

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

ON

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

(3rd Cycle)



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
Cambodia



August 2019

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Preface

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council is a unique process by which the human rights record of each of the 193 UN Member States. With the ultimate goal of improving the human rights situation in every country reviewed, the UPR was designed to prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground. The UPR is a State-driven process, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions it has taken to improve the human rights situation in the country and to fulfil its human rights obligations before other States and the general public. The UPR creates opportunities to provide technical assistance to States and enhance their capacity to deal effectively with human rights challenges and to share best practices in the field of human rights among States and other stakeholders. As one of the main features of the Human Rights Council, the UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed. All countries are subject to the same process and the same scrutiny, irrespective of treaty ratifications. Currently, no other universal mechanism of this kind exists.

Cambodia was first reviewed under the UPR process in December 2009. At the end of its first review, Cambodia accepted all 91 recommendations made by other States¹. The first cycle of the UPR process ended in October 2011, when all 193 UN Member States were reviewed. The second cycle then commenced and Cambodia was once again reviewed on 28 January 2014. All inputs into the second review, including the Government's national report and compilations of information from the United Nations human rights mechanisms and NGOs, are available online². The webcast of the review can also be viewed on the internet³.

For the third cycle, Cambodia was under review on 30 January 2019, 198 recommendations were made to Cambodia, which are reproduced below. In January, Cambodia accepted 173 recommendations and deferred its decision to the July session of the Human Rights Council on the remaining 25 recommendations. On 4 July 2019, Cambodia announced its final position – it accepted 173 recommendations and noted the remaining 25. The recommendations present a comprehensive assessment of the reality of human rights protection in Cambodia, as well as the relevant gaps and opportunities to strengthen protection.

In order to demonstrate progress at the next UPR cycle which will take place in four years, the Government will need to immediately take concrete steps towards the implementation of the recommendations. Concerted and meaningful follow-up to the recommendations of the UPR is needed to ensure that all the efforts of the Government, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, and the international community and other participating stakeholders will have been toward meaningful progress. Such efforts will also contribute to the implementation of the recommendations previously made by the treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms such as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of Cambodia, many of which are reflected in the UPR recommendations. Successful implementation will make the drafting of the next UPR report much easier.

To achieve this, it will be important to identify within the State those specific entities that are responsible for the implementation of specific recommendations. Work must commence immediately to identify: a) the issue(s) under stake, b) the responsible authority(ies), and c) the specific measures to be undertaken by them fulfill the recommendation. It is

important to recall that the responsibility to take action does not lie exclusively with the executive. On some recommendations which require the adoption or modification of laws, for instance, Parliament will have an important role to play.

The unique feature of the UPR process is that it reflects a consolidation of international opinion on the human rights situation in each country under review and the resulting recommendations are voluntarily and publicly accepted by the State under review. The recommendations can therefore become very powerful advocacy tools for all relevant stakeholders. Each should elaborate concrete plans to implement or support the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The responsibility for the implementation of the UPR recommendations rests of course with the Government, but civil society can and should play an important role in assisting the Government's efforts in this regard. Civil society also plays a crucial role in monitoring the status of implementation of the recommendations.

Together with the recommendations of the expert mechanisms, such as the treaty monitoring committees and the special rapporteurs, the UPR recommendations address a wide range of issues covering sectors on which UN agencies often provide support to the Government. In this regard, by taking guidance from the recommendations, the UN agencies could provide useful assistance toward UPR implementation within their specific areas of competence.

The recommendations from all the human rights mechanisms can serve as a catalyst – and have done so in many countries – for the Government, civil society, the international community and the UN system to join efforts in implementing them for improved human rights protection. The opportunity to do the same in Cambodia must not be lost. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the many stakeholders deeply invested in the promotion of human rights in Cambodia, is ready to contribute to their implementation, taking advantage of the new openings for reform which make it timely to embark on this process in earnest. The present publication is offered by Office as a first step in this direction. It is dedicated to the people of Cambodia and to all those who defend their human rights.

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Representative, a.i.
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August 2019

1. These recommendations are available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/KHSession6.aspx>

2. All are available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/KHSession18.aspx>. In order to view the individual UN and NGO submissions, please click on the footnotes on the webpage.

3. See <http://webtv.un.org/watch/cambodia-review-18th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/3119784522001/>

About the UPR process

The reviews are conducted every 4.5 years by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Human Rights Council; however any UN Member State can take part in the discussion/dialogue with the reviewed States. Each State review is assisted by groups of three States, known as “troikas”, who serve as rapporteurs. The selection of the troikas for each State is done through a drawing of lots following elections for the Council membership in the General Assembly.

The three documents on which the reviews are based are:

1. information provided by the State under review, which can take the form of a “national report”;
2. information contained in the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures, human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities;
3. information from other stakeholders including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The UPR will assess the extent to which States respect their human rights obligations set out in: (1) the UN Charter; (2) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (3) human rights instruments to which the State is party (human rights treaties ratified by the State concerned); (4) voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (e.g. national human rights policies and/or programmes implemented); and, (5) applicable international humanitarian law.

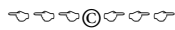
Reviews take place through an interactive discussion between the State under review and other UN Member States. This takes place during a meeting of the UPR Working Group. During this discussion any UN Member State can pose questions, comments and/or make recommendations to the States under review. The duration of the review is three hours and thirty minutes.

Following the review by the Working Group, a report is prepared by the troika with the involvement of the State under review and assistance from OHCHR. This report, referred to as the “outcome report”, provides a summary of the actual discussion. It therefore consists of the questions, comments and recommendations made by States to the country under review, as well as the responses of the reviewed State.

Time is allocated during the Working Group to adopt each of the “outcome reports” for the States reviewed during that session. The reviewed State has the opportunity to make preliminary comments on the recommendations, choosing to either accept or note them. Both accepted and noted recommendations are included in the report.

The report is then referred to the plenary of the Human Rights Council for adoption. At that time, the State under review can reply to questions and issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the Working Group and respond to recommendations that were raised by States during the review. Time is also allotted to member and observer States who may wish to express their opinion on the outcome of the review and for National Human Rights Institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders to make general comments.

The State under review always has the primary responsibility to implement the recommendations contained in the final outcome. The UPR ensures that all countries are accountable for progress or failure in implementing these recommendations. During its next review, the State is expected to provide information on the measures it has taken to implement the recommendations made previously, as well as on any developments in the field of human rights. The international community has a role to play in assisting the implementation of the recommendations on capacity-building and technical assistance, in consultation with the country concerned.



Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

(A/HRC/WG.6/32/L.14 , 1 February 2019)

Human Rights Council

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 21 January-1 February 2019

Cambodia

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Cambodia was held at the 16th meeting, on 30 January 2019. The delegation of Cambodia was headed by the President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, H.E. Mr. KEO Remy. At its 18th meeting, held on 1 February 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Cambodia.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Cambodia: Senegal, Pakistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Cambodia:

- (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/KHM/1);
- (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/KHM/2);
- (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/KHM/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Australia, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America was transmitted to Cambodia through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

II. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Cambodia was emerging from a legacy of gross human rights violations; 2019 in fact marked the fortieth anniversary of the State's liberation from the genocidal Pol Pot regime. As a result, achieving the basic human rights to which every citizen is entitled was and remained the first and most important task of the Government.

