



**Statement by Mr. NEY SAM OL, Ambassador/Permanent Representative
of Cambodia to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization
and Other International Organizations at Geneva
33rd Session of the Human Rights Council
28 September 2016, Geneva**

**Report of the Secretary-General (Technical Assistance and Capacity
Building)
Roles and Achievements of the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and
people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human
rights**



Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for the Annual Report on the Roles and Achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Overall, the Report recognizes the success of the Government Land Titling Program, which results in approximately 4 millions of land titles issued at lower cost. The Report also accepts that there is obvious advancement of public administrative reform in the fields of civil service, decentralization, de-concentration, and public finance management.

There is also an indication that Cambodia maintains steady economic growth of 7 percent for decades and expects to reach 7.1 percent growth this year. Likewise, Cambodia would graduate from being a lower income to being a lower middle-income country within this year as well.

However, whilst encouraged by the positive aspects the Report highlighted on the significant improvement, and commitment of the Government toward its people and the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights, we found that the Report does not cover the

full image of the progress that the Government has achieved within this reporting period.

In this regard, I wish to give some clarifications on the shortcomings of the Report as follows:

Political Situation

In Cambodia all political parties freely conduct their activities in accordance with existing laws and legal instruments. Our people are enjoying harmonious lives as peace, security, stability and remarkable development attained. Thus, this reflects the logic that there would be no stability and peace without development and vice versus.

As far as the upcoming elections in 2017 and 2018 respectively is concerned, so far, around 3.6 million people turn out to register for the polls. The voter registration process has gone very smoothly so far.

Judicial reform

As one of the outstanding countries in human rights advocate, Cambodia is a member to almost all core International Human Rights Treaties. Therefore, Cambodia is well aware of its obligations toward the International Instruments to which it is a party.

Law making process has been conducted in conformity with the constitution and taking into account International Rules and Standards. Each law making process has to come through proper legal procedure and due process as stipulated in the constitution before reaching its adoption and enactment.

In this regard, the three fundamental laws on the judicial reform have been enacted.

Democratic space

We recognize the works and efforts undertaken by Civil Society Organizations and NGOs in collaboration and partnership with the Government and other stakeholders in Cambodia.

As far as the enactment of LANGOs is concerned, in fact, this Law had been carefully formulated in accordance with Cambodia Constitution. The ultimate goal of the Law is to create conducive medium for better transparency, cooperation and freedom of Civil Societies and NGOs. As such, there is no any intention to constrain freedom or to shrink spaces of these stakeholders in Cambodia. So far, we found no complaint in regarding to the application of this Law.

The claims that there has been an attempt to limit democratic space in Cambodia may prejudice the Government effort and commitment to uphold the application of the rule of law for the better promotion and protection of human rights in this country.

Land issues

Forced eviction, if any, is not the Government Policy. We never condone but condemn such a heinous act. We do our best to bring the perpetrators to justice.

However, some entities manipulate the current land issues shamelessly for their own benefits.

As a matter of fact, some land issues in some particular locations have been politicized. The unlawful meddling of some entities into these issues, ignoring existing legal procedures and dispute-settlement mechanisms have complicated and dramatized the problems.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate once again that the Royal Government of Cambodia thanks the OHCHR for its technical assistance and capacity building in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you Mr. President