



# KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



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**Statement by**

**H.E. Mrs. Sy Define,**

**Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's affairs  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**at the**

**57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of  
Women**

**New York, 06 March 2013**

Dear Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to report to the meeting about Cambodia's efforts for the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, which is one of the strategic areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

## **1. Responses by the government**

### **1.1. Adopt and implement laws on VAW, including international mechanism such as CEDAW**

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has led the process of putting into place laws and policies on violence against women:

- Cambodia is a signatory to CEDAW (without reservation) and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW- A report to UN CEDAW committee will be completed in October 2013
- Cambodia has not only subscribed but actively contributed for ASEAN Declarations related to promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment (Vientiane 2012; Hanoi 2010; and Jakarta 2004). The Royal Government of Cambodia also works closely with the ASEAN Commission for Women and Children
- The Constitution of Cambodia guarantees gender equality, and laws that address violence against women include the Criminal Law, The Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims, The Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation.

### **1.2. Provide services to women survivors, including women with disabilities**

Successful initiatives for women survivors include:

- A multi sectoral approach led by MoWA to increase access of survivors to services, including a Fund chaired by MoWA and implemented by 6 NGOs to provide
- psycho-social services to women survivors in 2 provinces.
- The One Stop Service Center program piloted in 2012 and approved for scale up

- The introduction of 137 Judicial Police Agents nationwide assigned by MoWA to protect survivors and support them to seek justice.

### **1.3. Formulate and implement the Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women**

The development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women (2013-2017) is being led by MOWA through a participatory and inclusive process based on the review of the First National Action Plan, engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society and community representatives, in sub-national and national consultations. The Second National Action Plan will be approved in May 2013, and has five main pillars:

- (1) Primary prevention
- (2) Legal protection and services
- (3) Laws and policies
- (4) Capacity building
- (5) Monitoring and evaluation

### **1.4. Capacity Development on VAW**

- Training on laws on VAW have been implemented for government officials, police, legal professionals, local authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector)
- A “Young People’s Tool Kit” reaching the youth to foster non-violent and a respectful behaviors towards gender equality has been developed and implemented.
- Gender-responsive curricula has been integrated in more than 120 lower-secondary schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.
- A pilot Community Capacity Enhancement project on on Domestic Violence which enhances community awareness, attitude and capacity to address domestic violence has been implemented.

## **2. Study causes and consequences of VAW**

Key evidence has been generated to inform program design, and includes:

- Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey in 2000 and 2005
- VAW baseline survey (2005) and follow up survey (2009) led by MOWA
- Data Collection and Monitoring System to be set up by MOWA involving multi sectors for evidence base
- Triple Jeopardy Research on Violence against Women with Disabilities (Handicap International and Banteay Srei, 2012)
- A study on Men, Gender and Violence Against Women in Cambodia, 2013
- Violence against children survey (on-going), young entertainment worker study (on-going).
- WHO multi-country survey for prevalence of Violence against Women on VAW (2013).

### **3. Combating trafficking in women and girls**

The Cambodian Government has launched efforts to counter trafficking in women and girls, which include:

- The National Action Plan to Suppress Human Trafficking adopted in 2011
- The establishment of a National Task Force to coordinate the multi-sectoral approach to human trafficking- this has 7 sub-groups and is led by Ministry of Interior
- Engagement in the COMMIT process, which is a regional approach to address human trafficking.

**Thank you for your kind attention**