6. Cambodia, previously an underdeveloped country mired in poverty and food insecurity, was now a food exporting country, one of the fastest growing economies in the world and a remarkable performer in terms of poverty reduction and improvement in social indicators. Cambodia had made significant progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Since 1990, the country had more than halved extreme poverty and maternal mortality, achieved nearly universal primary education enrolment and made significant progress in combating HIV/AIDS. Cambodia had grown at an average rate of 7 per cent in the past two decades, and become a lower middle-income economy in 2016. Cambodia would probably no longer have its least developed country status after 2025 if it continued to maintain the current growth rate.

7. Cambodia had engaged with a wide range of mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, as seen in the continued presence of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia and OHCHR, the State's participation in the universal periodic review and its reports to the treaty bodies. Cambodia was a State party to eight core human rights treaties, which it had ratified without reservation. It was the only country in Asia to host a field office of OHCHR.

8. With regard to the follow-up to the 162 recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, as a government agency, had cooperated with OHCHR to compile the recommendations and organize workshops to disseminate them to all relevant line ministries and institutions of the Government for implementation. The Committee had also followed up with the ministries and received feedback on their achievements, which had been included in the State report for the third cycle of the review. The preparatory work for drafting the national report had been carried out by the Committee in close consultation with government institutions, civil society organizations and OHCHR Cambodia.

9. The election of the sixth legislature of the National Assembly on 29 July 2018 had been conducted in a free, fair, peaceful and transparent manner. A total of 20 registered political parties contested the election, and 83.02% of registered voters had cast their ballots to express their desire to see continuity in the country's sustained path towards peace, stability, democracy and the rule of law.

10. Legal action against any political parties that broke the law was the normal process in any democratic State adhering to the principle of the rule of law and aiming to strengthen the process of democracy and safeguard peace and stability, which were the basis for long-term and sustainable socio-economic development.

11. The application of the seat allocation method adopted in 2014, validated at the time by the opposition, had led the Cambodian People's Party to win, with 76.78 per cent of votes cast, all 125 seats in Parliament. Nevertheless, the Government had set up a participatory consultative mechanism involving all political parties, known as the Supreme Consultative Council, to collect input for the benefit of national construction. The Council offered a public consultative forum for legal and policy formulation and implementation, and a checks-and-balances platform with the Government.

12. The Government had also called upon the judiciary as an independent body to expedite trial proceedings of trade union leaders and activists who were sued or had been charged in accordance with current court procedures, to safeguard their rights, as guaranteed under the Constitution.

13. The Government had also promoted a genuine partnership with civil society organizations in all aspects of social development. The Government had recently established a working group, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, to consult with civil society on a regular basis. The second forum on partnerships between the Government and civil society organizations, held on 17 January 2019, had been attended by hundreds of organizations, without discrimination; constructive discussions had led to various tangible actions to facilitate the activities of those organizations. A consultative forum with foreign and international non-governmental organizations had been organized for 29 January 2019 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Such inclusive and collaborative forums were aimed at improving understanding of various issues surrounding the implementation of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations, and other laws relating to civil society organizations.

14. With regard to labour and trade union rights, the Government had established a national committee for the review of the international conventions that Cambodia had ratified, to consult with stakeholders and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

15. In January 2019, the minimum wage for workers in the textile, garment and footwear industries had reached \$182, up from \$170 the previous year. Wages had in fact more than doubled since 2013. The threshold income tax has been raised to \$300 per month to ensure that the new wage gain was not taxed. Non-salary allowances and the benefits that workers received would continue to remain exempt from calculations of the tax threshold.

16. Employers were now required to pay 3.4 per cent of each employee's monthly salary into the national social security fund, for injury insurance and health care. A pension for workers in the garment sector had also been announced for 2019. Female employees were entitled to three months of maternity leave with 120 per cent of their salary (the equivalent of 70 per cent of their salary covered by the national social security fund, and 50 per cent by employers).

17. With regard to freedom of the press and freedom of expression, the *Cambodia Daily* had shut down because of its failure to fulfil its tax obligations, in accordance with the law on taxation. In the event that such liabilities were legally met, the newspaper could resume its operations. The closure of the offices of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America had been self-initiated. The two radio stations were free to reopen their offices in Cambodia. The Government was also working on a policy and legal framework, and was committed to completing a draft law on the right of access to information, together with two other important laws: the cybercrime law, and the amendment to the law on the press.

18. On land issues, the Government had introduced policy and legal frameworks to manage the land sector to ensure the rights and interests of people and proper land use. It would continue to address other pending land disputes, promote and accelerate nationwide land registration, including for indigenous communities, provide social land concessions and land for production to landless people, and also provide incentives for the development of affordable housing.

19. The Government was counting on the support of all stakeholders to contribute to its efforts to ensure a peaceful and harmonious society, with full respect for the rule of law, democracy and human rights. All human rights, including the right to development, were indivisible, and human rights issues had to be addressed within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized and dialogue-based approach. Respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality and non-selectivity had been set as the guiding principles for the promotion of human rights, taking into account the political, historical and social context of each country.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 73 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. China noted that Cambodia had maintained political stability and economic growth, improved people's living standards and made great efforts to alleviate poverty, enhance the judicial guarantee of human rights, develop education and health care, and safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups.

- 22.** Colombia highlighted the progress made to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in State law.
- 23.** Costa Rica acknowledged the establishment of a national mechanism to combat torture and the implementation of the national disability strategic plan. It urged constructive cooperation with special procedure mandate holders prior to, during and after their missions.
- 24.** Croatia acknowledged the progress made in the area of education. It expressed concern about children from indigenous and ethnic minority groups who continued to be disadvantaged, the state of fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life.
- 25.** Cuba praised the implementation of the national disability strategic plan, the national plan to reduce child labour, and other measures taken to protect children.
- 26.** Czechia commended the achievements in reducing poverty. Much remained to be done in the implementation of recommendations. It hoped that the upcoming voluntary national review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would provide the boost needed for further efforts.
- 27.** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted with satisfaction the significant progress made in the fields of poverty reduction, education and public health, and in combating child labour and human trafficking.
- 28.** Denmark remained deeply concerned about the situation of civil and political rights, including the dissolution of the main opposition party. It stressed the importance of education for girls and women, which would lead to their substantial contribution to social development.
- 29.** Egypt commended the efforts made to strengthen human rights and the State's acceptance of the proposal to establish an independent national human rights institution. It had also made efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities with its national plan for the period 2014 to 2018.
- 30.** Fiji congratulated the State on the steady increase in the share of its national budget allocated to climate-related expenditure, as well as its national strategic plan on disaster risk management for health and the climate change strategic plan.
- 31.** Finland was concerned about the shrinking civic and democratic space, particularly the restrictions on freedom of association, assembly and expression through repressive laws and regulations.
- 32.** France welcomed the efforts made to reduce poverty and improve the health system and social protection. It noted the positive steps taken by the Government to re-open the political space, and encouraged the State to follow up on those measures.

