

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER**

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
TO GUIDE THE COOPERATION OF
THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
AND
EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
WORKING TOGETHER IN THE AGRICULTURE
AND WATER SECTORS

1. Introduction

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the External Development Partners (EDPs) are working together to increase the effectiveness of international development cooperation through harmonization and alignment of their activities and procedures. This process takes place within the framework of international and national policies and guidelines that shape international development cooperation, in particular:

- The Rome Declaration on Harmonization (2003); and Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability (2005).
- The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), 2006-2010.
- The Declaration by the RGC and Development Partners on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness (2006).
- The National Operational Guidelines for Development Cooperation Grant Assistance (2006)
- The Strategic Framework for Development Cooperation (SFDC) which is the national guideline for aid management
- The RGC's Action Plan on Harmonization, Alignment and Results 2006-2010.

1.1 Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

One of the RGC's key mechanisms for improving harmonisation and alignment at the sectoral level are the Government-EDP Technical Working Groups (TWGs), which report to the regular Government Donor Coordinating Committee (GDCC) meetings. The objectives of the GDCC/TWG mechanism are:

- (i) To strengthen RGC's ownership and leadership of the development process through increased alignment of development partners' support with national development priorities, policies and strategies; and
- (ii) To enhance the effectiveness and achieve optimal impact of all resources contributed by RGC and EDPs for national development, in particular the reduction of poverty, in accordance with RGC's priorities outlined in the National Strategic Development Plan

The TWG for Agriculture and Water (TWGAW) was established by the RGC late 2004. Since then, its main activities have included: (i) increased exchanges of information; (ii) common reflections on priority technical issues, and (iii) facilitating the preparation of a Mid Term Strategy for Agriculture and Water.

2. The Strategy for Agriculture and Water

The NSDP 2006 – 2010 directed that “an Agriculture and Water Resources Strategy will be developed during 2006” (page 55, English translation of NSDP), and the GDCC subsequently directed the TWGAW to facilitate the development of this strategy. As a result, over the course of 2006, MAFF and MOWRAM have worked together (with the assistance of EDPs) to lead a detailed process of consultation and examination of existing strategies and policies, and the development of the new Strategy on Agriculture and Water (SAW).

The SAW builds on the existing national strategic documents, including MAFF and MOWRAM Strategic Development Plans, and sets a common vision and goals for these Ministries. The SAW was presented and discussed by a broad range of stakeholders (including other ministries and provincial representatives) during a national workshop in January 2007, and was endorsed by the Ministers for MAFF and MOWRAM on 30 March 2007.

The SAW outlines a dynamic approach to reach the agreed vision and goals through the identification of an implementation framework centred around 5 key National Development Programs for the Agriculture and Water sector, which will pave the way to concrete and concerted actions by the different stakeholders. The development and then implementation of these National Development Programs for the Agriculture and Water sector is therefore the next fundamental step of this process.

As a new strategic document, the SAW is expected to be the primary guide to the activities of MAFF, MOWRAM and all EDPs operating in the Agriculture and Water sectors. Similarly, as each of the five key National Development Programs for the Agriculture and Water sector is developed and endorsed by MAFF and MOWRAM, it will serve as a basis for all relevant stakeholders to review and progressively align their activities, projects, programs and structures to be consistent with these programs.

The vision and implication of this process is that all new and existing funding (from Government as well as from EDPs) will progressively be aligned with the SAW priorities, and channelled through the SAW framework and its National Development Programs. This is fully in line with the global principles and requirements established by the Government to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditures, such as ownership, coordination, harmonization, alignment and transparency. While it is recognised that this re-alignment will take some time, a consistent movement in this direction by all parties will be regarded as the key indicator of commitment to support the SAW.

In practice this requires firm commitments from External Development Partners and the Royal Government of Cambodia represented by MAFF and MOWRAM.

2.1 For MAFF and MOWRAM

1. Lead the development and the implementation of the five National Development Programs of the SAW for the Agriculture and Water sector by providing personnel, policy guidance and other support as available. This, in particular, includes the setting-up of effective Task Management Support Groups, and mobilisation of Design Teams for the design processes of the five SAW national development programs.
2. Undertake joint efforts to the development of the five National Development Programs of the SAW to direct the relevant main work of the Ministries over at least the next 5 years.
3. Review and approve the five National Development Programs of the SAW.
4. Make best use of their means and resources, including structures, policies and operations to effectively implement the five National Development Programs of the SAW. For example, the inclusion of the development of MTEFs and revision of PIPs.
5. Consider making adjustment to the existing structures, policies and operations to ensure the Strategy and National Development Programs are implemented effectively.
6. Take action to bring up in regular and open discussions and consultations with relevant Ministries and the EDPs through the TWGAW progress toward full alignment with the SAW and its National Development Programs of agriculture and water sectors.
7. Take action to raise for discussion at the TWGAW any proposals by EDPs for support to the agriculture and water sectors, to ensure that those proposed programmes are closely aligned with the SAW and its National Development Programs.
8. Provide leadership, government officials and facilities to the TWGAW to be operated effectively.

2.2 For External Development Partners

1. Contribute to the completion of the SAW and the 5 National Development Programs of agriculture and water sectors through both personnel inputs and funding, as resources allow.
2. Ensure that any new program development work in agriculture and water is consistent with the SAW and its implementation framework of National Development Programs of agriculture and water sectors. The vision and implication is that all new programs will gradually be managed by and channelled through the SAW framework.
3. Ensure that all existing programs in the agriculture and water sectors move as rapidly as practical towards full alignment with the SAW and the relevant National Development Programs.
4. Report to and consult regularly and openly with the relevant Ministry and other EDPs through the TWGAW on progress with this re-alignment and how this might be assisted.

