



*Company of the
Daughters of Charity of
St. Vincent de Paul*

WUCWO

**30th session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 14 September – 2 October 2015
Item 10: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia**

Mr. President,

Since 1993¹, Cambodia has been under the international community scrutiny due to the grave human rights violations perpetrated in the country. In particular, since 2009, the Human Rights Council has adopted 4 resolutions² to provide advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia, the Secretary General submitted 6 reports³ on the role played by the OHCHR in Cambodia, and the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights situation in Cambodia submitted 6 reports⁴ to the Council. Besides, human rights treaty-based mechanisms⁵ as well as the Universal Periodic Review⁶ process have been examining the human rights situation and issued recommendations.

Despite commendable progress achieved both by the Royal Government and technical assistance providers, the human rights situation, including the realization of the rights of the child, remains critical. Concerns include child sexual abuse, child sexual and economic exploitation, child trafficking, sex tourism, child labor, child living with his/her parent in detention, access to justice for children, violence against children, domestic violence, the administration of juvenile justice, school drop-outs, and the enforcement of child rights provisions and mechanisms.

According to a 2014 UNICEF study, roughly 25% of children in Cambodia are emotionally abused while growing up, and nearly 3 in 10 females and males aged 13 to 17, experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver or another adult relative prior to age 18. The report mentioned that “more than 7 in 10 females and nearly 9 in 10 males aged 18 to 24 who experienced sexual abuse faced multiple incidents prior to age 18” and “26.3% females and 10.4% males from 13 to 17 are victim of sexual abuse at school”⁷. In addition, the development of sex tourism is an issue of concern whilst challenges lie on access to justice for victims and the lack of rehabilitation facilities. The corruption within the police encourages mediations and therefore ensures impunity for perpetrators.

Due to the wide spectrum of challenges, our organizations recommend:

- **1. a genuine support to Cambodia through the UPR Trust Fund on Implementation to build a national follow-up and monitoring system.**
- **2. an institutional alliance between different UN specialized agencies and funds, including UNICEF, UNESCO and UNODC 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 communities’ participation.**
- **3. a joint investigation and technical guidance missions from various special procedures’ mandate holders, with a view to providing comprehensive reports to the Council and to obtaining tangible improvements on the ground.**
- **4. OHCHR and other UN institutions to contribute to mapping out paths towards the effective realization of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, their 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.

¹Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/6.

²Human Rights Council resolutions: [12/25](#) (2009), [15/20](#) (2010), [18/25](#) (2011) and [24/29](#) (2013).

³UN SG reports: [A/HRC/4/95](#) (2007); [A/HRC/12/41](#) (2009); [A/HRC/15/47](#) (2010); [A/HRC/18/47](#) (2011); [A/HRC/21/35](#) (2012); [A/HRC/24/32](#) (2013); and [A/HRC/27/43](#) (2014).

⁴Special Rapporteurs’ reports: [A/HRC/15/46](#) (2010); [A/HRC/18/46](#) (2011); [A/HRC/21/63](#) (2012); [A/HRC/21/63/Add.1/Rev.1](#) (2012); [A/HRC/24/36](#) (2013); and [A/HRC/27/70](#) (2014).

⁵Treaty-bodies’ reports: [E/C.12/KHM/CO/1](#) (2009); [CERD/C/KHM/CO/8-13](#) (2010); [CAT/C/KHM/CO/2](#) (2011); [CRC/C/KHM/CO/2](#) (2011); [CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5](#) (2013); [CRC/C/OPAC/KHM/CO/1](#) (2015); [CRC/C/OPSC/KHM/CO/1](#) (2015); and [CCPR/C/KHM/CO/2](#) (2015).

⁶UPR recommendations: [A/HRC/13/4](#) (2009) & [A/HRC/26/16](#) (2014)

⁷[Findings from Cambodia’s Violence Against Children Survey 2013](#), October 2014. See also BICE’s written statement submitted to the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, A/HRC/30/NGO/107.