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Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 25 June 2026

CAMBODIA UNITES CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO SHAPE THE ASEAN ENABLING MASTERPLAN POST-2025

National Consultation Workshop Delivers Bold Recommendations on Disability Rights, Tax Reform, and Digital Inclusion

PHNOM PENH — On 25 June 2026, the Disability Youth Network Organization (DYNO), Cambodian Disabled People’s Organisation (CDPO) the ADF Steering Committee Cambodia, and The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) convened a landmark National Consultation Workshop at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh. Bringing together 45 participants from government ministries, UN agencies, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), international NGOs, and academic institutions, the workshop generated concrete national inputs to inform the Zero Draft of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan Post-2025 — a pivotal regional policy framework shaping disability rights across Southeast Asia.

The workshop was supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Save the Children/SIDA, and the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF). It forms part of a critical regional process to ensure the voices of Cambodian youth, women, and persons across the full cross-disability spectrum are meaningfully integrated into ASEAN’s post-2025 policy architecture — in full alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

H.E Yeap Malino, representative of the Ministry of Veterans and Social Affairs said that the government has very strong commitments and made good progress including signing up to the UNCRPD, adopted Law on Disability, and Strategic Plan and mechanisms to implement the plan that protect and provide benefits to the PWD. Cambodia has been rated as one of the champion countries in ASEAN in disability sector.

“This consultation is not just a workshop — it is a declaration that Cambodia’s disability community must be seen, heard, and included at every level of ASEAN policymaking. Our recommendations today will be our accountability tomorrow.”— *Mr. Ngin Saorath, Executive President, DYNO / ADF Steering Committee Cambodia*

He further calls to:

- Strengthen OPD networks and promote the active participation of persons with disabilities in advocacy at the national and ASEAN levels.
- Expand livelihood pathways for persons with disabilities through inclusive economic programs that integrate digital skills and entrepreneurship support.”

Mr. Soeung Saroeun, Executive Director of The NGO Forum on Cambodia, stated: “All stakeholders have obligations to ensure that no one is left behind. Civil society would like to call on ASEAN governments, especially the Cambodian government, to:



- Ensure full and meaningful accessibility for all persons with disabilities (PWDs) across public spaces, services, and information systems.
- Introduce tax exemptions on assistive devices, tools, and equipment used by persons with disabilities to reduce financial barriers and promote independent living
- Enable persons with disabilities to access dedicated funds for skills development, livelihood opportunities, and digital support to foster economic inclusion.

It is noted that the outputs of this national consultation will be formally submitted to the ASEAN Disability Forum and relevant ASEAN bodies to directly inform the Zero Draft of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan Post-2025, ensuring Cambodia's civil society voices shape the region's most consequential disability policy framework in the coming decade.

MEDIA CONTACT

Disability Youth Network Organization (DYNO)

Executive Director: **Mr. Ngin Saorath**

Website: www.dynokh.org

Phone: +855 71 705 5563

Communications Team, NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)

Mr. SOEUNG Saroeun, Executive Director

Email: saroeun@ngoforum.org.

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