



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
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STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. OUCH BORITH**  
SECRETARY OF STATE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING (A4P)

New York, 25 September 2018

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct pleasure to be here today, and I would like to express my Delegation's deep appreciation to the Secretary-General Guterres for organizing this high level segment on Action for Peacekeeping.

My Delegation fully supports the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping. Cambodia is committed to "the Secretary-General's vision for reforming the peace and security pillar of the UN Secretariat and his commitment to improving the ability of the UN to deliver on its mandate through management reform, which will enhance the impact of peacekeeping."

As a recipient of United Nations peacekeeping efforts in the early 1990's, Cambodia fully appreciates the important role that the Blue Helmets fulfill in restoring peace and stability to nation states. Having regained political stability in our country, the Royal Government of Cambodia has committed itself to promoting peace and security throughout the world.

As a troop contributing country, Cambodia is proud of its commitment to improving the situation for the most vulnerable populations. To this end, Cambodia has contributed over five thousand peacekeeping troops, many engineering and demining companies, to United Nations operations worldwide. As it stands, Cambodian peacekeepers are currently serving missions in the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Lebanon, Sudan and South Sudan as well as Mali.

Peacekeeping is an honorable undertaking, yet as peacekeeping missions become more engaging and complex, peacekeepers often find themselves in increasingly dangerous situations. Just last year a Cambodian peacekeeper died from malaria in January, while in May four Cambodian servicemen were killed in the Central African Republic in an ambush attack by rebel forces.

Cambodia expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those who have fallen while fulfilling their highest duties. We strongly condemn all acts of violence against UN workers, and urge the international community to find solutions to repel such heinous, deliberate attacks on UN military and civilian personnel as well as UN compounds.

The lessons learned from my country's engagement in UN peacekeeping operations suggest that safety and security of peacekeepers, as well as the populations they are tasked to protect, depends in part on the provision of clear, streamlined mandates. Deploying peacekeepers into dangerous situations, we must provide clarity about their

tasks and responsibilities. In pre-deployment stages, peacekeepers should be prepared for the realities in the field through adequate training and clear guidance. Moreover, political support together with sufficient human resources and adequate financial and logistical support must also be secured for all peacekeeping engagements.

**Mr. Secretary General,**

As peacekeeping operations are designed to protect the most vulnerable, peacekeepers are accountable to the people they serve. With this understanding, Cambodia strongly supports a zero tolerance policy for crimes committed by United Nations military and civilian personnel on missions. Impunity for serious crimes committed by peacekeepers, entrusted with protecting the most vulnerable, is a breach of public trust. As such, the international community must promptly address criminal accountability for such crimes.

In this light, pre-deployment and in-mission training of UN peacekeepers and staff are critical for protection of civilian populations. Trainings should focus on the UN standard of conduct, the obligation to observe laws of the host states, as well as principles of humanitarian law and human rights norms. Gender perspectives should also be fully integrated into these trainings.

As peacekeepers must be accountable to the people they serve, the United Nations must be accountable to its personnel. There is a need for strong institutions that avoid working in silos. There should be greater information sharing, and UN departments should work together towards comprehensive solutions, honest to the realities on the ground. Thus, departments of political affairs and peacekeeping operations, in particular, should work together on finding lasting political solutions to crises.

Finally, the relationship between the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the UN Secretariat should be rebalanced. Given today's most serious and emerging global challenges the United Nations must be equipped to fulfill its responsibilities under the UN Charter. To this end, the Security Council should be reformed to better reflect the realities of the twenty-first century, expanding its representation in an equitable manner so that real compromise could take place on most pressing security issues of the day.

In line with the Declaration of Shared Commitment on UN Peacekeeping, Cambodia would like to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to building and sustaining peace throughout the world, as we look forward to engaging with all our partners proactively.

**Thank you, Mr. Secretary General.**