royal Government led by the Prime Minister, who is nominated by the party that wins the National Assembly election. Cambodians elect members of the National Assembly through a direct and universal election every five years, whereas the members of the Senate are elected through indirect elections every six years. The two houses form the legislative branch. The executive branch

implements the laws passed by the legislative branch and promulgated by the King. The judiciary is responsible for the application of the laws and sanctioning any violations.

12. Cambodia has a total population of 15.6 million, with 39.4 per cent residing in urban areas. The average (median) age of the population is 27 years, with 29.4 per cent aged 15 years or younger, and 8.9 per cent aged 60 years or older. Nearly 62 per cent of the population is between 15 and 59 years of age, indicating a population dividend that could be leveraged to facilitate acceleration towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Khmer is the mother tongue of 95.8 per cent of the population, with ethnic minority languages constituting 2.9 per cent. The 2019 census identified more than 23 ethnic minority groups, accounting for 2.9 per cent of the population.¹

III. The United Nations in Cambodia

13. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework represents a collaborative strategy between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia to address structural development challenges affecting the country and facilitate a pathway towards development. It outlines the key focus areas and interventions proposed by the United Nations, working in concert with a wide range of development actors to accelerate Cambodia's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

14. Despite some setbacks, Cambodia remains poised to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. To do so, however, this entails tackling a number of structural barriers and gaps, including social inequality and Cambodia's large informal economy, which constrains public revenue collection and reduces access to social protection. Dependency on agriculture places Cambodia in a position of vulnerability, especially to extreme weather events, as it remains one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

IV. General observations, comments and recommendations

15. The delegation welcomed the opportunity to witness the activities of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP in Cambodia. The participants would like to express their deepest appreciation to the coordinating UNFPA Country Office, supported by the country offices of the other five UN entities, and the Government of Cambodia for organizing a very fruitful field visit focusing on the main aspects of the work of those six United Nations entities and their partners in Cambodia. The delegation would especially like to thank the United Nations staff in Cambodia, especially national staff, for their exceptional commitment and dedication.

16. The following is a summary of the delegation's recommendations based on the three groups' observations.

¹ National Institute of Statistics, 2020; Ministry of Planning, General Population Census, 2019, pp. 13, 25, 30.

A. Group 1 – Northeast

17. Group 1 visited the Kaoh Ke Health Centre and met with the provincial coordination committee on gender-based violence, and also visited a municipal water supply facility, the Thbeng Meanchey Lower Secondary School in the village of Thbeng Meanchey, the Pro Me Health Centre, and the Sre Preang village, where a malaria training session was held.

18. The delegation visited projects jointly supported by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNOPS in the northeastern province of Preah Vihear, with a focus on education, health, water and sanitation, and on resilient systems that leave no one behind. The delegation deeply appreciated the joint UN outreach to remote populations in health, youth peer education, malaria elimination, youth empowerment, child protection, addressing gender-based violence and gender equality.

Observations

19. The delegation witnessed the well-functioning coordination among the United Nations agencies and noted the diverse participation of communities, the Government, the private sector, civil society and youth in several programmes.

20. The delegation welcomes the delivery of integrated health outreach services in remote communities, with a focus on child and maternal health, which reduce the inequality gap that underserved, hard-to-reach and high-risk communities experience when accessing basic but essential health care services.

21. The delegation commended the joint efforts put forth by the Government and the United Nations entities in eradicating malaria in Cambodia by 2025, and observed the well-functioning social system put in place at all levels, with an emphasis on the community level. The group highlighted that real-time digital reporting and community-led efforts, particularly the crucial work of Village Malaria Workers and Mobile Malaria Workers, have been essential in areas prone to high malaria transmission.

22. The group was also able to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms for child protection and assistance to survivors of gender-based violence at the local level. The need for more trained social workers was noted.

23. The group observed a project for clean water supply to inhabitants in rural areas and the collaboration with the private sector in this domain with the support of UNICEF. Access to clean water and sanitation, especially in the rural areas, remains a challenge, including in schools and remote medical facilities. However, the plans for further development and public-private partnerships appeared to be showing results. In addition to the need of securing financial resources, awareness campaigns on the benefits of clean water in rural areas might be beneficial.

Recommendations

24. Significant achievements have been made in the area of education. However, the delegation noted the need for sufficient resources and capacity-building, including of highly qualified teachers, to ensure access to high-quality education for all. The delegation welcomed the efforts by the Government to invest in human capital and to ensure a sufficient future workforce with the right professional qualification in place to teach children.

