



CAMBODIA
CANDIDATE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2013–2014



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Front cover pictures: Angkor Thom South Gate, Cambodian U.N. peace-keeping soldiers

Back cover picture: Angkor Wat at sunrise

A PROUD CANDIDATE

The Royal Government of Cambodia takes great pride in submitting itself as a candidate for the United Nations Security Council.

The Council comprises five permanent members – China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States; and ten non-permanent members, each serving a two-year term.

Cambodia is seeking election for a non-permanent seat allocated to the Asia regional group for the two-year period running from January 2013 to December 2014.

The election will be held during the 67th Session of the General Assembly in 2012 with all 192 UN member countries eligible to vote.

Cambodia has already received firm pledges of support from the nine other nations in the ASEAN region and now looks forward to receiving the backing of the wider U.N. community.

If elected, Cambodia is totally committed to working tirelessly in the best interests of the international community.

HOW THE SECURITY COUNCIL WORKS

The United Nations Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

It can investigate any situation which might lead to international friction and recommend how such a dispute might be settled. It also has the powers to call on member countries to apply economic sanctions or, as a last resort, instigate military action against an aggressor.

A representative of each Security Council member must be present at all times at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Presidency of the Security Council is held in turn by its members, with each president holding office for one calendar month.

“Cambodia has been transformed from a war-torn nation grateful to receiving assistance from UN forces to one which now proudly contributes to UN peace-keeping missions in other troubled countries.”

The Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Samdech Hun Sen

- 1. Bayon Temple, Angkor
- 2. Cambodia's Prime Minister, H.E. Samdech Hun Sen
- 3. Terrace of the Leper King, Angkor
- 4. Independence Monument, Phnom Penh
- 5. Apsara dancers

THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Form of government: Democratic Constitutional Monarchy

Head of State: H.M. King Norodom Sihamoni

Prime Minister: H.E. Samdech Hun Sen

Capital: Phnom Penh

Official Language: Khmer

Currency: Cambodian Riel

Area: 181,035 square kilometres

No. of provinces: 24

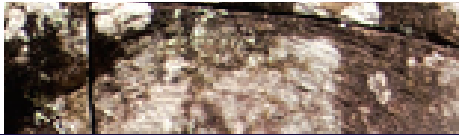
No. of districts: 185

No. of communes: 1,621

Cambodia has been a member of the United Nations since 1955.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND UN BODIES IN CAMBODIA

- Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
- UNDP United Nations Development Program
- UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNOHCHR United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia
- UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
- WHO World Health Organization
- WFP World Food Program
- ILO International Labor Organization
- FRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross
- IOM International Organization for Migration



TIME TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK

Since becoming a full member of the United Nations in 1955, Cambodia has benefited greatly from the U.N’s leadership and support.

Never more so than in 1991 when in the presence of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Cambodia’s four main political factions signed the Paris Peace Agreement which signalled the end of nearly three decades of war, genocide and isolation.

Cambodia warmly welcomed the work of the United Nations Transitional Authorities in Cambodia (UNTAC) to implement the peace accord. This provided a framework for the development of a multi-party, liberal democratic system of government - and a market economy.

Twenty years on and with its economy growing robustly under the inspired leadership of Prime Minister H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Cambodia would like to have the opportunity of showing its appreciation to the United Nations by taking a much more active role in serving the international community.

COMMITTED TO COOPERATION AND NEUTRALITY

The Royal Government of Cambodia has always faithfully and strongly committed itself to the core purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

These include taking effective, collective measures to prevent and remove any threat to world peace and developing friendly relations among nations.

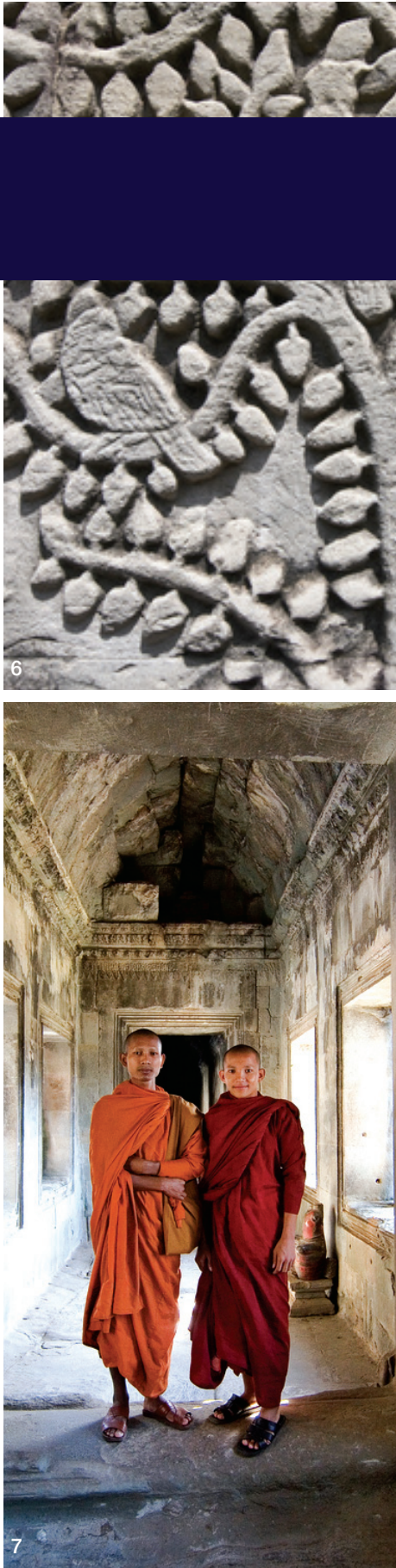
Cambodia is a strong supporter of multilateralism and the United Nations’ stance of encouraging disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons.

