



33rd session of the Human Rights Council

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Item 10: General debate, including on Secretary General Report on Cambodia – 28 September

Mr. President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), *Operations Enfants du Cambodge*, Points-Coeur, the Congregation of our Lady of the Good Shepherd, *Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA)*, *International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development (VIDES)* and the *Compagny of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul* welcome the UN Secretary General (UNSG) report on Cambodia.

Economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights in Cambodia require equal attention in the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance. Hence, the role of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Mechanisms in Cambodia is to address and assess legal and institutional tools as well as subsequent practices including in the field of child rights, especially on violence against children. A number of UN monitoring mechanisms, including reports of Special Rapporteurs on the human rights situation in Cambodia¹, Universal Periodic Review outcomes and treaty bodies' recommendations, as well as previous Human Rights Council resolutions and UNSG reports underlined gaps in investment in the rights of the child.

After an in-depth analysis of the human rights situation in Cambodia and the long-term technical assistance provided so far, the co-signing organizations recommend to the Human Rights Council and the UNSG to:

1. Ensure that child rights defenders have a secure space for themselves and their operations;
2. Allow for a specific thematic focus on the rights of the child in technical assistance reports;
3. Build an institutional alliance between different UN specialized agencies and funds, including UNICEF, UNESCO, UNODC and UNDP, with long-term targeted complementary programs on the protection of the rights of the child, access to education, especially in remote and rural areas, the fight against violence on children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, alongside strong participation of communities;
4. Conduct joint investigation and technical guidance missions from various special procedure mandate holders², with a view to providing comprehensive reports to the Council and to obtaining tangible improvements on the ground;
5. Mobilize OHCHR and other UN institutions to map out paths towards the effective realization of the UN 2030 Agenda, so that no Cambodian child is left behind due to violence. Hence, the technical guidance should focus on the development of legislative reforms, national strategic plans and policies as drive forces and milestones for the implementation of the SDGs.

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ A/HRC/15/46, A/HRC/18/46, A/HRC/21/63, A/HRC/24/36 and A/HRC/27/70.

² Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence and against children, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context.