25. The delegation encouraged the Government of Cambodia, the United Nations country team and other development partners to plan and schedule an awareness campaign on the importance of using clean water and on the reinforcement of sexual and reproductive health education in lower and higher schools in Cambodia.

B. Group 2 – Northwest

26. Group 2 had a series of field visits in the Northwest provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Pursat that focused on demining landmine victim assistance and rehabilitation, ‘IDPoor’ identification and social protection; school feeding; disaster risk preparedness and response; civic engagement; and gender equality and empowerment.

27. The group had the opportunity to visit a mine action site and physical rehabilitation centre. The group also visited four households receiving social assistance, a rice miller, a school and a safe evacuation centre.

Observations

28. The delegation noted that landmine contamination seriously affected the effort of the Government to realize the implementation of the SDGs by 2030, so far causing more than 65,000 casualties in the country. In this regard, the delegation commends the efforts of the Cambodian Government and the contribution of UNDP to enhancing the demining effort.

29. The delegation further noted that the Government of Cambodia does not have the maps of mine-contaminated areas. The Government had to collect information to map potentially contaminated areas, and this situation further complicated the effort of demining by the Government and development partners. Assistance to the victims was an important aspect to keep in mind with respect to landmines, in particular mainstreaming mental health and ensuring accessibility.

30. After meeting with government officials and visiting project sites covering social protection, the delegation noted that 42 per cent of the population receive some sort of social support, which was commendable. The support of UNDP, UNICEF and WFP has helped in achieving the observed results. The delegation commended the clear and understandable rating system for the identification of poor families –IDPoor 1, IDPoor 2,

and at-risk households – supported by UNDP, which facilitated access to the social support system.

31. The delegation visited a rice milling centre where rice is nutritionally fortified by adding essential nutrients, using specialized milling infrastructure. Previously, such facilities were only available in the country’s capital but now they are being expanded to provincial areas through a collaboration between the Government and WFP. The fortified rice is distributed to schools as part of a school meals programme, which currently supports 15 per cent of primary school students nationwide. During their visit to a primary school, the delegation observed the programme in action and noted that a well-organized school meal programme is under implementation.

32. After visiting an evacuation centre related to disaster risk management, the delegation noted that this approach was an effective means of addressing climate-induced floods, which take place annually. However, it was noted that only 20 per cent of flood-prone areas were covered by such facilities. Additional support was needed as well as gender disaggregated data, which could be shared with the Government to facilitate the provision of necessities.

Recommendations

33. With a view to enhancing the demining efforts, it is important to integrate the demining into the other development plans of the country.

34. The Government prioritizes demining requirements, to be supported by development partners. Demining efforts need to be correlated with the support provided to the mine victims.

35. The delegation encouraged additional technical and financial support to the efforts of the Government to further strengthen the social protection system so that it can sustain itself, with a focus on employment, financial savings, skills and training. The delegation underscored the important role women leaders could play in these efforts.

36. The delegation observed that given the ambition for the rapid advancement of Cambodia’s education system, it would be useful for agencies to reinforce each other’s efforts and focus energies on key programme sites.

37. The delegation was informed about the participation of Cambodian deminers in peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Lebanon, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. There were also discussions on efforts toward South-South cooperation and the transfer of knowledge to other countries, such as Colombia and Ukraine.

C. Group 3 – Phnom Penh

38. Group 3 had a series of meetings in Phnom Penh, which included meetings with youth representatives, women’s civil society organizations and other civil society organizations working on the field of social protection and inclusion, including persons with disabilities, persons with HIV, female “entertainment workers,” LGBTQI+ actors and Indigenous peoples.

39. The group had the opportunity to discuss youth engagement, civic space and United Nations country team (UNCT) support to youth, gender activities and on leaving no one behind; progress achieved and remaining challenges in the areas of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, leadership and political participation.

Observations

40. The goal of the mission is to assess how the six agencies implement their mandate to support the Government in delivering on its priorities. In that regard, learning about the national context, the local realities and how the United Nations operates are key to understanding and reflecting on what they can do differently.

41. On social protection and inclusion, the group held discussions with representatives of organizations working with persons with disabilities, people affected by HIV and tuberculosis; Indigenous Peoples, as well as with organizations involved in climate action and civil and political rights.

42. They underlined the positive changes, which include the legal framework and policies in addressing gender-based violence (national action plan on the prevention of gender-based violence, the gender-based violence response working group, national action plan on women peace and security). The vulnerability of the country to climate change, its socio-economic situation, women’s economic empowerment and collaboration between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia were also highlighted.

