

**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**Remarks  
of**

**Hon. SUOS Yara, MP**

Chairman of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media  
of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

**At the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly of International Parliamentary Union  
On the Theme of “Gender Equality and Gender-Sensitive Parliaments as  
Drivers of Change for a More Resilient and Peaceful World”**

12 October 2022

Kigali, Rwanda



- *Hon. Mukabalisa Donatille, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and President of the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly*
  - *His Excellency Duarte Pacheco, President of the International Parliamentary Union;*
  - *Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*
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- 1) At the outset, I would like to express my deep thanks to the IPU for the invitation and my sincere appreciation for the excellent organization of the event. The theme of the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly “*Gender Equality and Gender-sensitive Parliaments as Drivers of Change for a More Resilient and Peaceful World*” is of high relevance and importance to the promotion of peace, stability, social inclusion and good governance, among other key agendas of the IPU, the international community and our respective countries.
  - 2) Last week, I just attended the Parliamentary Forum and the 8<sup>th</sup> G20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit (P20) in Indonesia as part of Indonesia’s G20 Presidency. At the closing session, there was a strong



commitment of the G20 nations and beyond to promote women's empowerment and assurance of opportunities for women and girls to exercise their role in politics, economy, society and areas of their interest without restriction of their freedom and potential.

- 3) As for Cambodia, we are a strong matrimonial society since the dawn of civilization. Historically, women's leadership has been embraced in Cambodian society since the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. as women in our society have been the backbone of nation-building. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, our **Queen Indradevi** was a scholar and dean of the university known to historians as the only and the first university in the Asia Pacific.
- 4) Like Rwanda, Cambodia in the 1970s went through a dark period of genocide as what Rwanda experienced in the 1990s. However, history shows that humanity stands the test of adversities and challenges to rise high above the dark period to exhibit strong and robust resilience. In the case of Cambodia, it was because of the great leadership of the late **King Father Norodom Sihanouk** and **Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen** through national reconciliation and win-win policies that we could achieve peace, national reconciliation and development. Rwanda and Cambodia are the examples of successful countries transforming themselves exceptionally after achieving total peace in the post-conflict reconstruction. Today Cambodia and Rwanda are advancing their development agendas vigorously and are promoting gender mainstreaming in the government, the Parliament and peacekeeping efforts.
- 5) Cambodia's search for criminal justice for the victims of the genocidal regime of the Khmer Rouge has just been successfully concluded through the 16-year undertakings by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC), a hybrid judicial system under the auspices of the United Nations and the Cambodian court of justice and under the sovereign laws of the Kingdom. Justice has been delivered, preventing the risk of return of the genocidal regime, ending forced child and women labour observed under civil wars and unrest and developing our legal and institutional infrastructures to empower women and girls and promote social inclusion.
- 6) Despite the progress in women's empowerment in the world, there is still room to improve and the opportunity is so vast for politicians as well as law-makers to envision. Therefore, we must act swiftly and in concerted manner through our parliamentary platforms and in cooperation with governments, the private sectors and civil society organisations to uphold the status of girls and women in all spheres, such as education,



employment, politics, environment, and decision- and policy-making in the fields important to them and their societies.

- 7) Taking this opportunity, I wish to inform that Cambodia as the Chair of ASEAN 2022 will be hosting in November 2022 the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits and related summits as well as the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), a regional parliamentary platform that focuses on peacebuilding, green and sustainable development in line with the UNSDGs, among others. At these summits, we aim to further push for the enactment of deeper and more comprehensive engagement of women and young parliamentarians as well as the promotion of their other proactive roles in democratic electoral process, law-making and policy-making to strengthen their pivotal roles in contributing to peace, stability, social harmony and social progress.

*Thank you for your attention!*

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