

**Statement by the delegation of Cambodia for UPR of the Lao PDR
At the 21st Session of the UPR WG of the HRC
20 January 2015**

Mr. President,

- 1 First of all, I would like to express my warm welcome to the delegation of the Lao PDR, led by H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupcha, Minister, Head of the President's Office, Chairman of the National Steering Committee on Human Rights, to the 21st Session of the UPR Working Group and also thank the delegation for the presentation of its comprehensive National Report.
- 2 Cambodia appreciates the continued efforts and commitments made by the Government of the Lao PDR in the protection and promotion of human rights after the review of the first UPR cycle in 2009. We commend the Lao PDR for enhancing and promoting gender equality, and protecting the rights of women and children through the implementation of various international conventions on women and children as well as national strategies and programs.
- 3 We also commend the Government of the Lao PDR for disseminating and developing capacity building on human rights in the country by organizing seminars, workshops and training course on human rights for different target audiences including government officials, members of the National Assembly judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, mass and civil society organizations as well as students.
- 4 In conclusion, my delegation wishes to make two recommendations for the Lao PDR:
 - 1 Increase efforts to promote and protect the cultural rights of Lao people to preserve the national culture and the cultures and languages of ethnic groups in the Lao PDR.
 - 2 Enhance the implementation of the international human rights treaties to which the Lao PDR is party and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration to benefit the entire Lao population.

Thank you, Mr. President!