

## **THE BICE ADVOCATES AN EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE IN CAMBODIA**

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During the 42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the BICE and the OEC have in fact insisted on the major challenges that Cambodia must take up in terms of access to education in rural areas. In their oral communication, both associations first highlighted the progress achieved. A new strategic plan has, particularly, been drawn up by the Cambodian government which committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) n°4 on Education.

### **The State is often absent from remote areas**

Despite that, the country still faces major difficulties. In the villages where the OEC operates, the State and school infrastructures are absent. To overcome this failure, non-formal education is organized by parent associations and community structures with the support of the BICE. However, the State refuses to pay teachers even if they apply the official program.

Finally, across the country, violence, which is very present at schools, must be eradicated. The country needs to enhance teaching methods to allow all children, including those in rural areas, to have access to knowledge.

### **BICE and OEC's recommendations**

To take up these challenges, the BICE and OEC made the following recommendations for

Cambodia:

- Effectively implement the recommendations in relation to education and violence against children broadcasted by the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review process\*\*. And submit to the Human Rights Council a mid-term report in 2021.
- Considerably increase the budget granted to education, especially for rural interventions.
- Develop means to stop high drop out of school rates. And suggest alternative solutions such as professional training.
- Fight against school violence, including corporal punishments
- Ensure an effective access to education for children living in remote and rural areas, especially by building schools in these areas.
- Provide access to educational services for a quality early childhood, especially in remote and rural areas. Including, for children with disabilities.

\* From the 9th to the 27th of September 2019

\*\* The universal periodic review (UPR), Human Rights Council mechanism, takes stock of the Human Rights situation of the 193 UN member countries every five years. 42 States are thus examined each year during three UPR sessions.

Find below, the other advocacies of the BICE during the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council: