



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS
DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE POLÍTICA EXTERNA

Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral
Member of the Permanent Mission of Portugal
18th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group

Cambodia

Mr. President,

Portugal warmly welcomes the delegation of Cambodia and thanks the delegation for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal welcomes the creation of the Cambodia's National Council for Children and its regional network. We recommend that Cambodia adopts and implements laws that prohibit all forms of ill-treatment against children and that protect them from forced labour, sexual exploitation and abuse. We also recommend the urgent appointment of the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

As regards freedom of peaceful assembly, expression and association, Portugal recommends that Cambodia protects opposition party members, journalists and human rights defenders from harassment and arbitrary arrest and lifts all restrictions to peaceful demonstrations. We recommend further that Cambodia protects free and independent media, namely through the revocation of article 305 of the Penal Code and article 13 of the Press Law.

Portugal notes with satisfaction that three draft laws aiming at promoting the independence and efficiency of the judiciary system have been introduced. We recommend that Cambodia implements these laws once adopted.

Finally, Portugal recommends that Cambodia ensures the realization of the right to education to all children in Cambodia, including to children of Vietnamese origin, and that it signs and ratifies the Optional Protocols to the ICESCR and to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Thank you.