



# ACTIVITY REPORT

## Cambodia

### CSO SUBMISSION FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

9-10 May 2018

#### Timeline for UPR engagement in the current cycle





## 1. Introduction

On 9-10 May 2018, some 80 participants joined the *Civil society submission follow-up workshop*, co-organised by *Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)*, *Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* and *UPR Info* in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The event was a continuation of the [March activity](#) during which civil society initiated the drafting process of CSO submissions ahead of Cambodia's 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR in January 2019. Most of the participants in the workshop participated in the March event, which proved valuable for the effective continuation of the drafting process. At the first day, *UPR Info* introduced good practices in the reporting stage and a submission template with the aim of consolidating the structure of joint submissions. The objective of the two-day event was to provide space and technical expertise to the working groups to progress with their reports. As such, the agenda emphasised on group work and plenary presentations.

*UPR Info* provided three main technical sessions to enhance the quality submissions and suggested recommendations. They focused on:

- ❖ The merits, and mutually reinforcing nature, of a cross-sectoral joint submission complementing thematic joint reports;
- ❖ Introducing a suggested template to facilitate the development of submissions;
- ❖ Upcoming events including a validation meeting, UPR Advocacy Factsheets, Pre-sessions in Phnom Penh and Geneva, and post-review activities.

## 2. Activity

### 2.1. Overview

On the first day, the workshop was opened by welcome remarks from Ms Cybele Hauper, Head of Civil society and Fundamental Freedoms at *OHCHR*, Ms Sopheap Chak, Executive Director at *CCHR*, and Mr Hans Fridlund, *UPR Info* Programme Manager. In the following session, the Group Rapporteur of each thematic cluster introduced the outcomes of the activities they had undertaken since the March workshop. Notably, the group working on Gender/Women's Rights/LGBTIQ/SOGIE had split into two groups; one dedicated to Gender and women's rights, and the other addressing LGBTIQ/SOGIE issues. In a similar fashion, the group developing a submission on Minorities and Indigenous Peoples had split so that each theme will be afforded a submission. First to present was the group on Gender/Women's Rights which demonstrated how they had linked SMART recommendations with specific SDG targets. Due to new policies in the country in relation to combatting sexual violence, the group considered to increase the number of service centers for survivors they would be asking for in one of their recommendations. Input from the floor requested the Group Rapporteur to take into consideration acts of intimidation often facing women human rights defenders.

The representative of the LGBTIQ/SOGIE group noted that Cambodia in its previous review received no recommendations related to their theme, and shared that several CSOs had joined their umbrella group since the March workshop. Moving forward, their draft submission will be presented to the LGBTIQ community, also in rural areas, to provide additional feedback. A [website](#) has also been created to boost the call for LGBTIQ/SOGIE recommendations. Several teams, including those working on elections, rights of the child, indigenous peoples, access to justice and labour rights had developed a timeline for the development of their submission and scheduled consultations with their constituencies

In the following segment, *UPR Info* presented a strategy for influential CSO submissions including the use of SMART recommendations, joint reports as a means for strengthening engagement in the follow-up phase, the [OHCHR Matrix](#), and [UPR Advocacy Factsheets](#). In the afternoon, *UPR Info* introduced a submission template to guide the groups towards a consolidated structure across reports. Such an approach will facilitate the compilation of the cross-thematic submission which *CCHR* is developing. This was immediately followed by breakout sessions, where the participants worked on their respective report utilising the submission template as a roadmap. The umbrella groups – identified by the participants themselves - were divided as follows:

- ❖ Gender/Women's rights;
- ❖ LGBTIQ/SOGIE;
- ❖ Rights of the child;
- ❖ Minorities;
- ❖ Indigenous peoples;
- ❖ Public health;
- ❖ Labour rights;
- ❖ Land and natural resources;
- ❖ Elections;

- ❖ Access to justice.

In a very interactive feedback session, each group presented their draft submissions. The opportunity to provide comments to each other's reports spurred several interesting discussions. Issues raised included low voter turnout among indigenous peoples, the need to make reference to SDG targets and recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia in the reports, inadequate access to public services for persons in the informal economic sector, youth unemployment, and discrimination in the labour sector. As a result, several groups agreed to closely cooperate in the drafting process. The Public health cluster specifically asked the LGBTIQ/SOGIE group to provide input to their report in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some groups acknowledged that additional research was needed to provide sources to the information contained in their report. Several Group Rapporteurs also presented [advanced questions](#) which they would include in their submissions. The final session was devoted to discussing next steps. In 2018, several activities are in pipeline in Cambodia:

- ❖ CSO submission validation meeting;
- ❖ UPR Advocacy Factsheets workshop;
- ❖ In-country Pre-session.