33. Georgia noted the laws strengthening the independence of the judiciary system, and encouraged the State to continue the reform process in this direction. It welcomed the establishment of the national independent anti-torture mechanism, in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

34. Germany commended the improvements in the protection of the rights of children and the greater effort made to fight human trafficking.

35. Greece noted the progress made with regard to the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning persons, and the development of a safety net for the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. It expressed deep concern about the worsening of the overall human rights situation in the country.

36. Honduras congratulated the State on the results achieved in the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations from previous cycles and its ratification of eight human rights treaties. It praised the State for the voluntary commitments it had undertaken.

37. Iceland welcomed the positive steps taken by the Government to promote human rights and its consistent support for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

38. India commended Cambodia for reducing the poverty rate and for becoming a lower middle-income country. It also commended the progress made in primary and secondary education and in ensuring a high rate of enrolment of girls in higher education, and the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

39. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of the National Committee against Torture in 2017. It also commended the adoption of the national strategic plan on disability for the period 2014 to 2018, and the implementation of the strategic plan for gender mainstreaming in 29 ministries and institutions to promote gender equality in public services.

40. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the State for its efforts to promote human rights education and the training of law enforcement officials and civil servants. It also welcomed the efforts to combat human trafficking and the creation of the National Committee against Torture.

41. Iraq welcomed the training on human rights offered to law enforcement officials and judges. It also welcomed the State's efforts to reduce poverty.

42. Ireland acknowledged the efforts made to advance human rights domestically, and commended the progress made since the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, including the work in preventing human trafficking.

- 43.** Italy made recommendations.
- 44.** Japan welcomed the extension of the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR, and looked forward to concrete actions on further steps to strengthen democracy and the political space. It expected that Cambodia would strengthen control over entities involved in dispatching workers overseas.
- 45.** The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the efforts made to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote gender equality. It also welcomed the progress made in the education sector.
- 46.** Latvia noted the visits made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, and that Cambodia had accepted visit requests by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 47.** Lithuania acknowledged the efforts made to improve the human rights situation, and urged Cambodia to consolidate its actions in addressing persisting serious human rights challenges.
- 48.** Malaysia was pleased with the efforts made to promote socioeconomic development. It also noted the progress made in improving access to health-care services, highlighting that, under the health strategic plan for 2016–2020, everyone, including those living in rural areas, would be able to obtain quality health-care services.
- 49.** Maldives recognized the adoption of the health strategic plan for 2016–2020 and the national policy framework for social protection for 2016–2025, and the national anti-torture mechanisms.
- 50.** Mexico appreciated the establishment of the National Committee against Torture and of a department for the legal protection of women in the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- 51.** Montenegro welcomed the efforts to strengthen the protection of children's rights, particularly street children and orphans. It urged the Government to investigate all cases of sexual exploitation of children and to convict offenders.
- 52.** Myanmar commended the successful implementation of the recommendations, and was encouraged by the significant developments in poverty reduction, the promotion of gender equality and equity, and of education and health care.
- 53.** Nepal praised the reduction of poverty and the improvement in living standards, which would have a beneficial impact on the realization of human rights.

54. The Netherlands commended the commitment to inclusive instruction on sexual orientation issues and sexual education. It remained concerned about increasing restrictions on civil society and the media.

55. New Zealand commended the release of some political prisoners in September 2018. It continued to be concerned about the political situation.

56. Norway welcomed the State's participation in the universal periodic review, yet remained concerned about democratic developments, including the recent elections.

57. Pakistan noted with appreciation the significant efforts made to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote gender equality and equity through development and implementation of various laws, policies, action plans and programmes.

58. The Philippines acknowledged the Government's plan to adapt the Sustainable Development Goals to the local context, and commended the efforts made to promote human rights awareness through education and training.

59. Portugal welcomed the steps taken to fulfil the right to health.

60. The Republic of Korea was encouraged by the actions and measures taken to protect the rights of women and children, labourers and persons with disabilities, and commended the State for its efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the measures taken to prevent gender-based violence against women and the improvement in women's access to the justice system.

62. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts made to combat extreme poverty, to provide for sustainable development and to improve access to health and education. It noted the steps taken by the Government to protect women and children from domestic violence.

63. Senegal welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the rule of law, in particular by providing for the independence of the judicial system, as attested to by the holding of orderly and fair trials upholding the rights of parties.

64. Serbia commended the efforts made to improve the human rights situation of women and children.

65. Singapore commended Cambodia for having significantly reduced the poverty rate and for having improved access to health-care services, as seen in the significant decline in child mortality rates and in HIV prevalence in the adult population.

66. Slovenia welcomed the steps taken by the Government to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote gender equality. It encouraged the Government to prosecute the perpetrators of such violence. It was concerned about the harassment and intimidation of journalists, human rights defenders and trade union workers.

67. Spain was concerned about the situation of stateless persons in Cambodia.

68. Sweden acknowledged the steps taken by Cambodia to strengthen the full enjoyment of human rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It was concerned about the negative developments in political rights and the use of the judiciary to restrict human rights, contributing to fear, intimidation and self-censorship.

69. Switzerland was deeply concerned at the deterioration in civil and political rights, including the restrictions on the freedom of expression and civil society and the dissolution of the main opposition party before the 2018 elections.

70. Thailand commended the efforts made in poverty reduction and development in all dimensions, which had lifted the economic status of Cambodia to the status of lower middle-income country in 2015.

71. Togo welcomed the remarkable progress made in implementing the recommendations made at the previous review cycle. It noted with satisfaction the improvement in economic and social rights in particular, and in the rights to health to social protection, and the increase in the minimum wage.

72. Tunisia welcomed the legislation adopted since the previous review cycle in support of the human rights legislative and institutional framework, particularly the national mechanism against torture and the protection of persons with disabilities, children in difficulty and helpless children.

73. Turkey commended the State's engagement with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia and its closeness to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It welcomed the freedom enjoyed by non-governmental organizations under Cambodian law, the formation of the Supreme Consultative Council and the amended law on political parties.

74. Ukraine acknowledged the ratification of core human rights instruments. It was concerned about the undermining of the judiciary and about legislation restricting civil and political rights. It encouraged the State to strengthen cooperation with the special procedures and to establish an effective national human rights institution.

75. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was concerned by the shrinking of democratic space, as seen in the dissolution of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, the imprisonment of Kem Sokha, and the national election in July 2018, which lacked legitimacy. It encouraged the State to accept a visit from the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences.

76. The United States of America remained gravely concerned about the suppression of the political opposition, independent media and civil society, and the undue restrictions on workers' rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, resulting in the elections of July 2018, which were neither genuinely free nor fair.

