



Statement of Ireland

51st session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia

5 October 2022

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his update.

Ireland welcomes Cambodia's cooperation with Special Procedure mandates, including the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia and upcoming visit of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. However, Ireland remains concerned by the human rights situation in Cambodia.

Reports of irregularities in the Commune elections are concerning, particularly the practice of delisting candidates under questionable circumstances. We echo your recommendation that political and civic space must be open and enable free and fair elections, particularly in the upcoming national elections in 2023.

The number of reported attacks on journalists this year is worrying and highlights the severe constraints on civic space in Cambodia. Ireland calls on Cambodia to release all persons arbitrarily detained, including political prisoners, human rights defenders and journalists. We urge Cambodia to cooperate fully with civil society to ensure their meaningful input into policymaking and work with women to secure their full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public life.

Ireland commends the Special Rapporteur for his work in developing strong benchmark criteria for the human rights recommendations, and urges Cambodia to fully implement all recommendations in the report.

Special Rapporteur, having regard to the issues that occurred prior to the 2018 elections, and the commune elections this year, what are your expectations in terms of the upcoming national elections in 2023?