

Concept Note

Topic: Forum on the implementation of CEDAW Convention “Towards Good Practice”

1. Background

With a large gender-based gap, a lot of works and focuses have done to address equality in Cambodia to meet the Millennium Development Goal 3 by 2015. Progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go to tackle gender equality issue that remains a concern in the Cambodian development context. As an observer, in some specific areas of regulation of the law and setting up legal framework have been improved in ensuring justice and remedies are benefited to victim as women and girls, especially in regards to violence against women and trafficking of women and girl issues. Women's economic and empowerment, one of the area that are making women significantly have a choice to be having a livelihood and eradicate from poverty working in a divers sectors of private sector e.g. domestic jobs, working in garment factory, private company and more increasing working public sector in the position of leadership and decision-making role as well. However, the picture remains one of significant inequity with women and girls attaining much lower levels of education; minimal progress in reducing maternal mortality; persistently high levels of domestic violence and sexual exploitation; the under-representation of women in decision-making roles; and inadequate resources to address gender discrimination within institutions.

The Royal Government of Cambodia signed CEDAW on 17 October 1980 and ratified it on 15 October 1992 without reservations. OP Protocol is then signed in 2010 to set up complaint mechanism and reporting case. The combined Initial, Second and Third periodic reports by the RGC were examined by the CEDAW Committee in January 2006 and a set of Concluding Observations was issued.

The 4th and 5th combined periodic reports on the implementation of CEDAW in Cambodia have successfully defended to the CEDAW Committee in October 2013. Critical components of the Convention were included in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia in 1993. Article “31” of the constitution reiterates that "The Kingdom of Cambodia shall recognize and respect human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women's and children's rights."

Cambodia has made lot of progress of CEDAW implementation, number of national laws and policies which responded gender equality have been enacted and promulgated and implemented. As results,

Domestic Violence Law enacted and regulated, 1st NAPVAW and gender equality policy (Neary Rattanak III) have been developed, and implemented. In a new mandate of the government 2014-2018, the better development and implementation of new policies and action plans are crucially needed for Cambodia to address the gender gaps and inequality in order to achieve MDG 's goal 3 and to address CEDAW Coinciding Observations in 2013. As result, several initiatives have been made towards development of 2nd National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women (2nd NAPVAW), new Neary Rattanak IV, new National Strategic Development Plan etc.). These key policies are expected to be adopted by government to implement. This will provide opportunity and framework for civil society organizations, development partners and UN agencies to contribute implementation, monitoring and tracking accountability of government.

So far, the focus of programmes included interventions and strategies designed by government agencies, development partners, Civil society and network are very much for implementation to ensure inequality is addressed; women are empowered in leading and public decision making roles and private sphere only in individual organizations. However, the gaps in making promising or good practices in this context of CEDAW and Women's Human Rights implementation to promote gender equality are big to document as a standard for accelerating learning and adaptation for others to increase programme intervention and for policy recommendation or legislative reforms are still limited to access for that good practice in Cambodia.

The result of forum on good practice on CEDAW implementation will attribute to the revision of the progress and challenges faced by and will identify ways forward for accelerating implementation MDG and post-2015 development agenda.

Additionally, the forum will create a national dialogue and network to better understand and respond how to identify the needs and join advocacy action improve the CEDAW convention. This forum will also provide opportunity to share experiences and expertise; reviewing success and challenges of services; identifying challenges; reviewing the application of CEDAW this included 52 Concluding Observations to Cambodia in 2013.

Five key areas of women issue will be raised for discussion in this conference. These issues are women's economic empowerment; Women and education; Women and health; Violence against women and women indecision making. We plan to bring the result of the discussion from the conference to reflect the challenge that women are facing and give as an input to Neary Rattanak IV which it is now under internal discussion of MoWA.

2. Objectives

- The forum aim to create a national dialogue for network to better understand and respond the need for the implementation of CEDAW convention in Cambodia.
- To open space for women and men discuss about women's situation in Cambodia which focused on 5 areas: women's economic empowerment; Women and education; Women and health; Violence against women;

	<p>Women in public decision making and politic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To share cases of good practices and challenges of frontline service providers and stakeholder. - Strategy to be success .
3. Expected Result	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Report integrated Good practices & challenges occur among service providers will be produced. 2. List of strategic recommendations addressing challenges will be produced and submit to MoWA.
4. Target Group	<p>Approx 60</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Network members (GADNet, CPWP,CMN, NGOs CEDAW, COP, WLSN Women for All) 2. Unions, Entertainment Workers, LGBT, Gender café groups, COP, WLSN and Gender Core group 3. Youth and Students
3. Process	(see below agenda for detail)
4. Timeframe	10-11 June 2014
5. Venue	Sunway
6. M&E	Report of the conference shared among participants attaching with follow up action plan resulted from the conference.
7. Reference	

Proposed Agenda

Date/Time	Activity description	Responsible person + Facilitator
Day1		
7:30-8:00	Registration	GADC
8:00-8:10	-Announce forum objective and expected results -Briefly presenting agenda	MC
8:10-9:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Remarks by GADC - Welcome remarks by UN Women - Opening Remarks by MoWA 	GADC, UN Women & MoWA
9:00-9:30	Video show "Women status"	GADC
09:30-90:45	Coffee Break	GADC
09:45-10:45	Penal discussion 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Existing policies/laws for women protection 2. National Policy to empowerment women "draft Neary Rattanak IV" 3. Linkage between Neary Rattanak and CEDAW framework" 	Representative from MOJ Representative from UN Women Representative from MoWA
10:45-11:15	Question and Answer	
11:15-11:35	Presentation on LBT	Representation from CamASEAN/Rock
11:35-12:00	Question and Answer	
12:00-1:20	Lunch Break	GADC
1:30-3:00	Group Discussion on women issues	GADC
3:00-3:15	Coffee break	GADC

3:15-4:20	Gallery Walk Group members will walk around and comment on other groups finding and write down as talk.	GADC
4:20-5:00	Summing up results Reflection	GADC
Day2:		
7:30-8:00	Registration	GADC
8:00-8:10	Recap day 1	GADC
8:10-09:10	Group discussion on best practice by sectors	Participants
9:10-10:00	Presentation by sector groups	Participants
10:00-10:15	Coffee break	
10:15-11:15	Penal discussion 2 1. Women's economic empowerment 2. Women and education 3. Women and health	Representative from Hiefer, Khana, World Educaiton
11:15-12:00	Question and Answer	Participants
12:00-1:30	Lunch break	
1:30-3:00	Penal discussion3 1. Mechanism to support women in community 2. Women in public decision making and politics. 3. Women access to justice	Representative from GADC, community people, WLSN, Silaka and LSCW
3:00-3:30	Question and Answer	
3:30-03:45	Coffee break	GADC
03:45-04:30	Group discussion on action plan	
4:30-5:00	Summing Up and Closing	GADC