77. Uruguay commended the measures taken to eliminate child labour and violence against women and girls. It urged the State to continue action to prevent violence and sexual abuse, including rape, and to promote effective complaints mechanisms and physical and psychological care for victims.

78. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the sustained economic growth and reduction in poverty. It also noted the strategic health plan for 2016–2020, the law on the eradication of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, universal primary education and the progress made in establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

79. The delegation of Cambodia pointed out that the Cambodian Human Rights Committee was a central body that had been established to coordinate with other ministries and stakeholders when compiling reports for the treaty bodies and to monitor the implementation of recommendation made by those treaty bodies and the special procedures. The Government had issued a sub-decree on 18 December 2017 establishing an inter-ministerial working group, comprising all relevant governmental agencies for better coordination when preparing reports.

80. The Ministry of Information had led and collaborated with the Embassy of Sweden and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the drafting of a law on access to information. The drafting process had been undertaken through the establishment of a joint technical working group consisting of State institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, professional media experts, academia, researchers and development partners. The Government was committed to completing the draft law on the right of access to information together with other two important laws: the cybercrime law and the amendment to the law on the press.

81. The Government had a plan to promote gender equality and sexuality education in order to eliminate discrimination and gender-based violence, including by mainstreaming gender equality into the policy framework and the national development plan, reducing the gender gap in education, promoting vocational training and women's entrepreneurship initiatives, combating domestic violence and the sexual abuse of women and children, uplifting social morality, women's dignity and the Cambodian family, improving legal services for women and children and implementing the social protection policy framework for 2016–2025.

82. Even though there was no policy or legal framework governing the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, the Government had taken action to eliminate discrimination against that community by organizing public awareness campaigns, disseminated via the media and in the context of formal and informal education. While civil law still did not recognize the legitimacy of homosexual marriage and registration, it did not actually criminalize such marriage and practices. Homosexual marriage was in fact very common in Cambodian society, in traditional and cultural practices. Approximately 1,000 same-sex couple had already married with a traditional party and ceremony.

83. National reconciliation was subject to a genuine commitment by all parties concerned to prioritize national interest, without taking orders from foreign powers. The current actions taken by Cambodia against Kem Sokha and institutions that had committed treason and conspiracy were the only legitimate way to protect peace and democracy under the rule of law. Acts of treason, espionage and conspiracy with a foreign power that advocated the overthrow of a legitimate Government were subject to severe punishment under the law of all countries, and Cambodia was no exception. The State regretted, however, that the only legitimate action possible for a sovereign State had been politicized under the banner of “human rights and democracy” because of the geopolitical interests of other States.

84. Cambodia was a paradise for non-governmental organizations. With a total population of only 15million people, Cambodia, surprisingly, was home to almost 6,000 registered local and international associations and non-governmental organizations and more than 4,000 trade unions, proportionally impressive when compared with other countries in the region. Since the introduction of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations, 509 local associations and 400 local non-governmental organizations had been registered with the Ministry of the Interior as at the end of November 2018. Such a large number of civil society organizations was clear and convincing evidence of the open space available for civil society. Unfortunately, a number of the organizations, behind the veil of supposedly humanitarian or development activities, were in fact deeply engaged in political activities funded by foreign institutions and Governments. Cambodia appreciated the genuine and honest contribution of social, environmental and human rights workers to the development of the country. However, no one was above the law, and offenders would be subject to the full force of the law, including those who used and exploited the rights agenda for political purposes.

85. Cambodia also referred to several positive points raised by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia in her end of mission statement of 8 November 2018. She had welcomed the recent creation of a government working group, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, to consult regularly with civil society. She had also welcomed the new directive No. 040 of 31 October 2018 issued by the Ministry of the Interior to subnational authorities on 31 October 2018, repealing the requirement for advance notice of three days.

86. Cambodia had ratified eight out of the nine core international human rights instruments. The Government had also been studying different factors in order to determine the appropriate time and conditions for Cambodia to accede to or ratify other international treaties.

87. Viet Nam welcomed the continued commitment and efforts made to protect and promote human rights, especially the rights of vulnerable groups. It commended the State's achievements in recent years, including poverty reduction, gender equality, universal primary education and access to health-care services.

88. Yemen welcomed the enactment by the Government of several human rights laws, including the law on the organization of courts, the special law on the status of judges and prosecutors, and the law on the Supreme Judicial Council. It also welcomed the achievements in the field of public services, development and poverty reduction.

89. Algeria noted with satisfaction the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the adoption of laws aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and children against degrading treatment, forced labour and sexual violence. Algeria encouraged Cambodia to continue its judicial reforms.

90. Argentina commended Cambodia for having established the National Committee against Torture as its national preventive mechanism.

91. Australia welcomed the national action plan to prevent violence against women. It remained concerned about the constrained democratic space and the restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

92. Austria recognized the efforts made to settle outstanding claims in the land sector. It was seriously concerned about the deteriorating situation with regard to the rule of law. It was also concerned about the impartiality of the judiciary.

93. Azerbaijan welcomed the improvements in the health sector, including the adoption of the health strategic plan for 2016-2020. It also welcomed the fact that poverty had declined and that cooperation had been strengthened with partners for the implementation of programmes aimed at rural development and poverty reduction.

94. Belgium welcomed the State's cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. It was concerned about the shrinking space for civil society and the lack of judicial independence.

95. Benin welcomed the efforts made to promote and protect human rights following the State's second review, in particular its ratification of several international treaties.

96. Bhutan noted with appreciation the judicial reforms undertaken, particularly the adoption of legislation on the judiciary, and the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of Magistracy. Bhutan also noted the measures taken to educate and train civil servants and law enforcement agencies on human rights.

97. The Plurinational State of Bolivia commended the State's determination to promote human rights, as demonstrated by its ratification of eight core international human rights instruments.

98. Brazil called upon Cambodia to continue to investigate all cases of past human rights violations and to protect the full independence of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. It welcomed the State's ratification of international treaties and expressed support for its efforts to advance the social protection of workers.

99. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the efforts made with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, including the national strategic plan on disability, and the progress on the national plan against child labour, which included training for the relevant national committee and the reform of the inspection mechanism.

100. Canada remained concerned by the restrictions imposed on civil society, the media and political opposition, exacerbated by the undemocratic elections held in 2018. Canada closely follows the implementation of recently announced reforms to expand political space. It would continue to call upon the Government to organize free and fair elections and to restore freedom of expression and political participation.

101. Chile recognized the efforts made to promote and protect human rights, especially the establishment of the national committee to combat torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and the progress made in the reform of the judicial system.

102. The delegation of Cambodia stated that the Cambodian Human Rights Committee had cooperated with civil society organizations in the preparation of the draft law on the establishment of a national human rights institution, which had been initiated by a civil society working group and discussed with the Committee. The draft law had not been finalized. The Committee would continue to work with stakeholders, in particular with OHCHR Cambodia, to ensure that the draft law was in line with the Paris Principles and international standards.

