



45th Human Rights Council

Geneva, 14 September – 6 October 2020

Item 10: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia - Interactive Dialogue

Madam President,

International catholic Child Bureau and *Operations Enfants du Cambodge* (OEC) would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia for her report.

Early September, Cambodia children went back to school. For the safe re-opening of schools, it is important that Cambodia takes all diligent measures to ensure protection for students, teachers and staff, and reassure families, in compliance with Cambodia COVID-19 school re-opening guidelines. Schools need basic supplies, including hygiene equipment.

Cambodian education system should paid due attention to children who might not return to school for different reasons, including the lack of resources of their parents operating in informal and tourism sectors severely hit by the pandemic and the associated restrictive measures. In Cambodia, children remain at high risk of dropping out of school, especially while reaching secondary school. COVID-19 might exacerbate and deepen the trend. Boys and girls from rural and remote regions do not have equal access to education and non formal education settings are developed and run by non state actors in disadvantaged communities with less support from Authorities.

The Back to School Safe and Healthy campaign should reach out to rural regions and the *National Education 2030 Roadmap for Cambodia*SDG4 ought to adopt a result-oriented approach by taking into account the dire education context in poor communities.

Thank you Madam President.