Cambodia also wants to see countries working together to tackle global challenges such as terrorism, cross-border crime and environmental protection.

This approach is mirrored in Cambodia’s own foreign policy which is based on the principles of neutrality, cooperation, friendship and peaceful co-existence with other countries around the globe.

If elected to the UN Security Council, Cambodia undertakes to serve in the best interests of all member nations, carrying out its duties and responsibilities in the spirit of transparency, partnership and universality.

6. Detail of wall carving, Bayon Temple, Angkor
7. Two young monks at Angkor
8. A happy, smiling flute-seller
9. Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hor Namhong (left) meets U.N. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon; September 2010



TIME TO LISTEN TO NEW VOICES

Cambodia fully understands the pain and suffering inflicted by war and internal conflict and attaches great importance to preventing and resolving potential difficulties wherever they arise.

Cambodia believes passionately that it can make a valuable contribution to the work of the United Nations Security Council.

Nearly 40% of UN Member States have never served on the Security Council and had the opportunity to influence affairs at the highest level.

Cambodia would represent a new voice; one of the world’s smaller countries - but one with big ambitions. Not only for its own people but for the wider international community.

As one of the poorer countries which did not create the problems of climate change, Cambodia now finds itself as one of the potential victims. It wants to see the United Nations continuing to play a vital role in leading the debate on this issue.

COMMITTED TO REFORMS

Cambodia would use its position on the Security Council to press for significant reforms to the way the United Nations operates to create a more transparent, coherent and effective organisation.

This would include seeking changes to the UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which was established under the U.N.Charter as the principal body to coordinate the work of 14 specialised agencies and commissions.

Cambodia believes ECOSOC needs to become more relevant and efficient. There also needs to be greater democracy within the policy-making process to create more of an equal balance between the needs of developing countries and more prosperous nations.

“We need political determination and solidarity to reach a climate change agreement which is global, effective and fair. The responsibility lies with all of us, industrial countries and emerging economies alike; to take the decisions which will so profoundly shape the future of humankind.”

The Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Samdech Hun Sen



KEEPING THE PEACE

From being a country which has required the services of United Nations peace-keeping troops, Cambodia now feels both pride and humility in being in the position where it offers its own troops to assist with U.N. missions.

Cambodia’s involvement in U.N. peace-keeping work began in April 2006 when it sent troops to southern Sudan to help with the clearing of landmines - and where Cambodian soldiers still remain.

Cambodia has also been a contributor to operations in Chad, the Central African Republic and, most recently, in Lebanon.

PEACE-KEEPING EXERCISE

Cambodia has also hosted a major United Nations peace-keeping exercise involving more than 1,000 soldiers from 20 countries including the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, India, Japan and Mongolia.

As part of Angkor Sentinel 2010, field training exercises were held at the headquarters of the Cambodian Army’s Tank Command in Kampong Speu province. They included checkpoint and convoy operations, securing distribution sites and disarmament areas, patrolling and organising cordons and searches.

“Peace-keeping forces come from nations large and small, rich and poor; some of them are countries recently afflicted by war themselves. They bring different cultures and experiences to the job, but they are united in their determination to foster peace. Thanks to their efforts, life-saving humanitarian assistance can be delivered and economic development can begin.”

Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon

- 10. Landmine clearance in Sudan
- 11. Cambodian peace-keeping soldier, Sudan
- 12. U.N. military training exercise, Cambodia
- 13. Aspiring to become one of the world's top rice-exporting countries
- 14. Young postcard sellers at Bayon Temple, Angkor
- 15. Kep is famous for crab fishing
- 16. Water buffalo are a common sight in rural areas



ON TARGET TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

The global financial crisis has not stopped Cambodia from focusing on the eight United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2000 and set to be achieved by 2015.

The goals provide a framework for the entire international community to work together for a common purpose which will save tens of millions of lives and offer billions of people worldwide the opportunity to benefit from the global economy.

Recognising that its development and future prosperity is still being hampered by the presence of thousands of landmines, Cambodia voluntarily added a ninth Millennium goal; namely to work towards the removal of all landmines and unexploded devices from Cambodian soil by 2020.

According to a recent study by the Overseas Development Institute, Cambodia is one of 20 countries making the most progress in achieving the goals.

As part of its campaign to tackle poverty and reduce child mortality, the Royal Cambodian Government has catapulted increasing food production to the top of its agenda. It plans to substantially improve agricultural methods and irrigation to massively increase rice production with the aim of becoming one of the world’s top rice-exporting countries.

“The Millennium Development Goals can be met by 2015, but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale up action now. It is not in the United Nations that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each of its Member States, by the joint efforts of their governments and people.”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, 1997-2006

THE EIGHT UNIVERSAL MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