103. No journalist had been killed for political reasons since 2000. The Government condemned all attacks on the freedom of the press when media personnel acted in accordance with the law. Not all incidents were politically motivated; sometimes journalists disregarded safety regulations or lacked a code of ethics in their activities. Freedom of the press was guaranteed under the Constitution and regulated by the law on the press. Moreover, in an effort to promote freedom of expression, Cambodia had even removed imprisonment as a penalty for defamation from the Criminal Code, and provided a guarantee that no individual would be imprisoned for expressing his or her opinion.

104. With respect to the electoral process in 2018 and the amendment to the law on political parties, the amendment had been based on a principle entrenched in the Constitution. The amended law applied indiscriminately to all political parties. Nothing in the amended law threatened the multiparty system set up by the Constitution. As in all democratic countries, the amended law was aimed at preventing abuse and acts not in accordance with fundamental democratic principles, such as incitation to racial hatred, defamation and the destruction of the social fabric of the nation.

105. The Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva stressed that some delegates had prioritized civil and political rights over economic, social and cultural rights when addressing Cambodian issues. These two fundamental groups of rights should not be treated differently. The economic growth witnessed in Cambodia as a result of hard-earned peace under the policies of the Prime Minister had been underestimated, while a few insignificant shortcomings had been exaggerated. For Cambodia, peace was a prerequisite for development that the Government had to defend, whatever the price, to uphold the people's prosperity and rights, particularly economic and social rights.

106. Cambodia did not ignore other rights and freedoms. The concerns raised should be considered on the basis of mutual respect. The universal periodic review was not a forum for political propaganda benefiting one group or one political party at the expense of the others. Human rights should not be politicized. They should be applied in a fair and impartial manner.

107. Cambodia was emerging from war; after having directly suffered its devastating effects, it was keen to support peace endeavours around the world, because without peace there could be no human rights. Cambodia could indeed become the first post-conflict country in the history of the United Nations to go from recipient State of peacekeeping operation forces to a State dispatching them.

108. With regard to socio-cultural rights, Cambodia had demonstrated commendable achievements thanks to the ongoing support of the international community and partner States.

109. Cambodia remained committed to strengthening cooperation and constructive partnerships with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and stakeholders in order to further consolidate the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

III. Conclusions and/or recommendations

110. The following recommendations will be examined by Cambodia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council:

110.1. Comply with obligations under the ICCPR in elaboration, implementation and revision of policy and legislation (Ukraine);

110.2. Consider acceding to international human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party (Honduras);

110.3. Continue exploring possibilities to extend its international commitments by ratifying the Optional protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as previously recommended (Latvia);

110.4. Accede to the Optional Protocols to the ICCPR (Costa Rica);

110.5. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia);

Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium), (Montenegro), (Ukraine);

110.6. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and take measures for the abolition of the death penalty (Mexico);

110.7. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on individual complaints (Benin);

110.8. Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Philippines);

110.9. Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Egypt);

110.10. Accede to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Benin);

110.11. *Issue a standing invitation to the UN Special Procedures and cooperate constructively with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Cambodia and with the OHCHR (Germany);¹*

¹ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.12. Amend LANGO to bring it in line with Cambodia's obligations under the ICCPR (Greece);

110.13. Accept visit requests from the Special Procedures mandate holders (Honduras);

110.14. Implement fully the recommendations of the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, including the addendum from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (New Zealand);

110.15. *Issue a standing invitation to all UN special procedures, and engage constructively with the OHCHR and UN special procedures (Croatia);*²

110.16. *Issue a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures (Ukraine);*³

110.17. *Strengthen cooperation with the UN Special Procedures, issue and implement a standing invitation to all Special Procedures before the next UPR cycle (Czechia);*⁴

110.18. *Strengthen cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders and eventually consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders, as previously recommended (Latvia);*⁵

110.19. Engage constructively with all UN special procedures (Italy);

110.20. Complete the Land Reform to facilitate access use and the development of land for individuals and small and medium-sized Enterprises (Senegal);

110.21. Take measures to simplify the allocation of community land concessions to the indigenous peoples (Togo);

110.22. Implement a coherent resettlement policy and simplified process for granting communal land titles, consulting communities, civil society and indigenous groups (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

110.23. Ensure that all pending lands disputes, evictions and relocations are settled in a fair, transparent, negotiated and adequately compensated manner (Austria);

² On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

³ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

⁴ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

⁵ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.24. Take the necessary measures to re-establish an environment respectful of the rights of the civil society, notably by revising the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (France);

110.25. In consultation with affected stakeholders and civil society, amend the Law on Political Parties and the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, to bring them into line with international human rights obligations (Germany);

110.26. Align laws such as the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, the Trade Union Law, the Law on Political Parties and the Telecommunications Law with international obligations (Iceland);

110.27. Amend the Law on Political Parties, the Trade Union Law and the Law on Association and Non-Governmental Organizations so as to bring them into line with Cambodia's international human rights obligations, in consultation with affected stakeholders and civil society (New Zealand);

110.28. Protect NGOs and associations, and ensure that the administrative provisions of the Law on Associations and NGOs will not be used to close down, suspend or otherwise negatively impact NGOs and associations (Slovenia);

110.29. Revise the Penal Code as well as other laws in order to comply with international human rights standards, including the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, the awaited Trade Union Law and the Telecommunications Law (Czechia);

110.30. *Repeal the two sets of amendments to the Law on Political Parties passed in 2017, review the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations and review the Trade Union Law to ensure all three laws are consistent with Cambodia's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);⁶*

110.31. *Revise or repeal recent legal acts potentially subjected to restrictive and arbitrary interpretation in order to bring them in conformity with international human rights law and standards, including among others: the Law on Political Parties and the Election Laws, the Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organisations and the Inter-Ministerial Proclamation of May 2018 on social media (Austria);⁷*

^{6.} On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

^{7.} On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.32. *Effectively establish a working group on land conflicts under the aegis of the Ministry of the Territory, with the participation of the civil society and the European Union (France);*⁸

110.33. Establish the national review committee for the international treaties ratified by Cambodia with the participation of ILO (France);

110.34. Accelerate procedures for the adoption of the draft law on the establishment of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);

Accelerate the drafting of a law to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris principles (Togo);

110.35. Speed up the establishment of the national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles (Algeria), (Costa Rica);

Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile);

110.36. Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia), (Mexico);

110.37. Continue efforts for establishment of the NHRI as per the Paris Principles (Nepal);

110.38. Continue the efforts to commence the work of the National Human Rights Institution according to the Paris Principles (Iraq);

110.39. Continue to strengthen efforts in establishing a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

110.40. Continue to implement recommendations accepted under the 2014 UPR, in particular the establishment of an NHRI for the promotion and protection of human rights, which is equipped with sufficient resources (Spain);

110.41. Expedite the process in finalising the Law on the Establishment of the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Thailand);

110.42. Maintain ongoing efforts to set up a national human rights mechanism in line with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);

110.43. Finalise, in an expedited manner, the procedures related to establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);

⁸. On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.44. Pursue its effort to finalize the law on the national human rights commission and to activate the role of that commission (Yemen);

110.45. Introduce an anti-discrimination law which guarantees and explicitly prohibits all kinds of discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (Iceland);

