

Closing Remarks by

H.E. It Rady, Under Secretary of State Ministry of Justice

and Chair of the Justice Working Group on the NC-STSLs During the Closing Session of the Consultation Workshop “A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism”

24 February 2012, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

My respect to:

- Your Excellencies, Hor Sarun, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Tourism
- H.E Gen. MoK Bun Chheang, Deputy Director of AHTJPD of the National Police, Ministry of Interior
- H.E Khiev Borey, General Secretary of CNCC
- Ms. Margaret Akullo, Project Coordinator, UNODC
- Representatives from World Vision Cambodia
- Representatives from INTERPOL
- Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, representatives from relevant ministries, institutions and organizations!

On behalf of the Ministry of Justice as well as on my own behalf, I am glad and honored to attend the consultation workshop “A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism” today.

Cambodia has developed a legal framework to protect children and to guarantee that child sex offenders are prosecuted and children will be protected. At the same time, we need to ensure that the gaps in laws and legislation should be identified and addressed accordingly. This morning’s workshop has been a fruitful workshop. We heard about the new initiative Project Childhood, the key findings of the legal analysis study conducted by UNODC and also the practical operational examples from the Ministry of Interior and INTERPOL. We have had participants from various institutions, NGOs, and experts come from different backgrounds to participate in the workshop. This is a crucial and important time for us to seat together to discuss the sexual exploitation of children and the prosecution of child sex offenders. I think a morning is not enough for us to examine all the gaps and identify the solutions. It requires more time and resources to meet our goal. However, today’s workshop has been a good and positive initiative and a step towards working together.

As mentioned by **H.E. Khiev Borey** during the opening session of the workshop, I hope all participants have been well informed of *Project Childhood*, a regional initiative addressing the sexual exploitation of children and a project which also aims at strengthening cooperation. You also heard about the results of the legal analysis conducted by UNODC in addressing the legislative gaps in prosecuting travelling child sex offenders. You also contributed your thoughts on the findings of the study, especially the results presented by the National Legal Consultant who provided a domestic perspective of the legal analysis review within the Cambodian context.

From the discussion on the findings presented by the National Legal Consultant, I would like to draw CNCC and UNODC’s attention to the fact that Cambodia has made good progress in assisting and protecting children. Project Childhood should also be implemented without waiting for an official definition of “child sex tourism” or “Human trafficking”. Focussing on the

the definition might create more confusion and may require amending the law. I would suggest that the CNCC secretariat and UNODC organize a separate meeting and consult with the relevant ministries to review and seek comments on the findings of both the UNODC legal report and the National legal report.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our development partners and various organizations who cooperated with the Ministry of Justice, as well as with the working groups of the National Secretariat of the National Committee to lead the suppression of human trafficking, smuggling, labor exploitation, and sexual exploitation in women and children (NC-STSL) and the National Committee to the Cambodian National Council for Children..

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to AusAID for supporting this workshop through Project Childhood (Protection Pillar) and to UNODC for co-organizing this workshop. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, World Vision, INTERPOL and other partner organizations who delivered presentations on child sex tourism. I would like to wish, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen the four gems of Buddha's blessing.

I hereby declare the closing of the consultation workshop "A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism".

Thank you!