

Welcome Remarks by **H.E. Khiev Borey**, Secretary General,
Cambodian National Council for Children
During the Consultation Workshop
“A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism”

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

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My respect to:

- H.E. Nim Thot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and Vice chairman of the Cambodian National Council for Children!
- Your Excellencies, presiding guests!
- Representative from AusAID!
- Ms. Margaret Akullo, Representing UNODC Cambodia and UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific
- Ms Annethe Ahlenius, representing INTERPOL
- Your Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen and distinguished guests!

Firstly, on behalf of the Cambodian National Council for Children and on my own behalf, I would like to express my warm welcome to the presence of Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, especially the presence of H.E. Nim Thot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and Vice chairman of the Cambodian National Council for Children, for his valuable time in presiding over the consultation workshop “A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism.”

The workshop was organized for the following purposes:

1. To present a new regional initiative called Project Childhood and its relevance to combatting child sex tourism.
2. To receive feedbacks from participants on the scope and process required for the legal framework review in relation to child sex tourism.
3. To strengthen our cooperation with the Project Childhood implementing team and relevant stakeholders

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Through the implementation of the Child Rights Convention and relevant international laws, standards or provisions related to child protection, the Royal Government of Cambodia, under the wise leadership of Samdech Akak Moha Sena Padey Techo **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and honorable chairman of the Cambodian National Council for Children, the Kingdom of Cambodia has been at full peace and enjoyed constant development, especially in endeavoring to enhance the implementation of Child Rights Convention, its optional protocol and relevant international laws, which have been disseminated to various Ministries, institutions, organizations, citizens and students to implement, in order for Cambodia children to enjoy their basic rights. There have been a great number of actions developed by the Royal Government of Cambodia such as the adoption of various laws, policies, regulations, national strategic plans, national mechanisms, programs and measures to ensure best interests and justice for children, stipulating clearly that children are the pillars and future of the nation.

Despite these achievements to be proud of, there remain a number of children facing various issues which include children with disabilities, violence against children, sale and trafficking of children, child labor, sexual exploitation, children in conflict with the law, orphans, at risk and other vulnerable children. We need to continue with more of our efforts to implement international laws and review the national legal framework related to child protection.

Under the umbrella of Project Childhood, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) undertook a legal analysis review that examined Cambodian, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese laws related

to child sex tourism. UNODC Cambodia then undertook a domestic review, to address some of the gaps in the report. The report has a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening the legislative framework to better address the fight against travelling child sex offenders in the Mekong region. In addition, an implementation plan has been drafted focusing on supporting the operational plan of the Protection Pillar. The Protection Pillar focuses on strengthening law enforcement capacity for national and transnational action to identify and effectively act upon travelling child sex offender in the Mekong region and it aims to:

1. Provide technical supports in response to the gaps and needs of key legislative, training and cooperation of the four target countries.
2. Provide resources for international and regional investigation to specifically target traveling child sex offenders.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

To ensure smooth implementation, through the consultation workshop “*A Legal Framework for Addressing Child Sex Tourism*” today, I hope to receive good comments to serve as a clear guide to legally protecting children from travelling child sex offenders in Cambodia.

I take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to UNODC Cambodia and AusAID for their supports in organizing today's workshop.

Finally, I would like to wish Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen good health and success in all your endeavors.

Thank you!