110.46. Introduce a gender recognition law (Iceland);

110.47. Amend the constitution to ensure marriage equality for same-sex couples (Iceland);

110.48. Step up efforts to fight discrimination against ethnic and racial minorities and develop a national plan of action against racial discrimination (Togo);

110.49. Strengthen the land policy approved in 2015, which establishes that gender equality and equity between men and women should be ensured within the land registration process (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

110.50. Adopt, in consultation with civil society organizations, comprehensive legislation and policies against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and guarantee their implementation through all public entities, in particular in the education, health and labour sectors (Mexico);

110.51. Amend Article 45 of the Constitution, so as to enable legal marriage equality, with a view to pursuing full equal treatment of LGBTI persons in all areas (Netherlands);

110.52. Introduce new legislation that guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination of LGBTI persons (Sweden);

110.53. Adopt effective measures to combat and punish discrimination and violence motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);

110.54. Introduce, by the end of 2023, an Anti-Discrimination Law which guarantees equality and explicitly prohibits discrimination of all kinds, including on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (Australia);

110.55. Amend article 45 of the Constitution to allow same-sex couples to marry (Canada);

110.56. Continue to strengthen their apposite social policies in favour of its people, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

110.57. Continue to maintain social stability and promote sustainable economic and social development, to improve peoples' living standards and further reduce the rate of poverty (China);

110.58. Continue ongoing mechanisms for ensuring poverty reduction (India);

110.59. Continue to take measures ensuring poverty eradication and access to health and education services (Pakistan);

110.60. Continue investing efforts to combat poverty by applying measures that would make the country's evident economic development reflect on all strata of society (Serbia);

110.61. Increase its efforts to achieve economic and social rights of the people, particularly through sustained economic growth and social inclusion (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

110.62. Continue implementing policies to promote economic growth and implement wide range programmes to alleviate poverty (Malaysia);

110.63. Continue the efforts to advance in the eradication of poverty, in particular in the rural zones (Cuba);

110.64. Take further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in poverty reduction (Viet Nam);

110.65. Further continue strengthening and expanding good cooperation with partners for effective implementation of programmes aimed at rural development and poverty reduction (Azerbaijan);

110.66. Continue its efforts to meet Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Azerbaijan);

110.67. Exert greater efforts to reduce poverty and realize the Sustainable Development Goals (Bhutan);

110.68. Continue to effectively address the special vulnerabilities, views and needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, and local and marginalised communities when implementing its National Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Management for Health and its Climate Change Strategic Plan (Fiji);

110.69. Intensify efforts for combatting human trafficking (Iraq);

110.70. Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including women and children (Georgia);

110.71. Reinforce measures aimed at preventing and combating human trafficking (Honduras);

110.72. Continue to effectively implement the Law on Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation (Philippines);

110.73. Fortify efforts to effectively implement the Law on Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation to better prevent and address human trafficking (Indonesia);

110.74. Pursue efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Tunisia);

110.75. Improve and expand identification and protection procedures for victims of human trafficking, forced labour and bonded labour, and ensure adequate access to support services and sheltered accommodation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

110.76. Continue to increase actions in the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and reinforce measures to detect, prevent and punish this crime (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

110.77. Intensify and coordinate the efforts of the Royal Government to combat human trafficking, and prosecute traffickers (Algeria);

110.78. *Immediately and unconditionally reinstate the rights of members of the political opposition and release all persons who have been arbitrarily detained, including Kem Sokha (United States of America);*⁹

110.79. *Amend laws and regulations, including the Law on Telecommunications and the Inter-Ministerial Prakas on Publication Controls of Website and Social Media Processing via Internet, that effectively limit freedom of expression, and to end all forms of interference in and surveillance of media channels and online speech (Finland);*¹⁰

110.80. Take the necessary measures to allow members of the Opposition to participate in the Cambodian political life (France);

110.81. Guarantee freedom of expression for all citizens, journalists, including on internet, by revising the last Constitutional amendment as well as the inter-ministerial instruction of May 2018 allowing surveillance of the internet contents (France);

⁹ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation

¹⁰ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.82. *Bring the Criminal Code into line with Article 19 of the ICCPR by repealing or amending articles on Insulting the King, Defamation, Insult, Incitement, Unlawful Coercion of Judicial Authorities and Discrediting Judicial Decisions (Germany);*¹¹

110.83. Ensure freedom of expression on the internet by revoking the inter-ministerial decree (No. 170) on Publication Controls of Websites and Social Media Processing via the internet (Germany);

110.84. *Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code which can be used to restrict the freedoms of expression, assembly and association and decriminalize offences such as defamation (Iceland);*¹²

110.85. Take all measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders, trade union workers, land and environmental activists and other civil society actors, and members of the political opposition (Iceland);

110.86. Adopt measures aimed at ensuring freedom of expression, and the enjoyment of civil and political rights by its population (Colombia);

110.87. Create the necessary conditions to allow all individuals enjoy their fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Costa Rica);

110.88. Restore democratic and political space, ensuring participation for political parties, civil society and independent media (Norway);

110.89. *Release immediately from custody any individual detained for their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and assembly, and drop all criminal charges against these individuals (Norway);*¹³

110.90. Continue to exert existing efforts to make democratic space more inclusive (Republic of Korea);

110.91. Create conditions conducive to free political debate and competition with a view to rebuilding a democracy in which the media and civil society, including human rights defenders, can freely carry out their work without interference or hindrance, as recommended by Ireland in the previous cycle, and in particular to ensure that their work is not hindered by restrictions on the freedoms of assembly or expression, either online or offline (Ireland);

¹¹ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

¹² On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

¹³ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.92. *Reform the Criminal Code to ensure that freedom of expression, assembly and association are guaranteed in addition to the protection of human rights defenders and to ensure that these last can go about their work without fear of intimidation (Spain);*¹⁴

110.93. Protect the rights of human rights defenders and bring laws, regulations and policies on freedom of expression, association and assembly into accordance with international obligations (Italy);

110.94. Revise recent enactments and revisions of legislation that violate the rights to freedom of expression and association, including the vague and broad grounds for preventing publication on the Internet in the Proclamation on Publication Controls of Websites and social media (Sweden);

110.95. Ensure that all citizens may fully enjoy their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and Association (Switzerland);

110.96. Amend the law on telecommunications and adopt the law on access to information in line with international standards of the right to the freedom of expression and the right to privacy (Switzerland);

110.97. *Reverse the forced closure of media outlets, repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that criminalise defamation and restrict freedom of expression and assembly, and remove, without conditions, the ban on the 118 former CNRP members from engaging in political activities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);*¹⁵

110.98. Immediately remove all undue restrictions on civil society and independent media, including withdrawing the inter-ministerial decision known as Prakas 170 on digital expression (United States of America);

110.99. Take all necessary measures to ensure a safe environment to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression of journalists and of the general population, and investigate and sanction all forms of violence against them (Argentina);

110.100. *Consider repealing legislation that permits the dissolution of political parties and the ban of political leaders without due process (Brazil);*¹⁶

