



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

PRESS RELEASE

**Cambodia Reaffirms Its Commitment to Human Rights and Calls for
the Safe and Dignified Return of Displaced Cambodians to Their Homes
Without Obstruction in Accordance with International Law**

Geneva, 8 October 2026 – Cambodia reaffirmed its strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights through its active participation in the 63rd regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), held from 7 September to 7 October 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Throughout the session, the Permanent Mission of Cambodia actively engaged in interactive dialogues, panel discussions and general debates through delivery of 20 statements covering a broad range of human rights issues, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; inequalities; the right to development; human rights education; climate financing; trafficking in persons; arbitrary detention; enforced disappearances; international order; women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations; international cooperation; and the human rights situation in Cambodia.

During the Interactive Dialogue with Mr. Thomas Andrews, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, on 2 October, Cambodia reaffirmed its commitment to constructive engagement and continued cooperation with the mandate, while stressing the importance of a fair and balanced assessment of the country's human rights progress and challenges.

Cambodia particularly appreciated the Special Rapporteur's attention to the urgent human rights consequences of the Cambodia–Thailand border conflict and



called for the safe and dignified return of more than 20,000 displaced Cambodians to their homes in accordance with international law. Cambodia also called for the full and good-faith implementation of the 27 December 2025 Joint Statement in its entirety and expressed strong support for the Special Rapporteur's call for Cambodia and Thailand to facilitate the return of displaced civilians.

On online scams, Cambodia underscored the need for collective action and close international cooperation, highlighting strengthened law enforcement and the Phnom Penh Declaration, adopted at the International Conference on Combating Online Scams hosted by Cambodia on 23–24 September, which commits to disrupting transnational criminal networks, protecting victims and strengthening international cooperation.

During the presentation of the UN Secretary-General's report on the role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia, held on 2 October, Cambodia reaffirmed its longstanding cooperation with OHCHR. It stressed that its approach to human rights is shaped by its experience of war and division; with peace, stability, development, the strengthened rule of law and the enhanced economic well-being of the Cambodian people remaining central national priorities.

Cambodia also highlighted its continued engagement with the international human rights system, including adherence to eight of the nine core international human rights treaties, participation in all four cycles of the Universal Periodic Review, ongoing legal and judicial reforms, and more than three decades of cooperation with OHCHR through technical assistance and capacity-building.

On civic space and the rule of law, Cambodia stressed that fundamental freedoms of Cambodian people are constitutionally protected and that individual cases should be assessed on their specific facts, applicable law and due process. It also called for human rights assessments to be based on verified information, objectivity and national circumstances.

Cambodia further called upon the United Nations to play a more proactive and constructive role in engaging with all parties concerned to address the safe and



dignified return of the displaced Cambodians arising from the Cambodia–Thailand border conflict in accordance with international law, while reaffirming its commitment to continued constructive cooperation with OHCHR.

In support of multilateral cooperation and solidarity, Cambodia joined the collective efforts of ASEAN Member States and other regional and international partners, calling for greater attention and action on important human rights issues related to technical assistance and capacity-building; recalibrating international human rights governance; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance; the human right to safe drinking water; International Equal Pay Day; terrorism and human rights; human rights and the impacts of El Niño; and immunization, vaccination and the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Cambodia's active participation in the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council underscores its continued commitment to constructive dialogue, multilateral cooperation and engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. The Kingdom remains committed to working with the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur and international partners to advance peace, sustainable development and the promotion and protection of human rights for all.

