



**30th Session of the
Human Rights Council**

Item 10

**ID with SR on Cambodia
29 September 2015
Delivered by A Rum Cho**

Thank you Mr. President,

Special Rapporteur, CIVICUS welcomes your efforts to address some of the most serious human rights situation in Cambodia during your first fact-finding visit, designed for building constructive relationship with the government. CIVICUS hopes that the work of the Special Rapporteur be the stepping stone to support the Cambodian people's quest for justice, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The human rights situation in Cambodia has been declining steadily over the past few years. In the aftermath of the last elections in 2013 the government commenced a major clampdown on civic space and freedoms. This has included brutal crackdown on peaceful protestors from political dissenters to garment factory workers and community based activists. At the same time the human rights defenders are being increasingly crushed with an iron hand while state institutions such as the judiciary have found their independence waning

CIVICUS remains particularly concerned at the adoption of the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO) that contains undue restrictions on the rights of freedom of association, freedom of expression, excessive penalties and local authorities' vast powers over the registration and de-registration of associations. Special Rapporteur, independent and vibrant civil society is vital for protecting human rights and development of a lively society. We urge you to remain seized of these issues.

We call on the Council to extend your mandate for at least two years with monitoring and reporting powers, in addition to advisory services; and we urge the Cambodian Government to fully cooperate with your mandate as well as with other UN Human Rights bodies and mechanisms.

Special Rapporteur, CIVICUS stands in line with you that all actors can play a meaningful role in discussing the future of the Cambodia, and we reiterate our call to the Government for significant consultations with civil society at all levels.

Thank you Mr. President