

UN Human Rights Council

18th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Examination of Cambodia

Geneva, 28 January 2014

Statement by AUSTRIA

Thank you, Mr. President,

Austria welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Cambodia and thanks them for their report.

We share the concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur about the protection of human rights by the state. We recommend that the Government take measures to strengthen the independence and functioning of the country's judiciary, in particular to substantively reduce the time spent by persons in pre-trial detention.

We also remain concerned about land grabbing and re-iterate our recommendation from 2009: Implement a strict legislative framework which ensures that evictions and relocations are legal, negotiated and fairly compensated.

Austria offers the following additional recommendations:

- Ratify the optional protocols 1 and 2 to the ICCPR, make the necessary declarations under article 14 of the ICCPR and articles 21 and 22 of CAT, and take steps to ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education;
- Continue the cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia and implement his recommendations;
- Respect and protect the right of human rights defenders and journalists to conduct their work without hindrance, intimidation or harassment;
- Systematically consult with civil society and NGOs on the implementation of the UPR, UN treaty bodies and UN special procedures recommendations.