

STATEMENT by Minister Counsellor Herborg F. Alvsaaker

**32nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Cambodia**

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*Check against delivery*

President,

Norway welcomes Cambodia’s participation in the UPR-mechanism [and for the presentation of the national report].

We remain concerned about democratic developments, including the recent elections [and the treatment of human rights activists].

Norway recommends that Cambodia:

1. Restores democratic and political space, ensuring participation for political parties, civil society and independent media.
2. Immediately releases from custody any individual detained for their peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and assembly, and drop all criminal charges against these [individuals].
3. Completes the process of judicial reform [safeguarding independence and impartiality of the court system, court personnel and judges] in accordance with international standards.
4. Intensifies efforts to improve human rights for women and combat human trafficking, [domestic violence and exploitation of women and children].

Thank you.