

UPR of CAMBODIA - Interactive Dialogue
(01 December 2009; 1500h-1800h)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India would like to thank the delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by H.E. Mr. Ith Rady, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice for their informative national report and comprehensive presentation. India acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by a nation plagued by decades of conflict and civil war in its endeavour to protect and promote human rights. Since the initiation of the processes of peace building, national reconciliation, reconstruction and development following the general elections of 1993, progress in the establishment of political, legal and institutional frameworks has been incremental. India takes note of the achievements of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia in addressing impunity for crimes of the former Khmer Rouge regime and ensuring a non-return to the policies and practices of the past. India also welcomes the deepening of the process of decentralized democratization in Cambodia demonstrated recently by the holding of elections at the community level.

Mr. President,

Although the economy of Cambodia has grown at an impressive rate of 10% per year during the last five years, Cambodia remains an LDC with 30% of its population below the poverty line and 90% of its poor living in the rural areas of the country. In this context, India appreciates the prioritizing of poverty reduction by the Government of Cambodia in its efforts to promote human rights through the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan with a pro-poor focus to speed up development, especially in rural areas. In particular, the Plan's component on education, titled the "Educational Strategic Plan" is noteworthy with its objective of providing education for all. While we take positive note of the substantial increase in

the number of schools across the country as well as in the net enrolment ratio, we remain concerned about the persistently high drop-out rate, particularly amongst girls.

Mr. President,

India notes with satisfaction that Cambodia is a State Party to most international and regional human rights instruments and is appreciative of the cooperation of the Government with the UN Office for Human Rights in Cambodia, which is indicative of its commitment towards promoting human rights. However, India echoes the concerns of CESCR with regard to the lack of an anti-discrimination law for persons with disabilities and the difficulties they face in obtaining skilled employment and in this context; we would like to urge Cambodia to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In conclusion, India is encouraged by the intention of the Government of Cambodia to establish a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles and would like to be informed as to when this institution is likely to come into being. India wishes the Government of Cambodia the best in its endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.