¹⁴ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

¹⁵ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

¹⁶ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.101. Take measures to protect the freedom of expression online and offline, as well as the freedom of association and assembly (Brazil);

110.102. Strengthen the democratic participation by guaranteeing the independence of the media by establishing a safe and enabling environment for civil society and trade unions and by fostering the full participation of opposition parties in the next communal, senatorial and legislative elections (Canada);

110.103. Promote dialogue among the political actors, freedom and rights of the people and the democratic process, in order to unite the people towards development. In this process, ensure an environment in which the rights of all political actors, the civil society, the media and others are respected and their activities are not constrained (Japan);

110.104. *Re-establish the opposition party, namely the Cambodian National Rescue Party and to reinstate its members (Canada);*¹⁷

110.105. Bring laws, regulations and policies on freedom of expression, association and public assembly into accordance with the ICCPR (Denmark);

110.106. Redouble the efforts to protect freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, to ensure and promote safe environment for journalists, human rights defenders and political opposition, and to effectively and thoroughly investigate all attacks against them. (Lithuania).

110.107. Take necessary measures to ensure that the right to freedom of assembly and association is not hindered by arbitrary restrictions and/or excessive use of force. (Lithuania).

110.108. *Revoke trade union registration and reporting requirements that result in the restriction of the freedoms of association, assembly and expression (Greece);*¹⁸

110.109. Cease all kinds of harassment and arbitrary interference with political opposition, human rights defenders and labour activists, and to amend laws and regulations effectively used to limit freedoms of association and assembly, such as certain provisions in the Law on Political Parties, the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Law on Trade Unions (Finland);

¹⁷ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

¹⁸ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.110. Ensure a free civic space, allowing human rights defenders and journalists to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and to refrain from prosecution for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the Law on Telecommunications (Netherlands);

110.111. *Release immediately and unconditionally all remaining political prisoners and opponents, and drop all charges against them, including the full release of opposition leader Kem Sokha (New Zealand);*¹⁹

110.112. End harassment and arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders, members of the political opposition, activists and journalists (Croatia);

110.113. Protect from harassment, arbitrary arrests and physical attacks against journalists, human rights defenders, members of political opposition, trade union workers, and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of such attacks (Slovenia);

110.114. Step up efforts preventing harassment of human rights defenders, journalists, trade union workers, protesters, land and other civil society actors and protect their rights (Czechia);

110.115. Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the rights of those who work to protect and promote human rights, in particular human rights defenders, investigating and punishing those responsible for threats and violence against them and their families (Argentina);

110.116. Adopt the necessary measures to protect the rights of human rights defenders, trade unionists and journalists (Chile);

110.117. *Create an enabling environment for a free and pluralistic media, including by ceasing judicial harassment against journalists and abuse of tax regulations to harass media outlets and associations (Greece).*²⁰

110.118. Continue to implement measures to strengthen the independence of both the judiciary and the media (Italy);

110.119. *Cease excessive powers of the executive branch to influence the work of judges and prosecutors, by amending the Law on organization of the Courts, the Law on the Statue of the Judges and Prosecutors and the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy (Germany);*²¹

¹⁹ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

²⁰ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

²¹ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.120. Establish regional appeals courts, in accordance with the Law on Organization of Courts, and ensure their proper operationalization by 2023 (Greece);

110.121. *Complete the process of judicial reform, safeguarding independence and impartiality of the court system, court personnel and judges, in accordance with international standards (Norway);²²*

110.122. Take all necessary steps to strengthen the rule of law and to guarantee full judicial independence consistent with international human rights standards (Lithuania);

110.123. Adhere to international standards on the independence of institutions, notably the judiciary and the National Election Commission to ensure that electoral processes are free, fair and transparent (Ireland);

110.124. Further advance judiciary reforms and establish an independent justice system that is trusted and utilized by the people. To this end, make maximum use of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia as a model (Japan);

110.125. Strengthen the independence and functioning of the judiciary, in particular by repealing or significantly amending the Law on the Organisation of the Courts, the Law on the Status of Judges and Prosecutors and the Law on the Organisation and the Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy (Austria);

110.126. Take all necessary steps towards a substantive reduction of the time spent by persons in pre-trial detention (Austria);

110.127. Amend the Laws on the Organisation of the Courts, the Statute of Judges and Prosecutors, and the Organisation and Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy, to guarantee and protect the independence of the judiciary (Belgium);

110.128. Continue its considerable efforts to promote and protect human rights through concrete commitment to good governance, transparency, public participation in decision-making process and access to justice (Turkey);

110.129. Take further steps to fight corruption through strengthening accountability and institutional capacity (Bhutan);

²². On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.130. Step up efforts in land matters, including through the effective and transparent implementation of measures to tackle land evictions and provide with fair compensation the victims of land grabbing, particularly indigenous people (Italy);

110.131. Guarantee that the victims of the land grab be fairly heard and, where appropriate, receive fair compensation and non-discriminatory access to justice (Switzerland);

110.132. Overcome obstacles to access to justice for women victims of violence (Iraq);

110.133. Ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution of perpetrators (Ukraine);

110.134. Implement a reparation mechanism for the victims of genocide (Switzerland);

110.135. Strengthen efforts to guarantee birth registration for all persons born in Cambodia, including minorities and populations difficult to access, such as border communities (Mexico);

110.136. Adopt all necessary measures to ensure that all those born in Cambodia might acquire Cambodian nationality and that they have access to identity papers (Spain);

110.137. *Create the conditions for genuine, multi-party democracy in the country and for free and fair elections to take place (Greece);*²³

110.138. Continue its efforts in the area of electoral reform (Bhutan);

110.139. Continue to work to hold pluralistic electoral processes (Chile);

110.140. Take steps to promote access to free education and health-care services, especially in rural areas (Pakistan);

110.141. Step up efforts to ensure the social and economic rights of the citizens of the country (Russian Federation);

110.142. Implement actions to continue improving the quality and the access to healthcare and education services with equity (Cuba);

110.143. Take further measures to narrow the development gap as well as improve access to education and healthcare services, especially for people in rural areas, to ensure that no one is left behind (Thailand);

²³. On 25 June 2014, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.144. Continue efforts aimed at enhancing social and economic development and make education available for all citizens (Egypt);

110.145. Take further steps to provide access to education for all by increasing equitable education services to all children and youth at both formal and informal education systems (Indonesia);

110.146. Continue to upgrade quality and efficiency of education services at all general vocational and skill training schools (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

110.147. Continue with the measures that extend the domain of social and healthcare (Serbia);

110.148. Protect the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas, including by ensuring that they are adequately compensated in cases of resettlement (Portugal);

110.149. *Adopt measures to prevent the unlawful eviction of Cambodians from their lands, and to use mechanisms based on accountability and transparency to settle land disputes in an equitable and expeditious fashion, as urged by Human Rights Council in its resolution 36/32 adopted unanimously (Canada);*²⁴

110.150. Continue positive initiatives to facilitate the supply of clean water to poor citizens (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

110.151. Ensure that the trade union rights of workers are guaranteed in line with ILO Convention and that unions may register unhindered and represent their members (Sweden);

110.152. As previously committed to by the Government following Cambodia's 2nd UPR review, simplify and reform registration procedures for unions and other civil society organisations (United States of America);

110.153. Amend the Law on Trade Unions in consultation with workers, labour advocates and other stakeholders, to bring it in full compliance with ILO Conventions 87 and 98 (Belgium);

110.154. Continue ongoing policies and programmes for ensuring quality health care for all (India);

110.155. Pursue a Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 of the Ministry of Health of Cambodia in order to ensure that citizens obtain full-fledge health care services (Myanmar);

²⁴ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendation.