43. They acknowledged progress made by the country in the past 20 years while recognizing that challenges remain. Among those are: funding, as the financial resources are not sufficient to support civil society work on the ground; difficulties in accessing grassroots communities; information about the available opportunities the Government and the partners offer; and cooperation with other international partners.

44. The visit to the Cambodia Women’s Crisis Centre, showcased integrated services provided to survivors of violence and their children, and, in some cases, also perpetrators to whom anger management therapy is also offered. The delegation noted with appreciation the maintenance of the shelter and the assistance services provided.

Recommendations

45. The delegation appreciated the cooperation among the six agencies and the United Nations country team in Cambodia. Their complementarity and shared vision help in providing an integrated support to the Government. In the meetings of Group 3, the positive role of the UN country team in supporting the Government in its efforts, while also engaging civil society and other stakeholders, was underlined.

46. To better assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the support, the delegation would have benefited from more interaction with the government counterparts whose priorities the agencies assist in implementing. Discussions on how the six agencies work to translate into concrete actions the recently adopted development framework in the areas that Group 3 focused on would have been useful in this regard.

47. The human-rights based, and people-centred approaches were noted and welcomed. They put the survivors and the needs of individuals in the centre of the United Nations country team's support to Cambodia. It is important to recall that the main challenges in Cambodia are linked to harmful social and gender norms, poverty, inequity and limitations in decent work; responsible consumption and production are the only areas of the SDGs where regressions are registered. It is important that the work on social protection and inclusion be designed to be able to support the work done by the United Nations country team in areas of employment, decent jobs, nutrition, quality education, health systems and women's economic empowerment, among others.

48. The entire delegation was reunited in Phnom Penh late on the third day and remained together on days four and five.

D. Meeting with the Prime Minister

49. On the fourth day of the visit, the delegation participated in a meeting with the Prime Minister, which was followed by a lunch with ambassadors, heads of delegations and development partners.

50. The majority of the delegation met with the Prime Minister and government ministers, and it was evident that there are policies in place aimed at improving the lives of citizens in the country.

51. The delegation notes that continued collaboration and stronger political and financial ownership by the Government, at national, regional and local levels, will be needed to ensure that progress is sustainable and that the country's vision, to transition to an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050, can be realized.

52. During the lunch with development partners, the delegation observed a concerning decline in official development assistance (ODA) support for education, reflecting reduced donor interest, while emphasizing the need for assistance to improve educational quality,

address barriers to equitable access and enhance infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas.

53. The day concluded with a ‘Mini Innovation Fair’ and a farewell reception with government officials and development partners.

E. Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

54. On the fifth and final day of the visit, the delegation visited the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, which was followed by a debrief with the heads of agencies and the United Nations country team.

55. The visit to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum was especially meaningful to the delegation in learning about the Khmer Rouge period in Cambodia. The visit provided the delegation with a historical overview of the events that took place during a tragic period of Cambodian history and a better understanding of the ongoing healing taking place in Cambodia as a result of the genocide.

56. The mission ended with a meeting with the heads of agencies of the six United Nations organizations participating in the joint field visit. Overall, the delegation expressed appreciation for the significant effort that had been taken into planning the trip and was thankful for the detailed planning taken by the UNCT in planning the visit.

57. The delegation noted that further interactions with government officials could have been useful. For instance, more meetings with civil society organizations and government line ministries would have contributed to a better understanding of the issues on the ground.

58. However, the interactions with young people, women, civil society organizations and Indigenous peoples were well received and an important part of the experience and understanding of the country.

59. It was clear to the delegation that the policies and ideas discussed in New York and Rome do indeed have a practical dimension on the work of the agencies in the country. This included the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) negotiations. Exposure to the cultural and religious aspects of the country also contributed to an understanding of the context of the country and its ongoing progress.

60. The delegation was informed about the work of the International Labour Organization and its support, with UNDP, to the Royal Government of Cambodia for reducing the informal economy and availing access of the self-employed to social security. They recommended expanding this work so that could enable citizens to become less reliant on the Government. Investments in rural women, small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs, for instance, could improve the level of self-sufficiency.

61. While the delegation acknowledged that Cambodia was a success story; sustaining that success was important and could be a challenge.

62. In terms of the United Nations' work, it was clear that the Resident Coordinator system works well, and that the United Nations is well received and trusted by the Government.