## 2.2. Achievements

The high percentage of participants which joined both the March and May event is a testament to significance which national CSOs attach to the Universal Periodic Review. It also demonstrates the convening power of the co-organisers, which bodes well for future activities. The piloting of the submission template proved fruitful as it provided all working groups with a common structure for their submissions. As a result, it will be further improved upon and used to support the development of submissions in other countries. It was moreover encouraging to see that participants made use of the information shared in the March workshop to enhance their submissions. This paved the way for effective group work and generated much progress in the development of the reports, as evidenced in the plenary presentation on the second day.

The workshop succeeded in;

- ✓ Consolidating 10 thematic working groups, each aiming at issuing a joint CSO submission;
- ✓ Establishing that *CCHR* is leading on the development of a cross-thematic submission;
- ✓ Agreeing on a joint format for the reports;
- ✓ Utilising the mutually reinforcing nature of SDG targets and the UPR in the drafting of SMART recommendations;
- ✓ Strengthening the collaboration between *OHCHR Cambodia*, *CCHR* and *UPR Info*.

## 2.3. Lessons learnt

The percentage of women participating in the workshop marginally increased compared to the March event, from 32% to 38%. A discussion about how to ensure gender parity must be prioritised among co-organisers. Notably, several of the Group Rapporteurs are women and

women participants provided critical input at each of the plenary sessions. The lack of representation of persons living with disabilities must be addressed and the opportunity to develop a submission or factsheet on their situation should be explored.

### **3. Way forward**

12 June, a month before the official deadline, has been agreed as the date for circulating submissions for feedback. A validation meeting is planned to take place in Phnom Penh during the first week of July. In parallel, *CCHR* is leading on the creation of a cross-sectoral submission. In November 2018, an In-country Pre-session will enable national CSOs to discuss the human rights situation in Cambodia, and share their suggested recommendations with resident diplomats two months before the third UPR of the country in January 2019. CSOs should also remind the Government of Cambodia that it is expected to hold nationwide consultations with civil society in the preparation of the National Report.

## 4. Testimonies

Contributors have been guaranteed anonymity.

*I have learnt the SMART formula and good practices of how to make the CSO submission more effective. My group work is good and when we discuss how to follow-up on our suggested recommendations I can provide input from my work in the field. **After the workshop, I will continue to support the Group Rapporteur in finalising the submission.***

*I learnt how to develop the CSO UPR submission and to express my concerns to the United Nations. The topic was new to me before the workshop as I have not previously engaged with the UN human rights system. The UPR is very important as it raises issues from the grassroot level to the global level. This is important to achieve policy change in Cambodia. **I will inform about the UPR to my colleagues who also work in labour rights and continue to use the UPR as a platform for national advocacy activities and to discuss with the Government.***

*I learnt how to develop a CSO submission. I have also learnt from other participants working on, for example, LGBTI. It changed my mindset. I am now more open to different views and perspectives. It contributes to change and triggers a discussion on what we want to achieve as a society. I have learnt about team work and to engage with national and international organisations. Our thematic group established a Facebook group to share relevant documents for our submission. **We will agree on a date for the next meeting to finalise the report. We also need to validate information to ensure that our sources are legitimate. We want to engage meaningfully and make SMART recommendations.***

*I learnt about the process of preparing a CSO submission and the useful opportunities of consultations. We can use the UPR to address key concerns in Cambodia throughout the UPR cycle. I found UPR Info's website very useful which will help us gaining information from the past review of Cambodia. I will bring this information to my colleagues in the indigenous communities. I also learnt about the concerns and UPR recommendations from other groups working on land, children, LGBT, and women. The workshop has been a useful resource in our advocacy work. **I will bring information and explain the process to my colleagues in indigenous organisations and communities so that they understand that we have the chance to engage with the UPR. I will conduct a meeting to gather ideas on how to write our CSO submission.***

# Annex 1: Agenda



## CIVIL SOCIETY SUBMISSION FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP IN PREPARATION OF THE THIRD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF CAMBODIA

