



Opening Statement

By

H.E. Mr. NEY SAMOL

*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 have 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



Closing Statement

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Thank you Mr. President,

- 1. After carefully listening to those comments and statements, I wish to highlight that a number of the issues raised have been addressed and clearly elaborated in our National Report, the Working Group Report on Cambodia's UPR and the Addendum to the Working Group Report as well as in the statement that our delegation had made in January this year.*
- 2. My delegation and I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all delegations and stakeholders and NGOs who have offered additional comments and observations on Cambodia's UPR process.*
- 3. Even though I could not immediately address all these new comments and statements right away, I wish to assure you that all your comments and concerns will be conveyed to relevant institutions for action accordingly.*

Mr. President

- 4. While appreciating the satisfactory achievements Cambodia has made towards the development of human rights issues, the Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges that there remain challenges in the protection of*

human rights in the country. In this regard, I wish to reiterate that the Royal Government remains committed to implementing realistic measures, based on the principles of democracy and human rights, genuine rules of law in compliance with international instruments to which Cambodia is a party, to ensure full enjoyment of human rights in the country.

- 5. In this connection, the Royal Government continues strengthening close cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, in particular the Special Procedures. In this regard, as mentioned in my opening remark, I would like to inform you that Prof. Surya P. Subedi, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia has finished his fact finding mission in Cambodia two days ago with a very satisfactory result.*
- 6. To overcome challenges for gender equality in Cambodia, we will continue joining efforts with partners and key stakeholders, especially in the most critical areas: access to upper-secondary and tertiary education, representation in politics and decision making, and participation in formal economy.*
- 7. We are committed to deeply reform legal system and courts by designing legal framework with sustainability and more confidence; and to strengthen capacity building, independence, impartiality and integrity of court which are essential to strengthen rules of laws, segregation of powers, respect individual rights, and justice for general population.*
- 8. The Government continues to implement social affairs policies and to improve livelihood of people by upgrading the quality of the life, developing socio-economic, and creating jobs for people.*

Mr. President,

- 9. Once again, I wish to reaffirm that the entire UPR process has been very beneficial to Cambodia. Not only provides us with the opportunity to evaluate our progress, achievements and shortcomings in the promotion and protection of human rights in our country, the UPR process enables the Royal Government to continue undertaking necessary measures and concrete policies needed to further improve its existing human rights frameworks.*
- 10. On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and H.E. Mr. President of the Human Rights Council, as well as the Troika, namely Morocco, the Philippines, Italy and the UPR secretariat for their valuable endeavors contributing to the success of UPR process for Cambodia.*
- 11. To conclude Mr. President, I wish to reaffirm that Cambodia remains determined to further enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. We continue to closely work with all delegations and interested partners and stakeholders, with constructive cooperation, in*

exchanging our experiences with the others related to human rights issues to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

*I thank you **Mr. President**.*