63. The delegation appreciated the important and well-respected role of the Resident Coordinator, the excellent cooperation between UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP as well as the cohesiveness of the UN country team in Cambodia. The delegation noted the United Nations entities' call for improving the general policies and procedures for cooperation within the United Nations system.

64. The delegation, while acknowledging the effective cooperation among agencies, inquired about additional measures needed to strengthen and expand joint work, and sought out suggestions on how to enhance joint work effectively.

65. The delegation was impressed by the significant transformation and progress Cambodia has made in recent years, with the support of the United Nations entities and other development partners.

66. The delegation commends the work of the United Nations entities to include civil society, youth, persons with disability and minorities in discourse. The United Nations country teams' innovative approach (e.g. use of apps and AI to monitor poverty) was highly appreciated.

67. The delegation acknowledged the significant and relatively recent trauma that had been faced by the Cambodian people as a result of the genocide and remarked on the significant progress taken over the last several decades. It was noted that part of the healing process was development. While the delegation received a good sense of the energy and capacity of the people they interacted with as well as the impact of the United Nations in Cambodia, there were still questions on the underlying micro-economic challenges and the capacity of the Government.

68. The delegation noted the critical importance of the role data plays in planning and decision making for both the United Nations and the Cambodian Government in achieving the SDGs.

69. It was noted that Cambodia's commitment to women, peace, and security is exemplified by its inclusion of women in humanitarian demining, community development projects and peacekeeping operations.

70. The delegation appreciated interaction with youth and the importance of continuing to nurture a culture of dialogue. For the delegation, it is important that segments of society are included in consultations and interactions.

71. Localization of the SDGs was raised as an important issue because investment in education was at risk, specifically in the quality of education.

72. Cambodia's least developed country (LDC) graduation was of significant interest to the delegation. However, the notion of 'graduation punishment' was noted several times as a downside to the graduation – a scenario where funding and other development support decline as a result of the graduation.

73. The delegation asked how the United Nations can be improved in light of ongoing quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) negotiations. Agencies remarked that the operationalization of 'UN 2.0' was critical and that, at times, policies, processes and systems held back progress. Agencies noted that for joint work to take place more effectively, common systems were essential – this extended even to common information systems.

74. In communicating the role of the United Nations in Cambodia, agencies confirmed their comparative advantage lies in several key areas including:

- (a) Advancing quality levels, standardization and systems remain a critical role of the UN agencies in Cambodia. The United Nations supports the implementation of international standards and practices across the Government. Many information systems and standardization efforts, including in areas such as health, social protection, responses to gender-based violence, education and training, have been put in place due to United Nations interventions.
- (b) Convening power and coordination among civil society organizations, development partners, ministry portfolios and government officials demonstrate another critical role that the United Nations plays in Cambodia. Without the United Nations, there would be a gap in communication among key stakeholders.
- (c) The UNCT demonstrated how the United Nations is an important actor in facilitating the exchange of experience, good practices and South-South cooperation.
- (d) The trust that exists between the United Nations and Government remains intact, especially as the country graduates from LDC status. Sustainable financing for areas such as health coverage, social protection, demining and education will be critical. In this regard, the United Nations is continuing to work with international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and the private sector, as well as exploring the role of taxation.

75. Agencies acknowledged the importance of United Nations reform and noted that, at the programmatic level, the Cooperation Framework plays an important role to enable effective programme and resource coordination.

76. The mission concluded with a meeting with the UNCT and the Resident Coordinator. The delegation appreciated the session closing with a final meeting with the UNCT to recount their experiences and observations from the visit.

77. The Resident Coordinator reinforced the joint work being conducted by the United Nations in Cambodia and the effectiveness of this coordination. In particular, the coordination taking place in response to the LDC graduation. However, the UNCT did request for further support to address the underlying structural issues that would allow for better coordination among the agencies, which the delegation understands needs to be addressed.

78. The issue of financing, as the country progresses towards LDC graduation, was acknowledged as a key element for the United Nations development system to continue to deliver effectively.

79. Climate change, education, localization of SDGs, the ‘middle income trap’, gender, de-mining, and migration were all issues that the delegation paid attention to during the visit.

80. The delegation would have benefited from an opportunity to engage with representatives of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, whose work will play a critical role in advancing Cambodia’s economic development.

81. The delegation raised the issue of migration and the impact of migration on the families left furthest behind and on social cohesion.

82. The UNCT presented the joint climate work being done by the UNCT, including on forests. The delegation appreciated the information shared on the ‘flood pulse’ and its importance for the food systems. The need for funding for the adaptation of food systems reinforced the ongoing challenges associated with climate change. The risk of over reliance on subsistence agriculture was also communicated.

