



Concept Note

“Common Advocacy Strategies to Improved Enabling Environment in Cambodia”

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I. Introduction

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has recently been committed to fast track the adoption of many laws including the Law on Associations and NGOs, Cybercrime Law, Law on Status of Judges and Prosecutors, Law on Organization and Functioning of the Courts, Laws of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, Law on Management and Use of Agricultural Land, and Law on Trade Unions etc. The adoption of these laws is seen at different paces. Some laws have already been drafted and consulted with numerous stakeholder groups, including experts from civil society, the private sector, legal and academic experts to ensure the transparency and accountability of the government while some laws have been sent for approval from the National Assembly and Senate without any point open for public consultation. Moreover, the analysis from different sources such as from independent analyst, from local NGOs, from international NGOs and others have been made available for some prioritized laws which are believed to be more sensitive and crucially affect the benefits, democratic space, enabling environment, and rights of the Cambodian citizens.

Looking back to the experiences that Civil Society has operated so far, the working approach of CSOs in Cambodia is often viewed as competition rather than collaboration and mutual support. Moreover, CSOs in Cambodia still operated in a more traditional ways so that individual CSO can be easily influenced and driven by the government and/or development partners resulting a fragmented and weak sector in the future. This somehow affects the competency and preparedness of CSOs to become inclusive and effective partners of development. Many recommendations have been made that it would be more productive if all forms of CSOs can work together to develop common strategic vision identifying clear direction, clear roles and key focuses for CSO in Cambodia so that they can better prepare and have stronger harmonization in responding to national and global development trends. Solidarity and harmonization among CSOs needs to be reinforced in the meantime so that they can build a strong voice to advocate with emerging issues in Cambodia particularly those that are related to the laws/regulation/policy formulation.

Recently, many discussions among CSO leaders have been made in respond to the current context of Cambodia development particularly to the law, regulation and policy development since this has significant impacts on the enabling environment or CSOs to operate in Cambodia. CSOs agreed to prioritize and take common actions on seven draft laws including Law on Associations and NGOs, Cybercrime Law, Law on Status of Judges and Prosecutors, Law on Organization and Functioning of

the Courts, Laws of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, Law on Management and Use of Agricultural Land, and Law on Trade Unions. Key results produced from the discussions so far were the consolidation of all available analysis of the recent laws mentioned above, and to work out the common advocacy strategies to amplify their perspective and meaningful partnership in development. Compilation of the analysis of these laws has been classified based on the following common criteria: priorities, benefits, consequences, and impacts of the laws on the rights and freedom of the Cambodian citizens as guaranteed by the National Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Furthermore, there is still a need for civil society to come together in a big scale to be informed, to discuss and to agree on the common advocacy strategy that CSOs can use to advocate for an improved enabling environment in Cambodia.

Given the aforementioned context, the Civil Society Organizations in Cambodia plan to organize a workshop on “**Common Advocacy Strategies to Improved Enabling Environment in Cambodia**” to be held on **09 July 2014** at KSSA Building in Phnom Penh to specifically provide civil society organizations and other interested parties: 1) the up to date information and analysis of the forthcoming laws and 2) to develop common advocacy strategies for CSOs to address these laws related issues. It is expected that once the consolidated analysis and advocacy strategies are done, it is possible for all relevant stakeholders especially the civil society organizations to use common messages and doing advocacy campaign up on their target and approach better enabling environment in Cambodia.

II. Objectives:

1. To share analysis and concerns on the seven draft laws
2. To discuss and consolidate the CSO's joint statement on the current draft laws
3. To discuss and collect inputs for joint communication and advocacy efforts on these laws
4. To identify prioritized actions to execute the communication and advocacy plan

III. Deliverable Results:

1. At least 150-200 participants from different types of civil society organizations informed of key aspects of the draft laws and ready to joint efforts
2. A CSO's joint statement finalized and shared to public.
3. A set of communication and advocacy strategies identified and agreed in principal
4. Prioritized near term actions and means of implementing those actions identified and agreed

IV. Participants:

Around 150-200 participants from Non-Governmental Organizations, Associations, Community Based Organization, NGO Provincial Network representatives, informal groups, and people from grass root level are expected to participate in the workshop. The honored speakers/panelist will be invited from CSOs representative, lawyers and independent consultants who are knowledgeable and have good understanding on the above issues.

V. Agenda

Timeframe	Sessions	Facilitators
7:30 am-8:00 am	Registration	Organizers
8:00 am-8:05 am	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Anthem - Purpose and objectives of workshop 	Mr. Mi Nac Advocacy Specialist of CCC
8:05 am-8:15 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Mr. Soeung Saroeun Executive Director of CCC
8:15 am-10:00 am	Session 1: Present keys finding of draft laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key concerns of the three draft laws related to the court and judiciary (10mn) - Key concerns of the draft Trade Union Law (10mn) - Key concerns of the draft Law on Management and Use of Agricultural Land (10mn) - Key concerns of the draft NGO Law and Cybercrime Law (10mn) <p>Q&A</p>	Moderator: Mr. Suon Bunsak , Executive Secretary of CHRAC Mr. Duch Piseth Project Coordinator of CCHR Mr. Moeun Tola Program Manager of CLEC Mr. Theng Savoeun Coordinator of CCFC Mr. Andrew Boname Chief of Party of EWMI
10:00 am- 10:20 am	Refreshment	All
10:20 am-12:00pm	Session 2: Joint Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of initial draft statement (15mn) - Group discussion by table (40mn), - Comments and finalization of the statement (45mn) 	Mr. Soeung Saroeun Executive Director of CCC
12:00 pm-13:30 pm	Lunch break	
13:30 pm-14:15 pm	Session 3: Road map, communication and	Mr. Lam Soheat Deputy Director of API

Timeframe	Sessions	Facilitators
	<p>advocacy strategies</p> <p>Presentation of the draft road map, communication and advocacy strategies</p>	
14:15 pm-15:15pm	<p>Session 4: Group discussion</p> <p>Small group discussions: road map, communications, advocacy strategies, and key responsible person/organizations with clear timeframe for each respective law.</p>	<p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Mr. Sek Borisoth Advisor of API</p> <p>Mr. Pen Raksa, Program Manager of TIC</p>
15:15 pm-15:45 pm	<p>Refreshment and Press Conference</p>	All
15:45 pm-16:45 pm	<p>Session 5: Wrap up from group discussion</p> <p>Presentation from the small groups</p>	<p>Group representatives</p>
16:45 pm-17:00 pm	<p>Session 6: Conclusion and closing remark</p>	<p>Mr. Pech Pisey Program Director, TIC</p>

Note: The organizers reserve the right to alter the agenda subject to availability of speakers and dynamics of the consultation requiring optimum use of time for effective outputs.