



មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលសិទ្ធិមនុស្សកម្ពុជា
Cambodian Center for Human Rights

July 2013

Policy Brief: Women's Political Representation in Cambodia



USAID
ជំនួយពីពលរដ្ឋអាមេរិក



On the cover: Map of Female Candidates in the 2013 National Assembly Election, available via sithi.org/national_election_map.

Queries and Feedback

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please contact CCHR at:

798, St 99, Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia,

Email: info@cchrcambodia.org

Tel: +855 (0) 23 726 901

Web: www.cchrcambodia.org

Cambodian Center for Human Rights

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (“CCHR”), founded in November 2002, is a non-aligned, independent, non-governmental organization (“NGO”) that works to promote and protect democracy and respect for human rights throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia (“Cambodia”). CCHR’s vision is of a non-violent Cambodia in which people can enjoy their fundamental human rights, are empowered to participate in democracy, and share equally the benefits of Cambodia’s economic development. CCHR promotes the rule of law over impunity, strong institutions over strong men, and a pluralistic society in which variety is welcomed and celebrated rather than ignored and punished. CCHR’s logo – a dove flying in a circle of blue sky – represents the twin principles of peace and freedom.

This Policy Brief – Women’s Political Representation in Cambodia (“the Policy Brief”) – is an output of CCHR’s Project to Promote Women’s Political Representation in Cambodia (the “Project”). The Project is part of the regional program “Building Sustainable Partnerships to Promote Women’s Political Representation in Southeast Asia” (“IKAT Program”), which is managed by the Indonesian NGO Kemitraan – the Partnership for Governance Reform – and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (“USAID”).

Acknowledgements

This Policy Brief has been produced with the assistance of the Partnership for Governance Reform and is made possible by the support of the American people through USAID. The contents are the sole responsibility of CCHR and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Partnership, USAID or the United States Government.



Executive Summary

This Policy Brief summarizes a series of six round table discussions (“RTDs”) on promoting women’s political representation and participation in Cambodia, facilitated either independently by the CCHR or in cooperation with various other NGOs. These RTDs were held between April 2012 to April 2013 in Phnom Penh and Battambang Province by CCHR’s Project to Promote Women’s Political Representation in Cambodia¹ and each comprised of two panel discussions: one with civil society representatives and one with representatives of political parties.²

Although women in Cambodia are guaranteed the same political rights as men by the Constitution of Cambodia, in practice women are often discriminated against in the political sphere. Common perceptions that women are not capable enough to undertake roles of political leadership, in addition to economic restraints and further discrimination based on their gender, puts them at a disadvantage with regards to political participation and representation. Although the Royal Government of Cambodia (the “RGC”) has committed itself to increase female political representation, including via specific targets with the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (the “CMDGs”) to be achieved by 2015, women continue to be severely under-represented at all levels of politics.

¹ See the full list of RTDs in Annex 1. Following each RTD, the Project also developed mini reports, which summarized key issues raised and recommendations made by participants. Each mini report was sent to relevant stakeholders and made available publically. Moreover, audio recordings of each RTDs were aired on CCHR’s radio program and video recordings made available on CCHR’s website, in order to reach a wider audience.

² The five main parties are: the Cambodian People’s Party (“CPP”), the Sam Rainsy Party (“SRP”), the Human Rights Party (“HRP”), FUNCINPEC and the Norrodom Ranaridh Party (“NRP”). Although invitations were each time sent to all five parties, regrettably no representative from the CPP attended the RTDs to discuss party policy at the national level. Several CPP female commune councilors attended the RTDs in order to share their personal experiences as female politicians but were not there to discuss CPP party policy.

Key Recommendations

This Policy Brief recognizes six key areas of reform as identified by participants in the RTDs:

- Cooperation of all stakeholders, including the media, to raise awareness of women’s rights and capabilities as leaders and take a proactive approach to promoting women’s participation in politics;
- Reform of the electoral system to include the adoption of a quota system to guarantee a minimum 30% women’s representation;
- Investment in women’s education to ensure quality education at all levels of schooling;
- Cooperation of women of all political parties to provide a supportive network for women politicians at all levels and the adoption of legislation to protect women participating in politics from discrimination;
- Addressing the financial barriers that prohibit women from participating in politics generally and election campaigning specifically; and
- Commitment to abolishing the culture of impunity that exists and to strengthening law enforcement to ensure a fair and independent judiciary.

