

CHRONOLOGY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF CAMBODIA

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia (“the Constitution”) was officially adopted by the Constitutional Assembly at its second plenary session on 21 September 1993, establishing Cambodia as a constitutional monarchy. It was subsequently promulgated by King Norodom Sihanouk on 24 September 1993, a date now commemorated each year as Constitution Day.

This chronology provides a snapshot of the main updates introduced by each amendment to the Constitution since its proclamation in 1993, rather than an analysis of the amendments themselves.

1994 – 1ST AMENDMENT

The first amendment to the Constitution was promulgated by Royal Kram on 14 July 1994. It revised Article 28, granting the King the authority to delegate his signing power to the Acting Head of State, allowing the latter to sign any Royal Kram or Royal Decree on the King’s behalf during his absence.

1999 – 2ND AMENDMENT

On 8 March 1999, King Norodom Sihanouk promulgated amendments to Articles 11, 12, 13, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 34, 51, 90, 91, 93, as well as all the articles from Chapter 8 to Chapter 14. This second set of amendments primarily focused on the establishment of the Senate and the definition of its role and functions as a key legislative body.

2001 – 3RD AMENDMENT

The third amendment was promulgated on 2 July 2001, revising Articles 19 and 29. These changes related to the appointment of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, as well as the King's authority to establish and confer national decorations, and to grant civil and military ranks and positions.

2004 – 4TH AMENDMENT

On 13 July 2004, the Acting Head of State promulgated the "Additional Constitutional Law Aiming to Ensure the Regular Functioning of National Institutions."[1] This law, consisting of seven articles, was aimed at ensuring that national institutions could continue to operate under all circumstances, while upholding the fundamental principles of a liberal multi-party democracy, in situations where there has been a disruption or an emergency situation.

[1] The Additional Constitutional Law was adopted following nearly one year of political deadlock that had prevented the formation of a new government.

2005 – 5TH AMENDMENT

The fifth amendment to the Constitution was promulgated by the King on 19 June 2005, revising Articles 88 and 111 (new). It concerned changes to the quorum requirements for Members of Parliament and Senators to vote on matters requiring formal approval.

2006 – 6TH AMENDMENT

The sixth amendment, promulgated on 9 March 2006, revised Articles 82, 88 (new), 90 (new), 98, 106 (new), 111 (new), 114 (new), and Article 6 of the Additional Constitutional Law. The main change introduced by this amendment was the reduction of the required vote of confidence for the adoption of the Royal Government from a two-thirds majority to an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the members of the National Assembly.

2008 – 7TH AMENDMENT

On 15 February 2008, the Constitution was amended a seventh time, revising Articles 145 and 146, which concern the administrative division of Cambodia into the capital city, provinces, districts/khans, and communes/Sangkats.

2014 – 8TH AMENDMENT

In October 2014, the Constitution was amended to revise Article 76 and all articles under Chapters 15 (new) and Chapter 16 (new). The main change concerned the National Election Committee (NEC), establishing it as a constitutionally mandated independent body. Under the updated provisions, the NEC consists of nine members: four appointed by the ruling party, four by other parties holding seats in the National Assembly, and a ninth member chosen jointly by all parties (Article 151 – new 2). This amendment was part of an agreement between the ruling party and the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), to end the opposition's boycott of the National Assembly following the 2013 elections.

2021 – 9TH AMENDMENT

The ninth amendment, approved in November 2021, revised Articles 19 (new), 82 (new), 106 (new 1), 119 (new), and 137 (new) of the Constitution, as well as Articles 3 and 4 of the Additional Constitutional Law. The core change brought about by this amendment was that individuals holding the highest public offices—the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the President of the Constitutional Council—must hold Cambodian citizenship only.

2022 – 10TH AMENDMENT

In August 2022, the Constitution was amended to revise Articles 19 (new 1), 89, 98 (new), 102 (new), 119 (new 1), and 125 (new), as well as Articles 3 (new) and 4 (new) of the Additional Constitutional Law. These set of amendments primarily addressed the appointment of the Prime Minister and the functioning of the legislative bodies. Significantly, amended Article 119 (new 1) provided that the political party with a majority of seats in the National Assembly has direct authority to designate the Prime Minister. This differs from the previous procedure, whereby the appointment was voted on by the National Assembly.

2025 – 11TH AMENDMENT

On 15 July 2025, the King promulgated an amendment to Article 33 of the Constitution, updating the clause to allow the revocation of Cambodian citizenship, which shall be determined by law.

The 1993 Constitution originally comprised 14 chapters and 139 articles. Following several amendments, it now consists of 17 chapters and 160 articles. The most recent amendment was made in July 2025.

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