THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW • CAMBODIA

THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a United Nations (UN) mechanism that operates by reviewing each UN Member States’ adherence to its human rights obligations.
- During the UPR, UN Member States give recommendations on how the State under review (SuR) could improve human rights.

New UPR Session

Submission of reports on the human rights situation in the country

Interactive dialogue between SuR & UN Member States

Implementation of recommendations by the State reviewed

Final report with recommendations adopted by the SuR

THIRD UPR CYCLE of CAMBODIA

Outcome of Cambodia’s Third UPR 2019:
- In January 2019 Cambodia received 198 recommendations from 73 UN Member States on a wide range of human rights issues
- In July 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) accepted 173 recommendations:
  - On a wide range of human rights issues, including land rights, fair trial rights, the protection of human rights defenders, child rights, women’s rights and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) rights
  - The RGC noted 25 recommendations:
    - Primarily on fundamental freedoms, media freedoms and release of political prisoners

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NEXT STEP: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The implementation of recommendations is the ultimate aim of the UPR process; to improve human rights in Cambodia.

ROLE OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

- Policy making
- Legislation
- Consulting & working with civil society
  - Regular, inclusive and meaningful consultation to update them on the progress and seek advice on specific issues
- Establish a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF)
  - Permanent and cross-ministerial to coordinate and consult with all stakeholders (CSOs, UN agencies, Parliament and the judiciary)
- Develop a Human Rights Action Plan to identify the ministries responsible for implementation and develop indicators to measure implementation

CIVIL SOCIETY

- CSOs, human rights defenders, trade unions and grassroots organizations
- Can assist and cooperate with all stakeholders to participate in and support the implementation of recommendations
  - Advise the government on specific human rights issues
  - Advocate on the human rights issues underlying the recommendations
- Can monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations

RECOMMENDING STATES

- United Nations Member States who made recommendations to Cambodia during the Third cycle
- Continue bilateral dialogue with Cambodia
  - Request further details on implementation plans, at which point technical assistance could also be offered
  - Recommendations can form a basis of the discussions between the recommending States and the SuR, such as during bilateral human rights dialogues
- Support civil society in Cambodia
  - Financially (support civil society to conduct advocacy campaigns and to monitor implementation of recommendations)
  - Contribute to the protection of civic space to ensure that CSOs are free to work on the UPR implementation, help protect them against any sort of reprisals due to their work
- Monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations

THE CAMBODIAN PUBLIC

- Can engage in and catalyze the public debate around the UPR process, the recommendations and the human rights issues underlying them
- Can assist in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations
- Is encouraged to publicly urge the RGC to implement an accepted recommendation

More information on the Third Cycle of the UPR of Cambodia can be found at sithi.org/upr.

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