Introduction

Although the RGC has publicly committed to increasing female representation at all levels of government in a number of documents, including the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, the National Strategic Development Plan and the CMDGs, which set a target of 25% women's representation at the commune/sangkat council level by 2015,³ the level of women's representation at both the local and national levels remains disappointing. This is due to a lack of concrete implementation of government policies and to enduring negative perceptions as regards women's ability to take on leadership roles.

Nevertheless, there have been improvements in women's political representation in commune/sangkat councils and in the National Assembly. Since 1993, women's representation has increased from 6% to 22% within the National Assembly. In commune/sangkat councils, the percentage of female councilors has increased by 3%, from 14.6% to 17.79%, within one election period alone from the 2007 to 2012 elections.⁴

However, while these figures support the notion that women's representation is increasing and are encouraging, levels of representation remain a far cry from the CMDG⁵ targets to which the RGC has committed itself. For instance, as only 17.79% of commune/sangkat council seats went to women in 2012, it will not be possible to achieve the 25% CMDG target by 2015. Moreover, women that are elected are consistently being elected to relatively junior positions. During the commune/sangkat council elections in June 2012, 1,590 women received Member seats but only 164 were elected to the position of Second Deputy, 189 to the position of First Deputy; and a very minimal 95 to the most senior seat of Commune Chief. Figures

³ CMDG 2015 target is female representation of 30% in the National Assembly and Senate; and 25% at Commune level (CMDG 3).

⁴ For full data, please see CCHR, 'Politics in the Kingdom: Increase Female Representation' (Report) (2013) <www.cchrcambodia.org/admin/media/report/report/english/2013_03_28_CCHR_Report_eng.pdf>.

⁵ <www.un.org.kh/undp/mdgs/cambodian-mdgs/what-are-the-cambodia-millennium-development-goals>.

released by the National Election Committee (“NEC”) regarding female candidates on lists for the upcoming National Assembly elections on 28 July 2013 indicate that the percentage of women in that body may drop in the next mandate.⁶

⁶ Lauren Crothers and Kaing Menghun, ‘As Elections Loom, a Lack of Female Candidates’ (*The Cambodia Daily*, 19 May 2013) <www.cambodiadaily.com/elections/as-elections-loom-a-lack-of-female-candidates-25141/>

Issues Raised and Discussed

All speakers – including NGO representatives and representatives of political parties – agreed that women have a unique and important role to play in politics, and in particular are uniquely able to express and conceptualize solutions to problems faced by women in Cambodia. Moreover, they also agreed on the value of women’s participation for society, the economy and for development, and their right to political participation as citizens, as well as on the importance of promoting and encouraging women to pursue careers at all political levels and in institutions related to land rights. Land violations constitute a significant problem to women, which motivates them to become politically active and to participate in the resolution process.

Nevertheless, the underrepresentation of women in Cambodian politics, which stems from a common perception of women not being qualified enough for political leadership, as well as from economic restraints and discrimination faced by women in all aspects of society, continues to be a major problem which requires concrete action. The following sections outline the obstacles faced by women in being more politically active, as identified by participants in the RTDs.

Social perceptions and discrimination

Cambodian society’s perception of women is based on strong traditional and social norms and cultural values. Women are often viewed as the weak, submissive counterpart to men, mainly responsible for domestic tasks and the well-being of their families. This had significant consequences on the socio-economic status of women. Women in Cambodia are required to handle a disproportionate amount of housework and are responsible for their family’s well-being. As women often struggle to balance family life and political participation more than men in this respect, it can result in depriving them of the time to pursue political careers. Cultural norms that require women to balance the role of “politician” and “mother/wife” strain them both financially and physically. In addition, participants discussed the fact that there continues to be an image crisis between women as “victims” and women as “leaders” in society, whereby the promotion of the former

perpetuates the belief that women are weak and still subservient to men and discredits any notion of political capability.

The expectation that women will fulfill domestic duties in addition to their political roles and the failure of political parties to accommodate this dual role means that women are often unable to fully participate in all aspects of political life and are subsequently overlooked for promotion within the parties. This perception regularly leads to a lack of educational opportunities for women, hindering their opportunities to pursue a career. Many voters do not believe in women's abilities for leadership and in their competence to manage high-ranking positions, and therefore neither support nor vote for women who are running for office. Increasing female political participation and representation will thus require that women overcome traditional stereotypes that view women as weak, less intelligent and capable than men, and more suited to domestic tasks. This is particularly so for rural women.

