

The Universal Periodic Review Factsheet: Land 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 Land Rights

- There is no effective land titling program – currently, it involves costly bureaucratic procedures, does not cover disputed land (which is never defined), and there is no dispute resolution mechanism in place.
- Economic land concessions (ELCs) are often granted to private companies with no consultation or appropriate compensation for current residents, who are forcibly evicted if they refuse to move.
- Land grabbing disproportionately affects women, indigenous people, and rural dwellers, who may depend on their land for both housing and their livelihood.
- Unsustainable development of land has led to environmental degradation, along with food and job insecurity.

Important UPR Recommendations on Land Rights

- **118.132** Ensure that the granting of land concessions or the withdrawal of land titles or the legal rights to land use does not lead to violations of human rights (recommended by Germany).
- **118.134** Continue the reform of the land tenure system to meet the national objectives of poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection (recommended by Morocco).
- **118.135** Increase measures to tackle illegal land evictions, including those against indigenous people, and consider fortifying the legislative framework consistently with international standards (recommended by Italy).

Recommendations for the RGC

- ✓ Engage with all stakeholders – including land rights activists, 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.