



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
And International Cooperation

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In light of the recent outpour of media reports alleging the Government's interference with the function of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia wishes to clarify the position of the Royal Government of Cambodia on this matter as follows:

The Royal Government of Cambodia has never interfered and will never interfere in the function of the ECCC. Since the establishment of the ECCC, the Royal Government of Cambodia has maintained its full respect for the independence of the Tribunal, and understands very well that it is at the exclusive discretion of the ECCC to decide who to indict according to the Agreement signed between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2003.

However, the Royal Government of Cambodia has the primary duty to protect peace and national reconciliation without which socio-economic development of the country as seen today would not have been possible. Therefore, it is its responsibility to voice concern over any development that would endanger peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

It should be recalled that despite the deployment of around 22,000 international peacekeepers during the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) between 1992 and 1993 and over US\$ 1.5 billion in expenditure, the people of Cambodia were not able to fully enjoy peace and security. The Khmer Rouge faction, which was accepted in the 1991 Paris Peace Accord as a legal entity for the United Nations supervised election in 1993 continued to wage war until 1998.

Complete peace, national territorial unity and reconciliation was achieved only in 1998 after the Royal Government Cambodia launched a Win-Win policy, which led to the surrender and defection of the core Khmer Rouge leaders and fighters en masse, and finally the disintegration of the Khmer Rouge both as a political and military force. Indeed, the Win-Win policy was a price to pay in order to bring complete peace, national territorial unity and national reconciliation.

The Win-Win policy also paved the way for the successful establishment of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal to bring the "senior leaders" and "most responsible" of the Khmer Rouge to justice in accordance with the Agreement on this matter, signed between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2003.

Phnom Penh, 12 October 2011