Political factors

Pervasive discrimination against women within the political framework – particularly within political parties – has significantly impacted the opportunity for women to be promoted to positions of increased responsibility and power. Cambodia uses a party-list proportional representation (“PR”) voting system. While the proportional component is advantageous to potential female representatives, because it facilitates the implementation of candidate quota requirements, the electoral party lists can also be significantly unfavorable to women's increased representation. They grant full power to the political parties, letting them decide not only who is placed on the lists but also who is ranked in which order. Candidates' success thus fully depends on inner-party connections and networks, as well as their own budget, with which they have to finance their election campaigns.

The failure to place women in the first or second spot on the list was suggested as the main reason why there is such a small number of women who actually win seats. Only 501 out of 28,481 female candidates (representing 0.45% of total candidates and 1.76% of female candidates)

were placed in the first spot on the candidate lists for the commune/sangkat council elections in June 2012. For instance, only 1.5% of HRP candidates elected to commune/sangkat councils were women, despite having had 21.34% of candidates being female.

The complicated election process further enhances discrimination against female participation in the electoral process and is a hindrance to women's political empowerment, as the voting structure is very confusing. The lack of independence of the NEC, whose members are all members of the ruling party, also interferes with women's ability to become politically involved and to further their political positions.

Women wishing to stand for opposition parties rather than the ruling party often face intimidation and ostracism from the community. Moreover, the lack of focus by political parties on promoting women in politics translates into women rarely being placed at the top of the party candidate lists. Finally, the relegation of elected women to positions low on the ranks of formal leadership gives them little opportunity to prove their leadership qualities.

Limited capacity

The lack of training and education opportunities for women that would equip them for participation in politics is particularly problematic, especially when women are required to compete with more qualified men both within their own parties and with rival parties. Lower levels of education and literacy rates amongst women have a significant effect on women's ability to participate politically, in both the nomination and voting processes. Participants also noted that the majority of Cambodian women have little or no knowledge about their country's history, present political situation or future developments. They have very little access to information about their legal rights in general and land laws in particular, which means they are often not able to defend their rights in an effective way.

A widespread lack of higher education opportunities among women not only contributes to prejudices regarding their inability to lead, but also limits them in the process of pursuing a political career. Women need high levels

of knowledge and qualification to prove themselves and convince their fellow party members of their abilities and competence. Low levels of education and limited access to information therefore induce low levels of female representation in politics. However, due to generally increasing percentages of enrollment in higher education, younger women have better chances at getting an education and therefore could be promising prospects for future female representation in politics. It was also noted that a lack of education for men regarding women's rights prevents women from actively participating in politics.

Financial barriers

There is a significant lack of economic support for women politicians and candidates. Women often do not possess the means to travel to various courts or information points and in most instances also have a family to support. In many cases, their primary concern is to provide economic security to their families and this can leave very little time for active political participation. The loss of income for the family that usually comes with political activity discourages women from engaging in politics.

CSO representatives discussed women's lack of financial independence and inability to self-fund their political career and political participation, which is exacerbated by a lack of support within the party especially during election campaigns. This causes a significantly lower number of women on parties' candidate lists, which in turn leads to low female representation. Moreover, the lack of social assistance available for women creates obstacles for women seeking political involvement and participation. Furthermore, young women are increasingly migrating to neighboring countries in search of employment opportunities, which was seen by panelists as a factor that contributes to low levels of female political participation in Cambodia.

Lack of role models and support

There is a lack of visible and inspirational women in positions of political power to act as role models for future generations and to encourage women to participate in politics generally. Women often lack self-confidence and will decline high-ranking positions in political parties for that reason.

Women are frequently discriminated against and deprived of their rights and thus are often too afraid to participate in politics, especially within opposition parties, because they fear losing their jobs, their businesses, and the support of their families. Women often do not receive the necessary support from their families, in particular from their husbands. There are no mechanisms in place that support women after they are elected. In order to succeed in their positions and fulfill their responsibilities, women need assistance through training and capacity-building, not only to be elected, but after the elections as well.

Land rights

Despite the importance of women's empowerment with regards to family life, politics, communities and the country's overall development, discrimination against women continues to be widespread. As the primary caregivers in the family unit, women are especially vulnerable with regards to land conflict and the impact of forced evictions, especially in communities with high levels of illiteracy, low levels of employment and high numbers of single parent families. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization ("FAO"), women constitute over 65% of the farming population in Cambodia and therefore play an essential role in Cambodia's economy.⁷ Violations of women's land rights and of their human rights in general have significant effects on the stability of their lives and the lives of their families. However, as was noted during the RTD in Battambang, the majority of individuals who make legal claims through the courts regarding land rights are women, which demonstrates their willingness to participate in the land conflict resolution process – and in civic life in general.

