

**ORAL STATEMENT**  
**UPR Pre-session on Cambodia**  
**Geneva, 13 February 2024**  
**Delivered by: Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia)**

[slide 1] Excellencies, esteemed participants

I am the director of the Child Rights Coalition Cambodia. It is my great pleasure to deliver a statement - on behalf of our coalition and children of Cambodia.

[slide 2] Our coalition was established in 1994 and we have 60 members today. We also coordinate 3 child and youth-led networks. Almost 60 children and youth from these networks contributed to the development of our UPR submission and 27 to the development of this statement.

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1. **The first issue of concern is education.**

- During the previous UPR cycle, Cambodia received and accepted 20 recommendations related to education.
- Due to insufficient public investment in the education sector, adopted policies haven't **yet** been put **fully** into practice. Trends are positive, but still only 30% of children finish secondary school and only 1 in 10 achieve minimum foundational skills.

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***We would like to ask UN Members states to consider recommending Cambodia to:***

- *Increase the annual budget allocation for education - to improve the quality of education - at all levels, especially in rural areas.*

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2. **The second priority is the impact of climate change on children.**

- In the previous UPR cycle, Cambodia received and accepted **one** recommendation on this matter; and it has been partially implemented so far.
- Cambodian climate policies recognise children as a vulnerable group, but - schools are not adapted to increasing temperatures and more than 50% students reported suffering from heat and unable to focus on study. Children's views have not been considered in climate action and decisions **so far**.

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***We would like to ask UN Members states to consider recommending Cambodia to:***

- *Follow the advice of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child included in its General Comment 26 and specifically recognise children's rights to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment - by law and with its all elements - including procedural.*

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3. **The third priority is related to equality and non-discrimination.**

- In the previous cycle, Cambodia received and accepted 15 recommendations addressing violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics and gender-based discrimination and violence.
- A Law on Child Protection has been drafted, with a comprehensive chapter on protection from sexual violence including online, but its approval has been stalled.
- Despite the integration of SOGIESC-related topics into school programs, girls and children with diverse SOGIESC remain exposed to discrimination, bullying and violence.

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***We would like to ask UN Members states to recommend Cambodia to:***

- Build capacities of educational institutions to ensure they are fully inclusive of all children, without discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on diverse SOGIESC.

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**4. Child marriage** is another serious issue.

- In the previous UPR cycle, Cambodia received one recommendation related to this, and since then only one project has been piloted so far.
- 20% of women are married before 18, and with this, risks of early pregnancy, drop-out of school and violence increase.

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***We would like to ask UN Members states to recommend Cambodia to***

Develop a national action plan to prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancy and allocate appropriate resources for its implementation, and ensure girls are involved in the development and implementation of this plan.

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***Excellencies, esteemed participants,***

We hope that you will raise above concerns and recommendations during the upcoming UPR Working Group of Cambodia.

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For more detailed information, please refer to our Joint UPR Submission and our Fact Sheets.

**Thank You!**