
Concept Note
Consultative Workshop on Reviewing and Providing Feedback on LANGO
Analysis and the Proposed Amendment Input

Date: 26 September 2023 (08:30 AM – 04:30 PM)

Venue: Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh

I. Introduction

The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), a leading membership-based organization for local and foreign organizations in Cambodia, has played a role since the 1990s in building capacity and promoting an enabling environment for CSOs. CCC has been actively working for over three decades as an enabling agent to facilitate CSOs collective efforts, institutional governance, and accountable actions for CSOs to advance the pace of democratic and sustainable development in Cambodia. Currently, CCC is implementing its fourth phase of the Governance Hub Program (GHP 2021-2023) under the vision of sustainable and democratic development in Cambodia and two goals: 1) improved enabling environment for CSOs; and 2) sustainability and functionality of CSO Resource Hub at the national and sub-national levels.

In response to the development of laws and regulations related to CSOs formation, operation, and activities, CCC, in the last several years, has been engaging CSOs, representing all sectors at the local and national levels, and from both the national and international organization to join collective advocacy and dialogues. The issues and approaches have been discussed with NGOs and other stakeholders in a variety of forums, and it provides CSOs with opportunities and serves as a platform for CSOs to influence the development of these legislations. Since the law was adopted in 2015, CCC has played a role in facilitating dissemination and capacitating CSOs about the Law on Association and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) and advocating reform of the legal framework to improve the enabling environment for CSOs.

Since November 2019, CCC, together with the CSOs Working Group on the LANGO Amendment, has participated in a series of meetings and dialogues with the Government Working Group (WG) in order to discuss the proposal for the law amendment. In this process, previously, the LANGO Working Group submitted CSOs input to the Ministry of Interior (MoI)/Government WG and proposed amending 14 articles of LANGO. CSOs' input was developed through a series of consultative workshops with CCC members and NGOs partners, which included 500 organizations, both at the national and sub-national levels. CCC and LANGO WG used this input as a common position to discuss with MoI/Government WG. However, the discussion had been pending due to the COVID-19 pandemic until late 2022. On 20 October 2022, MoI invited LANGO WG to continue the discussion on the proposed LANGO amendment. In the meeting, MoI provided a document on the proposed amendment provisions in response to the CSO proposal/input for amendment. The response document from MoI showed that several provisions of LANGO were integrated CSO's input and several others remained the same. Furthermore, MoI/Government WG proposed to add new legal content/text to the original version of LANGO, and those additional contents can be more restricted on freedom of association and CSOs activities. This becomes a new concern for CSOs, if the proposed amendment LANGO will be passed into law.

Due to the proposed new legal content from the MoI/Government WG, it is essential for CCC and LANGO WG to study and analyze the additional content from MoI in order to prepare input and recommendations for further discussion. In this regard, CCC requested the support from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to assist in conducting legal analysis and legal comparison. Furthermore, CCC also

sought support from an experienced lawyer to conduct the analysis and prepare recommendations for the legal amendment.

Therefore, CCC will organize a **Consultative Meeting on "Reviewing and Providing Feedback on LANGO Analysis and the Proposed Amendment Input" on September 26, 2023, at the Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh.** This meeting aims to provide members, partners, and other stakeholders a platform to share their comments, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the draft legal analysis.

II. Objective:

- To share the preliminary result of the analysis of the LANGO amendment proposals between the request of the CSOs Working Group and the Government's Working Group to participants.
- Collect additional input and comments from CCC members, the Provincial NGO Network, and relevant NGOs partners in order to prepare inputs (proposed amendment) for submission to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) for further discussion.
- To review the draft legal analysis of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)'s legal consultant, provide written comments, and consolidate all the comments.

III. Participants:

The workshop is expected to have approximately 100-130 participants who are CCC members, CSO partners, Provincial NGO Network, and other relevant stakeholders.

IV. Tentative Agenda:

Time	Description of Activity	Responsible Person
8:30 – 8:40 AM	Introduction	Sar Mory
8:40 – 9:00 AM	General update on the process and progress of the LANGO Amendment	LANGO WG (TBC)
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Presentation on “Preliminary result of the analysis of the LANGO amendment proposals between the request of the CSOs Working Group and the Government's Working Group”.	Lawyer Sok Sam Oeun
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Coffee break	All
10:15 – 11:00 AM	Question and discussion	Lawyer Sok Sam Oeun
11:00 – 12:00 PM	Presentation and review of the legal analysis of the SDC Consultant	Sar Mory
12:00 – 01:30 PM	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00 PM	Provide feedback/comments and consolidate written comment	All
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Wrap up and closing	LANGO WG (TBC)

Note: The meeting's languages will be available in Khmer and English. Organizers reserve the right to alter the agenda depending on time constraints and the availability of speakers. Some of the pictures and key ideas will be quoted and shared in public through the organizers' social media and website. <http://www.ccc-cambodia.org/en/resources/event-archives>
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