⁷ Sustainable Development Department, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 'Cambodia' <<http://www.fao.org/sd/wpdirect/wpre0106.htm>>

Political Party Strategies

All of the representatives of the political parties taking part in the RTDs agreed that it is important to increase levels of representation of women in Commune Councils and all other levels of government. They also agreed that the inclusion of female candidates is generally beneficial for political parties and helps draw voters to the party. Moreover, they agreed that the inclusion of women in politics would greatly enhance policy decisions and would help bring Cambodia more in step with democratic ideals. It was concluded that the absence of women in leadership positions is a particular problem, and that there are inherent problems with the electoral system itself.

None of the political parties indicated that their parties had, or were considering, internal quota systems or any other concrete strategies to promote women's participation in their party, although they all stated that their respective parties sought to include and promote women where possible. Although a number of NGO representatives suggested a 30% quota be implemented to increase and maintain women's participation in politics, no parties seemed open to incorporate such a system in the upcoming National Assembly elections.

In general, the representatives were reluctant to agree that a quota was necessary or desirable. Some of the arguments made included that a 30% quota would prevent women from achieving higher levels of representation, that it would result in decreased or limited quality of representation and that parties other than the ruling party would struggle to fill the quota. Nevertheless, the representatives were to a certain extent divided on the issue, with some taking the stance that candidates should be selected purely on their credentials, and that the problem of low representation arises from restricted access to education, training and funding for female candidates, and others that women should be prioritized and placed at the top of the candidate lists, because a greater number of female role models would help break down stereotypes.

Furthermore, the ruling party was criticized for exerting pressure on opposition parties and thus intimidating especially women to register as opposition candidates. Additionally, the scarcity of resources and the lack of

financial support for candidates in opposition parties make it difficult for them to convince women to run for election. A number of panelists voiced support for advocating for freedom of expression, encouraging an independent justice system, and the abolishment of the culture of impunity that exists in Cambodia, as well as the need to ensure equal allocation of funds to candidates from all political parties.

Panelists further agreed that it was necessary to rally for changes in societal perceptions of women and to encourage female participation in all political processes. It was noted that the efficiency and effectiveness of female workers are often related to their age. It was concluded that young women are skilled in conducting successful political campaigns, but that a collaborative working environment involving both young and older women was encouraged and considered productive. Organized training and capacity building workshops and meetings for women once they are elected was considered to be effective and necessary, as was continuous support from candidates' families.

Women's political participation and land rights

Political party representatives highlighted the importance of land to women, as it constitutes the basis of their economic survival, as well as the increasing role of women in land issues. A number of representatives mentioned corruption and injustice as the roots of discrimination against women and land violations, and proposed economic improvement as an approach to solving land conflicts and to increase women's participation in this process. Other representatives proposed mandatory voting as a short-term solution and education and higher salaries for public servants as a long-term solution preventing land violations. The revision of all land concessions, and an altered use for commune budgets which would prioritize land conflict resolution, the promotion of women's rights and the education of citizens, was also discussed. All panelists agreed on the necessity of promoting women as active participants in politics and women's involvement in the resolution of land conflicts.

Recommendations

The challenges discussed above need to be overcome through efficient collaboration between civil society organizations and political parties regarding the development and implementation of different mechanisms to combat the underrepresentation of women in politics. Cooperation and networking between civil society, media organizations, and party elites is essential to promote the necessary legal and institutional change. Most importantly, all stakeholders, including CSOs, the RGC and the media, need to implement concrete awareness-raising initiatives aimed at changing negative traditional perceptions of the role of women in politics. The following specific recommendations were agreed on to address the above challenges.

Recommendations to the RGC:

- The RGC should incorporate a quota system in electoral law, which would legally require parties to allocate 30% seats on their lists to women, and allow for sanctions against parties which do not adhere to the quota requirements. Moreover, the so-called “zipper system,” which requires political parties to alternate the names of male and female candidates on electoral lists, should be applied, to ensure equal opportunities for men and women;
- The RGC should increase investment in women’s education, including trainings on gender-specific rights;
- The RGC should ensure women’s equal access to higher education and to training opportunities;
- The RGC should provide more funding and resources to support female candidates - from all political parties - and their families;⁸
- The National Assembly should enact anti-discrimination legislation, with specific provisions prohibiting gender-based discrimination in politics; and
- The RGC must respect and guarantee freedom of expression of all political parties. All political parties shall have equal opportunity for

⁸ As stated in *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* (“CEDAW”) convention § 14 - Rural Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>)

expression in public and the media for the purpose of encouraging women's participation in politics and promoting gender equality.

