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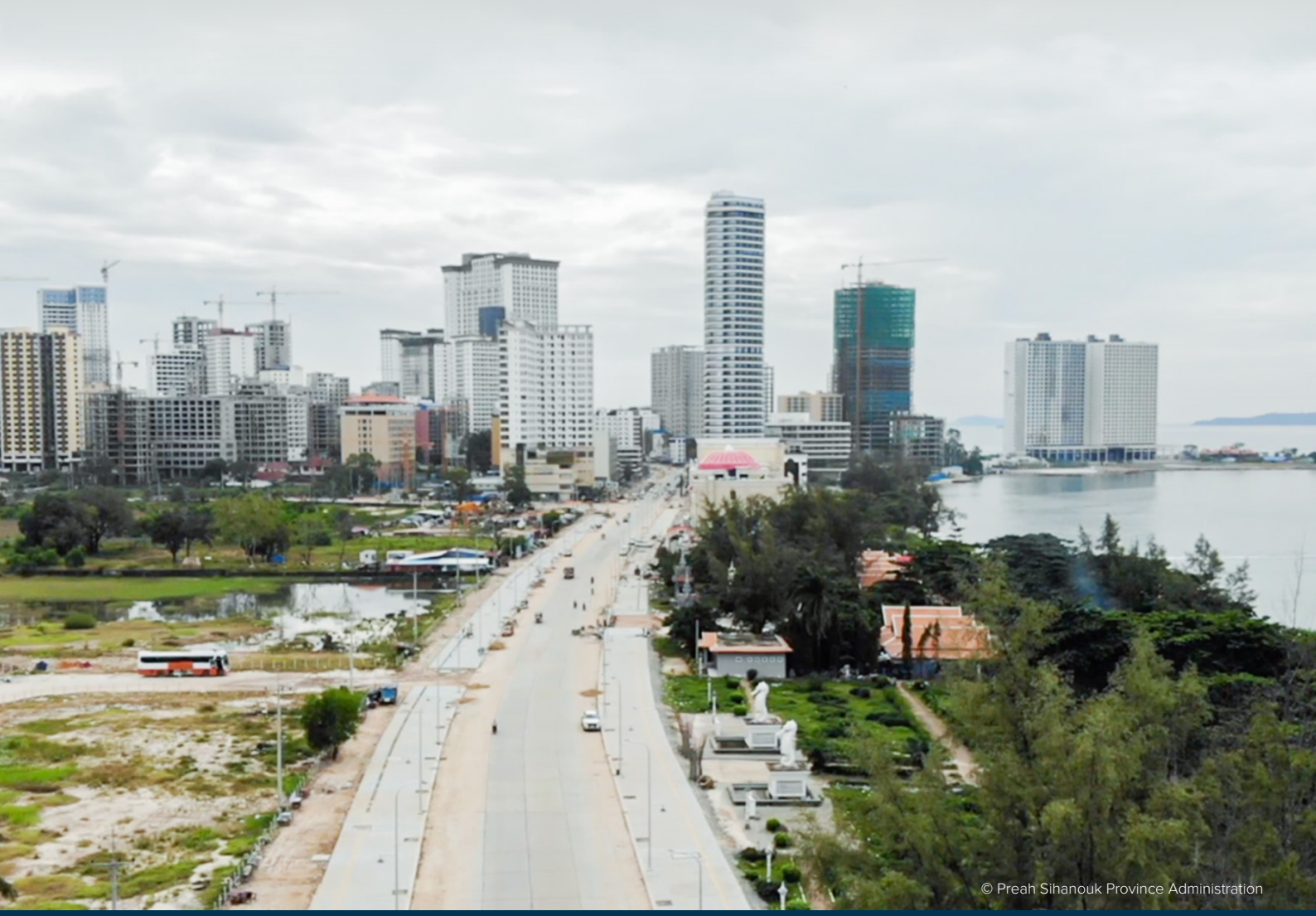

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“SIHANOUKVILLE FOR ALL: Promoting Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive city”

October 2021

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Credits

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PREFACE

A shared understanding and a common vision for a smart, sustainable and inclusive city concept for Sihanoukville is one of the outcomes from the project "Sihanoukville for all: Promoting Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive city." Through participatory consultations initiated in November 2019 between the United Nations Country Team and H.E Kuoch Chamroeun, Governor of Preah Sihanouk Province, a wide range of issues on urbanization, economic growth and inclusive development were discussed. With the rapid development in this coastal province, stakeholders agreed that dedicated attention must be given to how the city and the province can develop in a smart, sustainable and inclusive way.

