



SENATE

STATEMENT
of the Senate Spokesperson of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Responding to the Thai Senate President's Statement

1. The spokesperson of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia notes with regret the statement issued by the President of the Senate of Thailand in reaction to the remarks delivered by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the opening of the Second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC-2) in Phnom Penh on 27 August 2026.
2. The remarks of **Samdech Techo Hun Sen** provide an account of the actual situation that has unfolded and continues to prevail in relation to Thailand's aggression against Cambodia's territorial integrity. They are of strategic importance in upholding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this spirit, the Spokesperson of the Senate of Cambodia wishes to highlight the following:

First, The reference to the issue of "online scams" clearly illustrates how the fight against transnational crime has been invoked by Thailand as a justification for the use of force, aggression against, and occupation of Cambodian territory. Although combating transnational crime is both necessary and legitimate, such cooperation must never be used to circumvent the fundamental principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the prohibition of the use of force. In this context, the concept of "modern warfare" serves as a reminder that coercion in the contemporary era can take diverse and interconnected forms, combining security justifications, military operations, information warfare, and attempts to create a fait accompli on the ground.

Second, The reference to attacks on civilian structures is important from the perspective of international humanitarian law. If the sites alleged to be military targets were, in fact, civilian in nature, they are protected under the fundamental principle of distinction between civilian objects and military objectives. Accordingly, any legal

assessment should be based on independently verifiable facts concerning the nature and actual use of those sites.

Third, the most strategically significant point is the warning against the “salami-slicing strategy,” which refers to the danger of successive and incremental changes to the situation on the ground that may subsequently be used as a basis to support territorial claims. This clearly reflects Thailand’s undeniable tactic of creating a fait accompli on Cambodian territory.

3. With regard to the assertions by the President of the Thai Senate that Cambodia “fired first,” that Thailand acted within the framework of the legitimate right of self-defense, that Thailand has strictly complied with the Joint Statement of 27 December 2025, and that Cambodia’s position constitutes an attempt to “portray itself as a victim,” these remain unilateral assertions by the Thai side. They are no different from propaganda aimed at distorting the truth, turning white into black and black into white, and misleading public opinion in an attempt to conceal its acts of aggression against Cambodia’s territorial integrity. One party cannot act as the claimant and, at the same time, as the judge of its own claims.
4. Cambodia cannot accept any interpretation of the Joint Statement of 27 December 2025 that would transform a ceasefire arrangement into recognition of sovereignty over territory, or into recognition of any rights arising from military presence or control over Cambodia’s sovereign territory, including in disputed areas or areas where the boundary has not yet been fully surveyed and demarcated.
5. A ceasefire cannot be invoked as a justification for creating new rights over territory, legalizing the unlawful occupation of territory, or consolidating a situation created unilaterally into a fait accompli on the ground. Questions of sovereignty and boundary delimitation must be resolved in accordance with applicable treaties and agreements, international law, and the peaceful dispute-settlement mechanisms available to both parties.
6. The statement by the President of the Thai Senate also asserts that the dispute “should not be internationalised.” Cambodia has no intention of turning a bilateral dispute into an international issue for any political purpose. If Thailand genuinely wishes to avoid further attention from the international community regarding the situation, the most effective course is not to demand that Cambodia remain silent, but rather to address the underlying causes and realities on the ground that have

given rise to such concerns, namely: to withdraw its forces from Cambodian territory and to cease all activities that alter the situation on the ground or create a fait accompli on Cambodian territory, and to allow displaced Cambodian civilians to return safely and with dignity to their homes.

7. The attention of the international community is not the cause of the problem, but rather a consequence of the realities on the ground. Therefore, the surest way to prevent this issue from continuing to be a matter of concern to the international community is to restore respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, fully comply with international law and existing commitments, and resolve all outstanding issues peacefully through the existing and appropriate mechanisms.
8. In this context, the responsible use of regional and international mechanisms should not be regarded as confrontational. Peaceful legal and diplomatic procedures are established precisely to enable States to clarify their respective positions, prevent the escalation of tensions, reduce misunderstandings, and resolve disputes in an orderly manner and in accordance with law. These mechanisms also contribute to the pursuit of just and lasting solutions. Such mechanisms foster confidence by promoting transparency, accountability, legal certainty, and restraint. International law remains an essential safeguard against coercion, uncertainty, and the abuse of power.
9. Cambodia agrees that mutual trust, restraint, sincerity, and integrity are essential to peaceful relations between neighbouring countries. However, confidence-building must be reciprocal and demonstrated through consistent conduct, not merely through words. Confidence cannot be expected to be built by one side alone while impartial procedures are obstructed, selectively interpreted to serve one side's interests, or abandoned. Likewise, calls for dialogue cannot be credible when actions on the ground increase tensions and undermine confidence. Respect for international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes therefore remain indispensable to lasting peace and stability.



Phnom Penh, 30 August, 2026