Recommendations to Political Parties and Politicians:

- Female politicians should strive to create and maintain networks of women both within their own parties and across party lines, and use these networks to further promote female participation and representation in politics;
- Political parties should create a foundation to support female candidates financially;
- Political parties should encourage recent female university graduates to become politically involved by providing and promoting volunteer opportunities at the local level;
- Political parties should implement on-going political capacity building trainings for women in their parties;
- Political parties must be proactive in promoting women within their ranks in order to increase levels of representation, not just levels of participation; and
- Political parties should advocate to abolish the culture of impunity that exists in Cambodia and encourage an independent justice system in order to facilitate women's participation in politics in the long-term.

Recommendations to Civil Society:

- NGOs and other advocates for women's rights should target the new wave of elected women, asking them to advocate for more focused commitment from the RGC on increasing female representation;
- Programs discussing reform of the electoral system – such as an amendment to allow voters to vote for individual candidates on a list – should be prioritized;
- CSOs and NGOs need to employ strategies that provide female candidates and elected women with ongoing political capacity-

training and possible methods for income generation, before and after the election;

- NGOs and CSOs should encourage the media to champion increasing female representation in politics;
- NGOs and CSOs should provide training opportunities to citizens – in particular civil servants and men – on women’s rights, in order to build trust in women’s leadership abilities; and
- NGOs and CSOs should advocate to abolish the culture of impunity that exists in Cambodia and encourage an independent justice system in order to facilitate women’s participation in politics in the long-term.

Annex: List of RTD Topics

Dates/ Venue	Topics	Objective	# of Speakers	# of Participant s and Organizers
30 April 2012 - Phnom Penh	The Role of Women in Political Participation at Commune/Sangkat Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring together individuals working on women’s participation and representation and political parties to discuss issues on the overall significance of women’s participation and the parties’ positions on women’s political participation. • To provide a platform and opportunity to discuss the role of women’s political participation in the commune elections • To present and share ideas about the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three speakers from NGOs.⁹ • Four representatives from political parties.¹⁰ 	27 ¹¹ CCHR

⁹ Ms. Pok Nanda, Executive Director of Women for Prosperity (WfP); Mr. Keo Darith, Coordinator of Promote Women in Politics, Neutral & Impartial Committee for Free & Fair Elections in Cambodia; Mr. Utama Sandjaja, Chief of Cluster Democratic Governance, Kemitraan.

¹⁰ Lok Chumteav Neang Chayana, undersecretary of state in Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans & Youth Rehabilitation, FUNCINPEC Party; H.E. Yem Punnarith, Secretary General of HRP; H.E. Sao Rany, Secretary General, NRP; Ms. Chea Sokuntheany, Secretary General of SRP; Representative from CPP was also invited to join the round table discussion as a guest speaker but they declined.

¹¹ It consists of seven representatives from four political parties (SRP, FUNCINPEC, HRP, and NRP), nineteen representatives from NGOs, and media organizations, and one independent consultant.

		Project		
11 July 2012, Phnom Penh	Joint Round Table Discussion on Success and Challenges of Women on the Results of Commune/Sangkat Election in Cambodia”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To disclose data related to women in the 2012 Commune/Sangkat election • To discuss critical issues and challenges for further promoting women in the 2012 Commune/Sangkat council elections • To prepare a strategic advocacy plan to increase the percentage of women in the National Assembly to 30% by 2015 to comply with the CMDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three speakers from NGOs.¹² • Three Commune Councilors from political parties.¹³ • Three representatives from political parties.¹⁴ 	92 ¹⁵ CCHR and Committee to Promote Women in Politics (“CPWP”).

¹² Mrs. Ros Sopheap, Executive Director of GADC and Deputy Secretary General of CPWP; Mrs. Sonket Sereyleak, Gender and Education Coordinator, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (“COMFREL”); Mr. Ou Virak, President of CCHR.

¹³ Ms. Tek Nim, Commune Chief of Am Laing Commune, Thpong District, Kampong Speu Province, from SRP; Mrs. Deum Kunthea, Former Second Assistant to Commune Chief of Triel Commune, Baray District, Kampong Thom Province from NRP; Mrs. Pich Sreyphal, First Deputy of Trapeang Chong, Bakan District, Pursat Province, from CPP.

