

## **IDA19 Statement for Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR)**

As we look ahead, a financially strong IDA19 is more important than ever. Addressing drivers of fragility and conflict, strengthening resilience to climate change, facilitating sustainable and inclusive economic growth and fostering a vibrant private sector will continue to be key to the development of our countries. We also recognize the essential importance of human capital as an investment for long term growth and productivity, and remain committed to further investments in the health, education, and skills of our citizens.

IDA helps countries address the many and complex challenges they are faced with, and which call for innovative approaches to development. By drawing on world-class technical assistance, knowledge, and concessional financing, IDA is uniquely positioned to help drive transformational changes in many areas, resulting in long-term and far-reaching developmental impact.

We see a strong alignment of IDA19 goals and special themes and cross-cutting issues with national development priorities. These include building inclusive and effective public institutions, diversifying the economy to create more and better jobs, addressing drivers of conflict and fragility, managing natural resources sustainably, strengthening climate and disaster resilience, and boosting long-term shared prosperity.

For a country like Myanmar undergoing a historic transition, IDA will provide important support in developing our human capital, fostering social inclusion and peace-building, and sustaining and accelerating growth in a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable manner. For Cambodia, IDA will continue to be an essential component in supporting private sector development, fostering human development, and improving sustainability of natural resources. For Lao PDR, IDA will be instrumental in helping to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition, accelerating the improvement in human capital outcomes, reducing vulnerability to climate change, and supporting the national green growth agenda.

These are just a few of the reasons that IDA continues to be a cornerstone of development for low-income countries around the world, and for Southeast Asia in particular. We strongly encourage IDA donors to ensure a robust IDA19 replenishment. And we look forward to continuing to work with the World Bank Group to help build a more prosperous and sustainable future for all our people.