83. The issue of human rights was raised by the delegation. The UNCT shared that a dedicated human rights strategy exists in Cambodia.

84. With respect to LGBTQI+, the UNCT confirmed that it is following up on the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, which the Cambodian Government has endorsed.

85. The delegation emphasized the significance of enhancing the South-South cooperation platform and strengthening collaboration among countries to advance development-driven initiatives tailored to Cambodia’s unique challenges and opportunities.

V. Conclusions

86. The joint field visit to Cambodia showcased how the United Nations organizations effectively work together in Cambodia to achieve national development plans and the SDGs.

87. The delegation witnessed how the six agencies are working together to support progress in several key areas, including climate change resilience, gender equality, youth empowerment, good governance, civil engagement, and the promotion of resilient systems that leave no one behind.

88. Members of the delegation were pleased to note that the work of the United Nations country team under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator works well in Cambodia, in line with the reform of the system in 2019, and that the United Nations is well received and trusted by the Government.

89. There appears to be a well-functioning coordination among the United Nations agencies and diverse participation of communities, government, the private sector, civil society, and youth, as could be observed in some of the programmes the delegation had the opportunity to visit.

90. While recognizing that challenges remain, it was noted that in the past 20 years, significant progress has been made by the country to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. It was clear that the policies and ideas discussed by the Executive board in New York and Rome do indeed have a practical dimension on the work of the United Nations agencies in the country.

91. The delegation also noted that landmine contamination seriously affected the effort of the Government to realize the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, so far causing more than 65,000 casualties in the country. In this regard, the delegation commends the efforts of the Cambodian Government and the contribution of UNDP to enhance the demining effort.

92. Overall, the delegation would like to express its deep appreciation for the significant effort that was made by the agencies and the United Nations country team in Cambodia in planning the trip, in particular to UNFPA, which was lead organizer of this visit.

93. We are also specifically thankful for the detailed planning taken by the United Nations country team in planning the visit.

Annex

Joint field visit to Cambodia by members of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, 28 October–1 November 2024 – Participants

MEMBER STATE PARTICIPANTS				
REGION/LIST	UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	UNICEF	UN-Women	WFP
Asia-Pacific States	Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Muhammad Muhith Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. President of the 2024 Executive Board (Head of Delegation)	-	Tajikistan Mr. Golibjon Gulov First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan to the United Nations	-
African States	Ethiopia H.E. Mr. Samuel Isa Chala Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations	Rwanda Mr. Robert Kayinamura Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations	Cameroon Ms. Nelly Banaken Elel First Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations	Chad Mr. Asnal Ngartolna Chargé d’Affaires a.i at the Embassy of Chad in Berlin, Germany
Eastern European States	Romania H.E. Mr. Cornel Feruță Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations	Bulgaria H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations	Poland H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Maria Szczerski Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations	Russian Federation Mr. Arsen Bogatyrev First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to FAO and UN agencies in Rome

Latin America and Caribbean States	Ecuador H.E. Mr. José Javier De La Gasca Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations	El Salvador H.E. Mrs. Egriselda Aracely González López Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations	Paraguay H.E. Mr. Marcelo Eliseo Scappini Ricciardi Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations	Dominican Republic Ms. Larissa Caridad Veloz Santana Minister Counsellor, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO
Western Europe and Other States	United States of America H.E. Ms. Lisa A. Carty Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the USA to the United Nations, Representative on the Economic and Social Council	Austria Mr. Stefan Pretterhofer Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations	Sweden Ms. Charlotta Schlyter Ambassador, Representative on the Economic and Social Council	-
UN SECRETARIAT PARTICIPANTS				
	UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS	UNICEF	UN-WOMEN	WFP
	UNFPA Ms. Elena Pirondini Director and Chief, Executive Board Branch, UNFPA	UNICEF Mr. Andres Franco Director and Secretary of the Executive Board	UN-WOMEN Mr. Jean-Luc Bories Director and Secretary of the Executive Board	WFP Mr. Phillip Ward Director and Secretary of the Executive Board
	UNDP Ms. Mahsa Jafari Director and Secretary of the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS	-	-	-
	UNOPS			

	Ms. Carolina Popovici Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, UNOPS			
	UNFPA Ms. Sabina Saeed Board and Governance Specialist, Executive Board Branch, UNFPA			
Participants:	9	5	6	4
Total Delegation:				24