¹⁴ Lok Chumteav Mu Sochua, Party Representative, SRP; H.E. Yem Punnarith, Party Representative, HRP; Lok Chumteav Neang Chhayana, Party Representative, FUNCIPPEC.

¹⁵ 42 NGO representatives, 38 representatives (including two members of parliament and 32 women commune councilors from different provinces) of five political parties – SRP, FUNCIPPEC, HRP, CPP, and NRP — and 12 representatives from donor agencies.

7 February 2013, Phnom Penh	The Role of Women in Political Participation at the National Level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring together individuals working on women’s participation and representation and political parties to discuss issues on the overall significant role of women’s participation and representation in politics at the national level. • To provide political parties with a platform to discuss their policies to promote women’s participation and representation for the national elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two speakers from NGOs.¹⁶ • Four speakers from political parties.¹⁷ 	44 ¹⁸ CCHR
21 February 2013, Battambang	Women and land Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring together civil society representatives, political parties, women politician and relevant institutions to discuss on women politicians and women’s participation in relation with solving land issue. • To provide women politicians/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four speakers from CSOs, Department of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction 	

¹⁶ Mrs. Pok Nanda, Executive Director, WfP; Mrs. Sonket Sereyleak, Education and Gender Coordinator, COMFREL.

¹⁷ Lok Chumteav Prak Chantha, Party Representative, FUNCINPEC; Lok Chumteav Mu Sochua, Party Representative, Cambodian National Rescue Party (“CNRP”); H.E. Koy sokharith, Party Representative, Nationalist Party; Mrs. Pang Vanthown, Party Representative, League for Democracy Party.

¹⁸ 34 people from 30 NGOs, one independent consultant, and nine representatives from six political parties

		<p>representatives the opportunity to express their strategies and challenges regarding participation in decision-making and problem-solving related to land issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide political parties/ women politicians the opportunity to discuss their ideas on promoting women in politics through the resolution of land conflict. 	<p>in Battambang province¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four speakers from political parties.²⁰ 	<p>47²¹</p> <p>CCHR (including CCHR's Land Reform Project)</p>
28 March 2013, Phnom Penh	Mechanisms to Promote Women Political Representation at National Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide all participants with a platform to discuss their various practical mechanisms to promote women's participation and representation in politics for the up-coming national election. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Speakers from NGOs.²² • Two speakers from Political Parties.²³ 	<p>26²⁴</p> <p>CCHR</p>

¹⁹ Mrs. Chim Boun Chanda, Representative from Banteay Srey Organization based in Battambang; Mr. Soun Tek, from LICADHO based in Batamabang; Mrs. Sanh Vanna, Representative from Land Community in Banteay Meanchey; and Mr. Pen Khemrat, Deputy Director of Department of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in Battambang province;

²⁰ Lok Chumteav Mu Sochua, CNRP; HE. Koch Moly, FUNCIPPEC; HE. Koy Sokharith, NRP; Mr. Ou Chanrath, HRP.

²¹ Ten representatives from eight NGOs based in Battambang Province, one representative from the Battambang Provincial Department of Women's Affairs, one representative from the Battambang City Hall, one representative from the Battambang Provincial Department of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, two representatives from Commune Councils in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces, six representatives from four political parties, nine participants from women's networks in Battambang Province, 16 community members, and one independent consultant.

²² Mrs. Thyda Khus, Executive Director, SILAKA; and Mrs. Sonket Sereyleak, Gender and Education Coordinator, COMFREL.

²³ Mrs. Kim Nat Sin, Party Representative, SRP; and Mr. Koy Sokharith, Party Representative, Nationalist Party.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss specific mechanisms to be implemented by political parties to increase female candidates in their party lists. • To present CCHR's new report, "Politics in the Kingdom: Increasing Female Representation" 		
29 April 2013, Phnom Penh	Recommendation to promote women's political representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To present highlighted key issues and recommendation raised by participants during the previous five RTDs. • To provide civil society representatives who attended the RTDs with a platform to highlight the key issues and discuss comprehensively the recommendations which emerged during the RTDs in order to seek any additions or amendments. 	No speakers	28 ²⁵ CCHR

²⁴ 24 representatives from 20 NGOs, and two representatives from two political parties.

²⁵ From 26 NGOs.