

ORAL STATEMENT
UPR Pre-session on Cambodia
Geneva, 11 December 2018
Delivered by: Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia)

Your excellency/Permanents Mission/Ladies and Gentleman;

My name's Son Penh. I am hereby delivering a statement on behalf of **Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia)** based on our 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Submission on Cambodia Child Rights in the Kingdom of Cambodia. CRC-Cambodia established in 1994, is an alliance of 53 local and international NGOs who are representing their logo here in the slide. As coalition, we want to see Children in Cambodia **enjoying their rights** as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Over two cycles of UPR, **51 recommendations addressed Child Rights** from **17 recommending states** who listed down in the slide amongst those 48 recommendations have been supported and three recommendations noted. Some recommendations are partially implemented and some are still not yet implemented the Royal Government of Cambodia with particular reasons and challenges which are required additional efforts from you all to follow-up the progress during the upcoming 3rd UPR Cycle of Cambodia.

Be a part of state report on Cambodia Human Rights, we were invited to participate and provide inputs to initial draft and first of state report on Cambodia Human Rights Situation during the national consultation workshops. During the workshop, we raised some special concerns and recommendations related to Cambodia Child Rights Situation for your consideration by the government to integrate in their state report.

Excellency/Permanents Mission/Ladies and Gentleman;

This statement addresses **five key special concerns and recommendations** undersigned national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including child and youth led networks, **urge you to raise** during upcoming 3rd UPR cycle of Cambodia in January 2019 to the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account the followings actions and requests:

- 1) **The Family Environment and Alternative Care:** The number of Cambodian social workers is limited. The study found that one social worker covers 1 or 2 districts. This is too large an area for effective social protection. Correspondingly, the number of trained social workers at both national and sub-national is inadequate and the ministry has not approved new hiring.

*In this regards, we would like **to urge you to raise and recommend** to the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account to:*

“Provide professional social workers for every commune and district in Cambodia to respond the needs of communities; And formally include social workers as members of the CCWC by 2020; this recommendation contributes to realize the SDG goal 11.1.”

- 2) **Basic Health and Welfare:** Children under 5 suffering from malnutrition has remained high with 32% of these children showing sign of stunting, 24% being underweight and 10% being wasted. A primary cause of malnutrition in Cambodia is diarrhea as result of poor sanitation in households and the community (e.g primary school). When a child experiences repeated bouts of diarrhea, accompanied by food that has low nutritional value, they can become chronically malnourished.

Following this, we would like **to urge you to recommend** the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account to:

“Adopt the two updated Community Participation Policy and Primary Health Care Policy; And integrate Village Health Support Groups (VHSGs) into the formal national health system by 2020; this recommendation contributes to realize the SDG goal 3.8 & goal 16.7.”

- 3) **Education:** The enrollment in early childhood education by children 3-5 years old is still low - especially for children in remote areas, ethnic minority, poor family, and children with disability. The

children with disability were either never enrolled in school or dropped out, and reasons for school dropout of children with disabilities include the costs associated with school, concerns for safety, bullying, and the student not feeling welcome or supported.

With special concern, we ***strong request you*** to recommend the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account to:

“Increase accessibility of early childhood under six years old by building more Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers and adequate enough school facilities by 2020; this recommendation contributes to realize the SDG goal SDG 4.1.”

- 4) ***Child Labor:*** Cambodian lacks standardized guidelines for conducting labor inspections. The Child Labor Department did not receive any funding for inspection-related costs and that due to these financial constraints, the inspectorate was only able to conduct inspections in and around the capital city of Phnom Penh. There are limited the legal framework to protection domestic workers, whilst Cambodian Labor Code explicitly excludes them.

Regarding this, we ***really need your support*** to raise and recommend the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account to:

“Amend the Labor Law by stipulating the specific provisions to protect workers’ rights and including effective labor dispute and inspection mechanisms and procedure, by 2020; this recommendation contributes to realize the SDG goal SDG 8.8.”

- 5) ***Juvenile Justice and Child Protection:*** The justice system in Cambodia is not yet fully equipped to respond to the needs of children who conflict with the law, victims, witnesses or suspects. Necessary procedures and facilities for dealing with minors in the justice system are lacking. As a result, children are routinely processed through the criminal justice and prosecuted as adults. According to the 2011 Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)’s baseline study, almost 41% of children were placed in the cell mixed with adults.

To address to these special concern, we would like to ***request for your support*** to raise and recommend the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account to:

“Develop a Child Protection Law in consultation with civil society organizations and development partners, with a sufficient budget allocation for implementation, by 2020; (SDG 16.3); in accordance with SDG 16.3.”

Excellency/Permanents Mission/Ladies and Gentleman;

On behalf of undersigned national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including child and youth led networks and Cambodian Children, we would like to extent our sincerely thanks and appreciate for your time to attend the UPR Pre-session today.

We do hope you all will support and raise above special concerns and recommendations during upcoming 3rd UPR cycle of Cambodia in January 2019 to the Royal Government of Cambodia for their consideration to take into account.

And, it is also helpful, if listed **advance questions** in the slide can be integrated into your dialogue during during upcoming 3rd UPR cycle of Cambodia.

For more detail information, please also refer to our Joint UPR Submission and its Advocacy Factsheet which are available outside of the room and/or contact via +855 (0) 78 787 123 or at ed@crc-cambodia.org.

#Children’s Rights Are Human Rights! #Putting Child Rights First!

Thanks You! Wish You All the Best!