

The Universal Periodic Review Factsheet: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Introduction to the UPR

- [The Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#), established in 2006, is a process to evaluate the human rights records of all UN Member States and operates on the principles of universality, non-discrimination, and equality.
- The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) carries out the review, which involves an interactive dialogue between the State under review, the 47 current HRC Member States, and observer States.
- Cambodia has undergone two UPRs, the first in 2009 and the second in 2014; at its last UPR, Cambodia accepted 163 recommendations, meaning it has committed to implement them, and noted 42. It will have its next review in 2018.

Concerns Related to Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- Almost 20% of the population is in poverty, making less than US\$1 per day and unable to meet most of their basic needs.
- Health services are mostly inaccessible to Cambodia's rural poor, and there is a significant difference in the quality of healthcare among socio-economic groups.
- Over half of the population has only a primary school education; many families, particularly in rural areas, pull their children out of school because they cannot afford the direct and indirect costs of education.

Important UPR Recommendations on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- **118.143** Implement, in cooperation with the international community, effective programmes aimed at reducing poverty, especially in the rural areas of the country (recommended by Azerbaijan).
- **118.149** Further develop national programmes with a focus on providing access to health services to people living under the poverty line (recommended by Timor-Leste).
- **118.158** Boost activities and strategies aimed at achieving all Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to the rights to education and health care and the rights of vulnerable groups (recommended by Viet Nam)
- **118.162** Continue efforts to achieve universal primary education in line with the vision of the National Plan of "Education for All" (recommended by Sri Lanka).

Recommendations for the RGC

- ✓ Engage with all stakeholders – including those in the education and health sectors, community representatives, NGOs, CSOs, and others – in the implementation of recommendations;
- ✓ Establish clear indicators, in conjunction with civil society, to determine progress for each accepted recommendation; and
- ✓ Ask for technical assistance and support, when necessary, from OHCHR and relevant stakeholders during the implementation process.