

# **Joint Statement**

## **on**

### **The Tenth Round of Amendments to the Constitution**

Phnom Penh, 27 July 2022

We, the undersigned civil society organizations, trade unions, associations and communities would like to express our strong concerns about the tenth round of amendments to the constitution requested by the Royal Government. Civil society organizations, trade unions, associations and communities see that amendment in these circumstances can affect the stability of state power and respect for the rights and freedoms of Cambodian citizens as inscribed in the constitution due to:

- 1) Non-reflection of the will of Khmer citizens as there was no publication or inclusion of these amendments in the policies of political parties during the past election campaign, leading Cambodian citizens to not yet widely known about this amendment initiative.
- 2) Affects to multi-party liberal democracy (which is prohibited by the new Article 155) as this draft still maintains package voting and increases the number of parliamentarians required to impeach the Government (thereby reducing the change of a referendum) and appointing elites as the Prime Minister without the consent of the President and Vice-President of the National Assembly which reduces the power of the National Assembly.
- 3) Affects to the spirit of national unity and solidarity due to the fact that the circumstances remain politically divisive (Article 92 which prohibits the National Assembly from approving laws which affect the political unity of the nation).
- 4) The parliamentary system of representative democracy through the National Assembly. Whenever the power of the National Assembly is decreased, it will affect overall trust in the legal system, economic development and the victims shall be the citizens and the nation as a whole

We, as civil society organizations, trade unions, associations and communities, although our institutions are not mandated to represent the people's will like political parties, we wish to see Cambodia have a strong constitution, reflective of the will of the people as in the preamble to the Constitution, and see national political unity between all political parties and politicians.

We request the National Assembly consider delaying the approval of these draft constitutional amendments until political parties have included them in their policies to campaign and explain to the citizens who express their will through an election.

**Civil society organisations, unions, associations, and communities supporting this statement:**

1. People Center for Development and Peace (PDP)
2. Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC)
3. Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL)
4. Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)
5. Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (NICFEC)

6. Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP)
7. Transparency International Cambodia (TIC)
8. Cambodian Human Rights Action Coalition (CHRAC)
9. Community Legal Education Center (CLC)
10. Help the Old Age and Most Vulnerable (HOM)
11. Equitable Cambodia (EC)
12. Aphivat Strey Organization (AS)
13. Human Right Organization for Transparency and Peace (HROTP)
14. Cambodian Institute for Democracy (CID)
15. The coalition for Integrity and Social Accountability (CISA)
16. Peace Bridges Organization (PBO)
17. The Alliance for Conflict Transformation (ACT)
18. Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT)
19. The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-Cambodia (ANSA)
20. Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC)
21. Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC)
22. Building Community Voices (BCV)
23. Advocacy and Policy Institute (API)
24. Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM)
25. The Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)
26. Coalition of Cambodia Farmers Community (CCFC)
27. Cambodian Youth Network (CYN)
28. Cambodian's Independent Civil-Servants Association (CICA)
29. Cambodian Truck Driver Association (CTDA)
30. Cambodia Informal Economy Reinforce Association
31. Khmer Kampuchea Krom for Human Rights and Development Association (KKKHRDA)
32. Cambodia Informal Economy Workers Association (CIWA)
33. Cambodian Grassroots Cross-sector Network (CGCN)
34. Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers Democratic Union (C.CAWDU)
35. Cambodian Confederation of Unions (CCU)
36. Cambodian Food and Service Workers' Federation (CFSWF)
37. Cambodia Labour Confederation (CLC)
38. Cambodia Independent Trade Union Federation (CITUFEED)
39. Independent Trade Union Federation (INTUFE)
40. The Free and Independent Trade Union Federation (FUF)
41. Cambodian Tourism Workers Union Federation (CTWUF)

42. Cambodia of Free Trade Union of Women Textile (CFTUWT)
43. Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC)
44. Solidarity House (SH)
45. Labour Rights Supported Union Khmer Employee of Naga World (LRSU)
46. Cambodian Alliance of Trade Union (CATU)
47. Prey Peay Community Forest
48. Putung Puhung Community Forest
49. 92 Community
50. Udom Sre Pus community
51. Khmum Srok Thlok Russey community forest
52. Sameakki Trapeang Tuntoem Community
53. Phnom Prelan community
54. Torzhu Community
55. Kouy Preas Kaak Indigenous Community
56. Bos Community
57. Run Ta Aek Community
58. Seila Khmer Community
59. Prey Peay Community
60. Phnom Tnaot Community
61. Prek Tnaot Community
62. Tnaot Bridge Community
63. Tbaeng Lech Community
64. Chan Sar Community
65. Tuol Cruos Community
66. Kouk Kakthen Community
67. Phkoam Community
68. Banteay Chhmar Community
69. Svay Leu Community
70. Ta Beam Community
71. Ta Phou Community
72. Teuk Chou Community
73. Thmor Kol Community
74. Tani Community
75. Kbal Tonsaong Community
76. Kdep Thmor Community
77. Beng Mealea Community

78. Prey Roka Community
79. Samrong Community
80. Khnar Sanday Community
81. Chambak Puosh Community
82. Pouthi Community
83. Sameakki Sangkae Pir Community
84. Boeung Tonle Merech community
85. Tuek Kraham Community
86. Thnal Bott Community
87. Dombok Khpuos Community
88. Trapeang Prei Community
89. Ph'av Community
90. Trapeang Tav Community
91. Kouk Mon Community
92. Anlong Veng Community
93. Bak Anloun Community
94. Thlat Community
95. Kouk Khpos Community
96. Beng Community
97. Bansay Reak Community
98. Preah Pralay Community
99. Lumtong Community
100. Pongro Community
101. Tumnob Dach Community
102. Samrong Community
103. Prek Luong Fishing Community
104. Preaek Norint Fishing Community