



Opening Remarks

By

H.E. Mr. NEY SAMOL

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Head of the Delegation of Cambodia

*to the Adoption Session of the UPR Working Group Report on
Cambodia*

(26th Session of the Human Right Council)

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Opening Statement

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Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Head of Cambodian Delegation

to the adoption of Cambodia's UPR Outcome

26th Session of Human Rights Council

Geneva, 26 June 2014

Thank you, Mr. President,

- 1. First of all, I wish to apologize for the postponement of the adoption of Cambodia's second cycle UPR outcome report which should had been done on the 19th last week, due to some technical problems. And I wish also to thank you, Mr. President, members of Human Rights Council, and all countries and stakeholders for their kind understanding and patience, and particularly for the UPR's Secretariat's hard work and assistance extended to me and my delegation.*
- 2. Cambodia believes that the UPR is one of the important and valuable processes that provides a platform for government with an opportunity to reflect on its efforts to promote and protect human rights. We believe that all countries can profit from the experiences of others. The constructive dialogue with other countries and stakeholders on these fundamental questions is an integral part of our commitment to the enhancement of human rights in Cambodia.*
- 3. I wish to inform the Council that Cambodia received 205 recommendations from 76 delegations when we appeared before the UPR Working Group in January this year. After conducting numbers of meetings with all stakeholders to carefully consider those recommendations, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to accept 163 recommendations out of the 205, accounting for 79.5%.*
- 4. The acceptance of a very high percentage of recommendation reflect further strong commitment and seriousness that Cambodia has made, being made and continue to make toward the promotion and protection of Human Rights. The detailed list of the 163 accepted recommendations, the 38 noted*

recommendations and the 4 rejected recommendations was in the addendum which was circulated by the UPR secretariat prior to the commencement of this session.

However, I wish to take this opportunity to also highlight that among the 163 accepted recommendations, my delegation is of the view that, because of its repetitiveness and overlap, some recommendations could be clustered and combined together. In this regard, the 163 accepted recommendations should be merged to only 48 recommendations.

Mr. President,

- 5. Before moving to briefly update the Council on the latest progress Cambodia has achieved towards the implementation of the received recommendations, I wish to take this opportunity to draw the Council to the attention that as one of the outstanding countries in human rights advocate, Cambodia had signed or ratified or acceded to all the core international human rights treaties.*
- 6. With regard to the cooperation with UN mechanisms, as mentioned in recommendations made by several delegations, I am pleased to inform the Council that Cambodia has made great efforts in facilitating and closely cooperating on human rights issues with the UN mechanisms, in particular, through the MOU Framework between the Royal Government of Cambodia and OHCHR, in which Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of a Technical Cooperation Programme on Human Rights between OHCHR and the Royal Government of Cambodia was signed on 10 February 2014 for a period of two years, starting from 01 January 2014 to 31 December 2015. And furthermore, we extend mandate for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia for another two years until September 2015. In addition, with a view to further promote human rights in the country, many human rights organizations have so far been established and entitled to freely operate their works in Cambodia such as the Human Rights and Complaints Commission of the National Assembly and Senate, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, hundreds of national and international organizations including the UNOHCHR as well as the other thematic Special Rapporteurs.*

In this regard, during just the first six months of 2014, we received 4 official visits of OHCHR and Special Procedures, namely the visit of Special

Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Cambodia in January, the visit of Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in February, the visit of Deputy High Commissioner/Assistant Secretary General last month, and the visit of Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Cambodia again which just ended two days ago.

7. *Regarding the reform of the judiciary, in May this year, the National Assembly of Cambodia has adopted the three fundamental laws such as (1) law on status of judges and prosecutors, (2) law on organization and functioning of courts and (3) law on organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of Magistracy. The aim of the three laws is to strengthen the capacity, independence, impartiality and integrity of judiciary institutions.*
8. *With respect to the prisons reform, Cambodia received an appreciation and encouragement from OHCHR as mentioned in its annual report 2013 and I quote: "the General Department of Prisons of Cambodia recently adopted a strategic plan for 2014-2018, which provides a framework for prison management and the treatment of prisoners, and is more compliant with international human rights norms and standards". End quote.*
9. *As for the recommendations related to discrimination against women, I wish to inform that the Kingdom of Cambodia has made a concerted effort to implement the principles stipulated in the CEDAW Convention by applying them in its national policies, plans and legal documents. The Cambodia's Constitution states that "All forms of discrimination against woman shall be abolished". The Royal Government has therefore adopted regulations and concrete measures in order to prohibit discrimination against women such as the Penal Code, Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, Law on Monogamy and so on.*
10. *In light of showing its further commitment and its contribution to fight discrimination against women, the Royal Government of Cambodia has presented its candidature for the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women's election which is going to be held today in New York.*
11. *Towards the protection of the rights of children, the Royal Government has taken various measures, particularly through the establishment of laws, policies, national strategies and Action Plans to enhance the protection of the*

child rights, which results in better conditions for children such as reducing the infant mortality rate, increasing school registration, withdrawing children from serious forms of child labor and make them be able to access to education and vocational training and social integration, as well as enhancing decent work and child safety.

Mr. President,

12. The above mentioned information highlights some of the most recent steps that the Royal Government of Cambodia has taken in promotion and protection of human rights.

13. And I wish to conclude my opening statement and give the floor back to you for further process and I am ready for further comments, statements, positive and constructive dialogues before moving to the adoption of Cambodia UPR outcome.

I thank You Mr. President