110.156. Adopt a public health and human rights approach to the world drug problem, including the decriminalization of drug consumption and the provision of harm reduction services (Portugal);

110.157. Continue to invest in improving its public health infrastructure, in particular in rural areas, to ensure the effective implementation of its Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (Singapore);

110.158. Continue its efforts to improve its health-care infrastructure, in general, and easier access to public health system and maternal services for women, in particular (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

110.159. Sustain efforts to curb tuberculosis and relevant policies aimed at total eradication of tuberculosis to be fully implemented (Malaysia);

110.160. Fully implement the policy and share good practices in combating tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

110.161. Continue to vigorously develop education so as to better guarantee the right of people to education (China);

110.162. Continue ongoing measures to promote education for all (India);

110.163. Continue implementation of relevant laws to ensure that all citizens have access to free primary and secondary education at public schools, and that all citizens could receive schooling for at least nine years (Myanmar);

110.164. Continue efforts to ensure the provision of equitable education services to all children through both formal and informal education systems (Pakistan);

110.165. Continue efforts to ensure universal and free basic education with inclusive measures, in particular for vulnerable groups (Republic of Korea);

110.166. Build up a human and financial resources to ensure School enrolment for all at the primary and secondary levels (Senegal);

110.167. Invest in the training of teachers to ensure their skills and knowledge remain current, to enhance the quality of their instruction (Singapore);

110.168. Keep up efforts to ensure the right to inclusive, free and mandatory primary education (Tunisia);

110.169. Continue efforts to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all (Viet Nam);

110.170. Further enhance its effort to improve the quality of education and promote the program for access to education for all, in particular in primary education (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

110.171. Intensify efforts to improve human rights for women and combat human trafficking, domestic violence and exploitation of women and children (Norway);

110.172. Abolish the discriminatory prohibition on women remarrying within 120 days following a divorce or annulment (Iceland);

110.173. Continue ongoing mechanisms for gender parity and women's empowerment (India);

110.174. Continue to implement gender equality policy to ensure gender mainstreaming in all sectors and programs (Pakistan);

110.175. Further strengthen programs to address discrimination against women and girls, and to promote gender equality (Philippines);

110.176. Continue to implement gender equality policy by mainstreaming gender in all sectors and programmes (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

110.177. Redouble efforts to eradicate discrimination against women in the legal sphere and put an end to the harmful practices and discriminatory stereotypes to which Cambodian women are victims of (Uruguay);

110.178. Continue to step up measures aimed at promoting women's rights, including elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Maldives);

110.179. Ensure efforts to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination, and ensure empowerment of all vulnerable groups (Nepal);

110.180. Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, also in order to prevent and combat child labour and sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of violence, including domestic violence (Italy);

110.181. Strengthen roles and status of women and promote and protect child rights and disability persons in the society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

110.182. Provide mandatory trainings on the prosecution procedures of cases of gender-based violence for law enforcement and judicial officers (Republic of Moldova);

110.183. Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to establish at least five, one-stop service centres by 2024 to provide support services free of charge to victims of gender-based violence (Australia);

110.184. Conduct comprehensive investigations of cases of domestic and sexual violence and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and victims are adequately compensated (Republic of Moldova);

110.185. Reform the national legislation with a view to strengthening the protection of women and children against family violence (Russian Federation);

110.186. Reinforce the judicial mechanisms to fight sexual and family Violence and human trafficking and carry out a program for awareness raising and education on these issues (Togo);

110.187. Develop concrete measures aimed at ensuring the effective retention of girls in schools (Denmark);

110.188. *Explicitly criminalize the recruitment and use of children under the age of 18 into armed conflicts and non-state armed groups (Montenegro);*²⁵

110.189. Take all the adequate measures to protect children from sexual exploitation, in particular in the context of the “orphanage tourism”, including by strengthening its regulatory framework and awareness-raising measures and by ensuring that all allegations are investigated, victims are redressed and perpetrators are sanctioned (Portugal);

110.190. Enforce the legal age for marriage to prohibit child marriage and promote awareness raising campaigns to prevent child marriage (Portugal);

110.191. Legally prohibit the child sex trade in the context of the new National Action Plan for the Elimination of Illegal Trafficking and Smuggling in Human Beings, Exploitation of Workers and Sexual Exploitation (Spain);

110.192. Continue strengthening laws and mechanisms that prohibit all forms of ill-treatment of children and that protect them from forced labour, sexual exploitation and abuse (Brunei Darussalam);

110.193. Continue to ensure the effective implementation of the national action plan on reducing child labour 2016-2025 (Maldives);

110.194. Amend national legislation in order to ensure it is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, paying special attention to the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Juvenile Justice System (Uruguay);

²⁵ On 4 July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to take note of this recommendations.

110.195. Continue efforts to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities (Philippines);

110.196. Implement necessary legal coverage in the sphere of protection of those with disabilities, particularly in order to protect their socio-educational and health requirements, particularly the most essential ones (Spain);

110.197. Reduce poverty among persons with disabilities and access to the National Social Security Fund in the coming years (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

110.198. Continue to promote the rights of persons with disabilities through the Government's National Strategic Plan (Brunei Darussalam).

111. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

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Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Cambodia was headed by H.E. Mr. KEO Remy, President of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee CHRC and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. NEY Samol, Permanent Representative/Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary;
 - H.E. Mr. ITH Rady Vice President of CHRC;
 - H.E. Mr. KATTA Orn Member of CHRC;
 - H.E. Mr. BUN Honn Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior;
 - H.E. Mr. MAM Vannak Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training;
 - H.E. Mr. MEN Sochet Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY);
 - H.E. Mr. NGOEUN Chanline Pollen Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Information;
 - H.E. Mr. CHIN Malin Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice;
 - H.E. Mr. SOK Soken Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC);
 - H.E. Mr. SIM Vireak Advisor to MFA.IC;
 - Mr. KIM Sovandy Deputy Director of National Social Security Fund, MoSVY;
 - Ms. PHAT Dina Deputy Chief of Bureau, MFA.IC;
 - Mr. LONG Sokhan, Counsellor;
 - Mr. YANG Sokha, Counsellor;
 - Mr. NGETH Thunsereibandith, Counsellor;
 - Mr. VENG Vuthea, Second Secretary;
 - Mr. SOKHA Phadora, Second Secretary;
 - Ms. MENG Moniruoth, Mission Staff.
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