



**Human Rights Council – 26<sup>th</sup> session – June 2014**

**Item 6: Consideration of Cambodia's UPR Outcome  
Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I make this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative.<sup>1</sup>

**We commend the government's acceptance of recommendations to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes, provide free treatment to people living with HIV, further develop the health sector and provide sexual and reproductive health information.**

We note that the **health care sector in Cambodia remains severely underfunded and understaffed**. In implementing the UPR outcomes, the government must ensure that all health centres provide comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services and all medicines on the WHO essential medicines list, as well as ensure the availability of qualified personnel.

**In implementing accepted recommendations to address negative gender norms and stereotypes and the provision of information related to sexual and reproductive health**, we strongly encourage the government to fully implement, in its "Strengthening and Expanding the School Health Promotion Program," a nation-wide, rights-based, scientifically-accurate, comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is accessible to all young people, and includes specific strategies to address negative gender norms and stereotypes and harmful cultural and traditional values.

**We are concerned with the lack of attention paid during the review process to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression**. We call on the government to amend the "other status" provision stipulated in the Constitution so that it includes specific reference to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as grounds for prohibiting discrimination. Additionally the 1997 Cambodian Labor Law should be amended to include a provision to prevent discrimination in the workplace on these grounds. At the same time, a cross-sector strategy should be developed to sensitize police and law enforcement officials on these issues.

We encourage the government to ensure meaningful engagement of civil society and NGOs with regards to the implementation of recommendations from the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures, and accept the recommendation made by Austria to this effect.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sexual Rights Initiative is a coalition of organizations comprising of Action Canada for Population and Development, Akahata (Latin America), Coalition for African Lesbians, Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (India), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights and Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland).