5. Participate actively in the TWGAW and its sub-groups, and provide human and financial resources to support the TWGAW's activities.
6. Recognise RGC's commitment to a strategic and harmonised approach to the development of the sector, actively seek funds to support the implementation of this vision, and particularly the 5 National Development Programs for the Agriculture and Water sector, and to facilitate and support the RGC leadership in this process.

3. Amendment of Statement

The partners signing this Statement will, until further notice, do whatever they can to uphold the principles outlined here, and agree that if there is a wish to amend the commitments given here, they will first consult with the Ministers of both Ministries, and the EDP Signatories through the TWGAW, and following consultation will give other signatories a minimum of 3 months notice of the intention to amend this statement.

4. Status of Statement of Principles

This Statement of Principles serves only as a record of the intentions of its signatories, and does not constitute or create (and is not intended to create) any legally binding or enforceable rights or obligations under any domestic or international law or convention. Any dispute, controversy or claim which may arise out of this Statement of Principles will not be subject to adjudication or arbitration, but will be dealt with through amicable consultations and negotiations.

This Statement of Principles is in duplicate in Khmer and English. All texts are equally authentic. In case of divergence concerning the interpretation, the Khmer version will prevail.



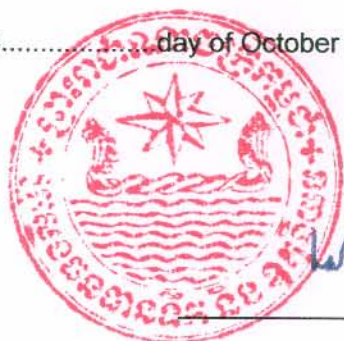
SIGNATURES

5. Representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia

Signed in Phnom Penh, this..... day of October 2007



H.E Dr. CHAN SARUN
Minister of MAFF



H.E LIM KEAN HOR
Minister of MOWRAM

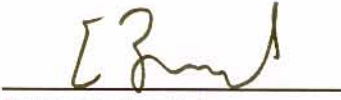


6. Representatives of EDPs

The following EDPs commit at the commencement of this Statement of Principles, and encourage other EDPs to make a similar commitment as soon as they are able to:



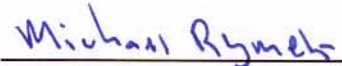
GOSWAMI, Arjun
Country Director, ADB



BEUGNOT, Eric
Country Director, AFD



LINDENMAYER, Peter
First Secretary, AusAID



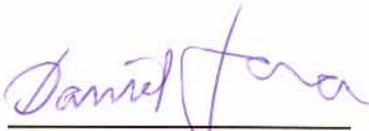
RYMEK, Michael
First Secretary, CIDA



COSTA LLOBET, Daniel
Chargé d'Affaires a.i., EC



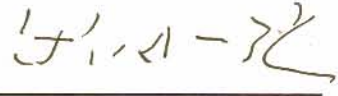
UNO, Kimiko
Res. Representative, FAO



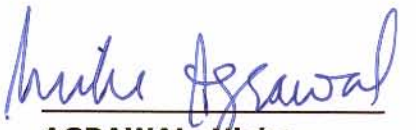
HAAS, Daniel
Counsellor, GERMAN Embassy



WANG, Youqiong
Country Program Manager, IFAD



YONEDA, Kazuhiro
Res. Representative, JICA



AGRAWAL, Nisha
Country Manager, WB

The Road Map Forward

In order to put into operation the Statement of Principles for the Agriculture and Water Sector, the following steps are agreed.

1. **Signing of the Strategy for Agriculture and Water by the Ministers of MAFF and MOWRAM.**
2. **Drafting of 'Expanded TORs' for the design of the National Development Programs under the SAW.** It is agreed that these 'Expanded TORs' will be finalised by the designated donor facilitator groups and be forwarded through the TWGAW Co-Chairs to MAFF and MOWRAM for their finalisation, adjustment, agreement with the concerned EDP groups, and final approval by MAFF and MOWRAM.
3. **Appointment of Task Managers and establishment of Task Management Support Groups for each of the five programs will be arranged by MAFF and MOWRAM.** Each of the 'Expanded TORs' will define the respective MAFF/MOWRAM Task Managers and Task Management Support Groups which will be different for each program. The appointment/establishment will thus follow immediately upon approval of the respective program design TORs, which will also specify the tasks to be performed and the staff and financial resources required for this purpose.
4. **Recruitment, contracting, mobilisation and funding of Five Program Design Teams** (as defined in respective approved TORs) will be arranged by the concerned EDP agencies in consultation with RGC Task Managers.
5. **Supervision, Facilitation and Quality Assurance** of the Design team's work, process and outputs will be the primary responsibility of the appointed Task Managers, assisted by respective Task Management Support Groups. The Task Management should be resourced to accomplish this during the short concentrated design phases (resources required are to be defined in each program design TOR).
6. **Each Design Team will produce a Program Design Document** (as described in respective TORs) of the required quality standard, and both RGC and development partners will allocate adequate staff time for the Design Team's presentations and for comments. This is expected to take place in three stages: (i) as seminar or workshop comments to interim presentations, (ii) during the debriefing by the teams, where they will present an Aide Memoire with key findings, and (iii) as official written comments to the draft program documents.
7. **The Programme Documents** prepared will subsequently be presented to RGC and Development Partners for their joint appraisal for funding – in part or in full. The different donor agencies may have different requirements and procedures in this context – it may e.g. involve separate Appraisal Mission teams. It would therefore be beneficial if the Final Documents can be structured to facilitate these procedures and requirements.