

CONCEPT NOTE

CCC MEMBERS 279TH BI-MONTHLY MEETING ON “CSO’S FUNDING TREND AND PREPAREDNESS IN CAMBODIA’S GRADUATION FROM LDC STATUS”

Date: 21 May 2025 (Time: 1:30pm - 4:30pm)

Venue: Anik Palace Hotel

Introduction

Cambodia civil society organizations (CSOs) are facing the emerging trend of funding, resulted from various factors. One of the factors is the graduation of Cambodia from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2030. This shift marks a critical transition period with broad implications for the country’s development landscape, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), trade privileges, and donor priorities. Civil Society Organizations, as essential actors in development and social accountability, must adapt to these changing dynamics to remain relevant and impactful.

In addition, the shifting of donors’ funding priority and the impact of US funding have sent a clear signal that the funding landscape in Cambodia is now shifted in a new era that requires CSOs to work together to identify the challenges, prepare for the current and upcoming funding situation and find solutions to ensure the sustainability of funding for their operations, contributing to the development of Cambodia.

CCC, as the secretariat of the CSOs members, has put efforts in preparing members for the funding situation. The survey on the US funding impact on CSOs in Cambodia was conducted immediately since the announcement. The results were used as the reference for the CCC and its member to discuss on the important topic “Local-led development and CSOs Resiliency” during the annual general meeting on 21 March 2025.

To continue the discussion on evolving trends and the CSO funding landscape, the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) is pleased to invite members in senior management roles to the bi-monthly meeting on 21 May 2025. This gathering will provide a timely opportunity for CCC members to explore the trend, share strategies, and focus on the development of a collective CSO roadmap to navigate the transition period effectively.

The meeting assembled with CCC members will serve as networking event for CCC members, especially new members. In addition, the current situation Cambodia moving toward graduation from Least Developed Country status and implications for the CSOs will be shared and discussed; therefore, it can be a better response to the current rapid changes, civil society environment, and other trends.

Objectives

- 1) To share the current and emerging trends and funding landscape affecting CSOs’ sustainability and operation during Cambodia’s transition from LDC status,
- 2) To explore opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and sustainability within the CSO sector.
- 3) To strengthen the collective voice of CSOs in engaging with development partners and the government during the transition period

Meeting Agenda

Time	Key Agenda	Facilitator
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Registration and networking among members (coffee)	CCC and All
2:00pm	National anthem	MC
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Welcome and key opening remarks - Update from CCC's achievement - Handover certificates to new members	Ms. Sin Putheary, Executive Director of CCC
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Presentation on "Local-led Development and CSOs resiliency" - Trend: Finance for International Development - Cambodia: Least Developed Country (LDC) Graduation - Recommendations and Way forward Questions and Answer	Ms. Sin Putheary, Executive Director, CCC
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Group discussion on "Local-led development and CSOs Resiliency" Key discussion points: 1) Diversification of source funding for sustainability (private, government, and development partners) 2) Providing the Capacity Building to NGOs in the transition of graduation LDC 3) Advocate for policy reform/collective advocacy Questions: - How? - Who? - When?	Mr. Hong Reaksmeay, EXCOM of CCC, Country Director of Save the Children
4:00pm-4:30pm	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks	Mr. Chea Vibol, Head of Communications and Membership Development, CCC
4:30pm	Networking	All

Note:

- The meeting will be available in Khmer and English languages. Organizer reserves 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 organizer's social media and website:
<https://www.ccc-cambodia.org/en/resources/event-archives>
www.facebook.com/CCCSince1990 www.youtube.com/CCCambodia

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