



Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans  
and Youth Rehabilitation  
No. 248 MOSVY

Kingdom of Cambodia  
Nation Religion King  
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Phnom Penh, 12, May 2019

**Dr. Howard Taylor**

**Executive Director, The  
Global Partnership to End  
Violence Against Children**

**633 Third Avenue, New  
York, NY 10017, 25th Floor**

Ref: Expression of interest and willingness to join the pathfinder countries as part of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

Dear Dr. Taylor,

I write in reference to the “**Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**”, an initiative aimed at ensuring the implementation of SDG 16, particularly target 16.2, to ‘End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children’ and other relevant goals related to the protection of the rights of children-- girls and boys.

Following consultations with relevant government ministries and institutions in Cambodia, and the approval by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to officially express the Royal Government of Cambodia’s interest and willingness to join the pathfinder countries, which will constitute initial membership in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has recently intensified its efforts in endorsing laws, policies, and regulatory frameworks as well as actions to address all forms of violence against children and adolescents, including physical and emotional abuse in all different settings, all worst forms of child labour, and child online sexual abuse and exploitation. As a commitment, the Government will continue to pursue this agenda as part of its broader efforts to meet the goals and targets of the SDGs.


The milestone led by the Royal Government of Cambodia, with support from UNICEF, Cambodia was the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to conduct and publish two national baseline surveys and a five-year national action plan related to violence against children: Cambodia’s Violence against Children Survey launched in October 2014 and the Economic Burden of Health Consequences of Violence against Children launched in December 2015 and National Action Plan to Prevent and Response to Violence Against Children (2017-2021) launched in December 2017 and action plan implementation is in progress. I enclosed both studies and the National Action Plan herewith for your information and reference. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation leads an Inter-ministerial Steering Committee to coordinate the National Action Plan implementation along with other ministries, UN agencies, NGOs/IOs and academia as members. A senior official of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation will be appointed as a focal point to coordinate the whole of government approach to end violence against children in Cambodia.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation recently co-hosted the first Regional Conference towards the Implementation of INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children

laid key recommendations and identified opportunities to accelerate action to end violence against children, and the post-conference declaration officially called “Phnom Penh Declaration” was adopted. Cambodia commits to contextualize INSPIRE guideline and integrate them in action plans, policies and regulatory framework.

We believe that Cambodia has now a more robust legislative and policy framework for protecting children from violence. The country is often seen as a model for other countries in the East Asia and Pacific region.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my highest regards and appreciation for UNICEF’s partnership and I look forward to receiving your support and working with you on this matter of global significance.

Please accept, Dr. Howard Taylor, the assurance of my high consideration 



**Vong SAUTH**  
**Minister of Social Affairs**  
**Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation**

Copy to:

- Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms. Cristian Munduate, Country Representative, UNICEF Cambodia