Our joint aspiration for the implementation of the smart city concept in Sihanoukville is grounded on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs. While Sustainable Development Goal 11: "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is the most directly related to the concept of a smart city; other goals and targets related to poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), inequality (SDG 10), water (SDG 6 & 14), climate change (SDG 13) and land (SDG 15), must also be integrated in the smart city framework. Linking the smart city project to the SDGs alone is also not enough. The simple fact is that no city can be considered 'smart' if it ignores the interests of poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups and communities.

To be a real smart city, Sihanoukville must conform to city master plans and incorporate international standards and guidelines related to housing, sustainable development, environmental protection, disaster prepardness, forced evictions and displacement. It means adopting an inclusive and sustainable approach to development; ensuring the right to participation and information, such as the representation of city residents in monitoring mechanisms; promoting gender equality; and respecting human rights, particularly those related to land and housing for everyone. A smart, sustainable and inclusive city integrates a human security approach, a program framework that addresses Sihanoukville and its people's needs.

With support from UN Human Security Trust Fund, the UN Country Team in Cambodia worked closely with the people in Sihanoukville to identify their needs, and based on their priorities, advanced policies and jointly took actions. We believe that together with diverse stakeholders, and with human security approach to development in Sihanouville, we can make a concrete different in people's lives. Our commitment is to ensure that collectively we addresss social exclusion and reduce poverty. With this commitment, we can jointly strengthen the connection between peace and security, development and human rights, all of which accelerates the drive towards a smart, sustainable and inclusive Sihanoukville.

On behalf of the UN country team, I sincerely thank the Sihanoukville Smart City Working Group, provincial government, city authorities and all the local stakeholders who have participated and provided valuable contributions in the process to co-design the smart, sustainable and inclusive city concept for Sihanoukville. We will sustain joint efforts to implement our shared vision.

Pauline Tamesis

Resident Coordinator

United Nations in Cambodia

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1. INTRODUCTION

The "Sustainable Inclusive Smart City Concept" has evolved as a result of the project "Sihanoukville for All: promoting a Smart Sustainable and Inclusive City" promoted by the UNCT - Cambodia and led by OHCHR and UN-Habitat funded by UN Trust Fund for Human Security. The project conducted a comprehensive assessment to launch Sihanoukville as a smart sustainable and inclusive city, by following the Human Security methodology and embedding UN-Habitat's global Flagship philosophy "People Focused Smart Cities".

The "Sustainable Inclusive Smart City Concept" has been conceived through a people-focused, gender-based approach and a human rights lens. It strives to contribute to achieving the SDGs, and the New Urban Agenda with a sound focus on concrete smart opportunities to involve marginalized and vulnerable groups and communities in the digitalization process because "no city can truly be considered "smart" if it ignores the interests of the poor" as said by Pauline Tamesis, Resident Coordinator at United Nations in Cambodia during the meeting with the working group in Sihanoukville held on 23rd February 2021.

The "Sustainable Inclusive Smart City Concept" emerged from the analysis of existing development gaps, the emerging urban challenges, the policy framework and lesson learned from global smart cities case studies. Desk research, interviews, consultations with local stakeholders and above all the recommendations highlighted by the Human Security assessment have shaped the 13 sustainable, inclusive, smart initiatives which compose the Concept.

2. READINESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE SMART CITY CONCEPT

2.1 Local stakeholder's perspective on Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive City

Under the "Sihanoukville for All" project, the Sihanoukville Smart City) Working Group composed of Local Authorities at Municipal and Provincial Level, Local NGOs, Private bodies, CSOs and UN agencies was established. This working group engaged in a process of identifying smart city concept inputs for Sihanoukville through different approaches, including consultation meetings and interviews.

Two inclusive consultation meetings, and rolling stakeholder interview sessions were organized to collected information regarding the current development gaps as well as their perspectives on the "Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive Sihanoukville" from local stakeholders. The following summarizes the views expressed :

efficiency to promote harmony and well-being of the people."

Key issues shared by participants to be addressed by the Smart City Concept through the initiatives

- the need to set up a permanent e-governance and participatory framework to involve citizens and local communities both in urban and rural settlements;
- the wish to have a permanent programme of computer literacy and the involvement of the educational sector in the digital transition;
- the need to improve the environmental issues and tackle relevant challenges such as the waste collection and urban flooding;

Priorities initiatives for Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive Sihanoukville

Local authorities and all stakeholders during the workshop organized in June and September 2021 expressed as priorities for the Smart City

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