

Opening Remark by
DPM & FM PRAK Sokhonn
at the Opening Session of the International
Conference
“Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and
Sustaining Peace:
from Commitments to Results”
07 December 2020, Via VC

Excellency Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to address this important conference. I highly appreciate Viet Nam and the UNWOMEN for jointly organizing it and for inviting me.
2. Women and girls have the powers to transform and nurture positive development. They can help build fair, inclusive, prosperous and peaceful societies. Nonetheless, stereotypes about their potentials and relevance continue to exist, and no less in the domain of peace and security.
3. From its tragic past, Cambodia has witnessed the might and resilience of women in rebuilding our society and engendering a peaceful and secure environment that is vital for economic and social development. Cambodia thus welcomes the UN’s resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in building and sustaining peace, as well as the SG’s

Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender Responsive Peacebuilding.

4. Gender equality is one of the core values upheld by our Government and mainstreamed in all our national development policies and strategies at all levels. With our Government's efforts, women now represent 41% of our civil service workforce in 2020 and a growing number are now engaged in leadership and decision-making positions. They enjoy better social protection and support through the promotion of access to healthcare, legal advocacy and justice against violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation and economic resources such as through the expansion of credit for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of which 61% go to women.

Excellency Chair,

5. Engaging women in peacekeeping is another facet of Cambodia's commitment to promoting women's empowerment through their enhanced role in building a peaceful world.
6. Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed 419 women out of the total 7,123 peacekeepers to UN Peacekeeping Missions in 09 countries. This year, 92 women are on mission among the 781 troops deployed in five countries. Cambodia now ranks number 2 in ASEAN, just behind Indonesia, and number 17 in the world for its share of female troop contribution to the U.N. PKO.

7. On effective implementation of the UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1889, as well as compliance with the UNSG's annual report on Women, Peace and Security Agenda, I believe Member States should,
 - a. Pay close attention to the plight of women and girls who face increasing violence and economic hardship due to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic.
 - b. Promote recognition of women as the backbone of the societies and the indispensable force for sustained peace and sustainable development.
 - c. Strengthen international norms that enable women to exercise equal rights and to participate actively in political, security, economic, social and cultural fields, and mainstream these norms at national level.
 - d. Enhance efforts to end gender-based discrimination and encourage women engagement in decision and policy making.
8. In closing, I reaffirm Cambodia's continued determination to increase its women recruits, create conducive environment for women to realize their full potentials and expand their participation in sustainable development and peace building process around the world.
9. I wish you all a successful conference.

Thank you!