May 2018  
Sunway Hotel  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

DAY 1 – May									
08.00 – 08.30	<b>Registration</b>								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Welcome</th> <th>and</th> <th>Opening</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>08:30 - 09:00</td> <td colspan="3"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li> <li>UPR Info</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Welcome	and	Opening	Remarks	08:30 - 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li> <li>UPR Info</li> </ul>		
Welcome	and	Opening	Remarks						
08:30 - 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li> <li>UPR Info</li> </ul>								
	<b>Session 1: Group presentation of roadmaps</b>								
09:00-11 :00	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>The Group Rapporteur of each thematic cluster introduces their finalised roadmaps with a focus on actions undertaken since the March workshop</i></p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gender/Women’s Rights/LGBTIQ/SOGIE</b> (Dana Wallack)</li> <li><b>Rights of the Child</b> (Bo Pao)</li> <li><b>Minorities and Indigenous Peoples</b> (Son Chum Chuon)</li> <li><b>Public health</b> (Li Pisey)</li> <li><b>Labour rights</b> (Yeng Virak Mary)</li> <li><b>Land and Natural Resources</b> (Bun Vanna)</li> <li><b>Elections</b> (Sin Titseiha)</li> <li><b>Access to Justice</b> (Céline Martin)</li> </ul> <p>Each group will have 10 minutes to speak, followed by 5 minutes Q&amp;A</p>								
11:00 – 11 :15	<b>Tea Break</b>								
	<b>Session 2: Joint discussion: Submission strategy</b>								

11:15 – 12:30	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>To establish a joint submission strategy. The discussion will address the merits and mutually reinforcing power of a cross-sectoral joint submission in addition to thematic joint submissions.</i></p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</li> <li>• UPR Info</li> </ul> <p>(30 minutes Q&amp;A)</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Session 3: Presentation of CSO submission template</b>	
13:30 – 14:30	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>To present a suggested template to facilitate joint and cross-sectoral CSO submissions.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UPR Info</li> </ul>
14:30 – 14:45	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 4: Group work</b>	
14:45 – 16:15	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Thematic working groups begin to draft their joint thematic submissions, using the template as a backdrop. Each group notes what information/sources they need to provide first-hand and credible evidence to their report.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> </ul>
<b>Session 5 continued: Group work</b>	
16:15 – 17:00	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Thematic working groups continue to develop their joint thematic submissions, using the template as a backdrop. Each group notes what information/sources it needs to provide first-hand and credible evidence to their report.</i></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> </ul>
17:00 – 17:15	<b>Wrap up of Day 1</b>

## DAY 2 – May

09:00 - 09:15	Recap: Addressing questions and comments from Day 1
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• UPR Info</li> </ul>
09:15 – 11:30	Session 5 continued: Group work
Facilitators	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Thematic working groups continue to develop their joint thematic submissions, using the template as a backdrop. Each group notes what information/sources it needs to provide first-hand and credible evidence to their report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• UPR Info</li> </ul>
11:30 – 11.45	Tea Break
11:45 – 12:30	Session 5 continued: Group work
Facilitators	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>Thematic working groups continue to develop their joint thematic submissions, using the template as a backdrop. Each group notes what information/sources it needs to provide first-hand and credible evidence to their report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambodian Center for Human Rights</li> <li>• Office in Cambodia of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• UPR Info</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:30	Session 6: Plenary presentations
Speakers	<p><b>Objective:</b> <i>The Group Rapporteur from each group presents a) the progress made in developing their joint submission, and b) what work remains, and what needs must be met, to finalise the submission.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender/Women’s Rights/LGBTIQ/SOGIE</b> (Dana Wallack)</li> <li>• <b>Rights of the Child</b> (Bo Pao)</li> <li>• <b>Minorities and Indigenous Peoples</b> (Son Chum Chuon)</li> <li>• <b>Public health</b> (Li Pisey)</li> <li>• <b>Labour rights</b> (Yeng Virak Mary)</li> <li>• <b>Land and Natural Resources</b> (Bun Vanna)</li> <li>• <b>Elections</b> (Sin Titseiha)</li> <li>• <b>Access to Justice</b> (Céline Martin)</li> </ul> <p>Each group will have 10 minutes to speak, followed by 5 minutes Q&amp;A</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Tea break

	Session 7: Next steps
15:45 - 16:30	<b>Objective:</b> <i>Discuss the finalization, and validation, of submissions.</i>
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UPR Info</li></ul>
16:30– 16:45	<b>Wrap up of Day 2</b>

## Contact

---



UPR Info  
Rue de Varembe 3  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland



Website <http://www.upr-info.org>



Phone: + 41 (0) 22 321 77 70  
Fax: + 41 (0) 22 321 77 71



*General enquiries*  
info@upr-info.org



<http://twitter.com/UPRInfo>



<http://www.facebook.com/UPRInfo>