

**Remark by H.E Ouch Borith, 1st Vice-President of the Senate,
Kingdom of Cambodia at the Debate on Parliamentary action for
social development and justice**

150th IPU Assembly, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5- 9 April 2025

Excellency President, distinguished delegates,

In a time marked by growing inequality and geopolitical uncertainty, parliaments are called to play a leading role in crafting inclusive policies that uphold justice and advance social development. This responsibility goes beyond strategic planning—it reflects a moral obligation to ensure that all individuals have access to the fundamental conditions needed to lead dignified and meaningful lives. Social development encompasses more than economic indicators; it includes equitable access to education, healthcare, decent employment, and comprehensive social protection. When these pillars are strengthened through inclusive legislation and effective governance, societies become more resilient, fair, and cohesive. It is through this lens of shared responsibility that parliaments must act—not only to respond to today’s challenges, but to shape a future grounded in equity and human dignity.

As a country that endured more than two decades of war, Cambodia understand-perhaps more profoundly than most- the true value of peace. This painful chapter in our history has only deepened our conviction that, without peace, neither social justice nor sustainable development is possible. Motivated by this conviction, Cambodia has consistently joined hands with peace-loving nations to support international peacebuilding efforts. Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed more than 10,000 of its Blue Helmets to participate in the United Nations Keeping Operation across various countries-an enduring testament to our commitment to global solidarity and the pursuit of lasting peace.

In addition, Cambodia had the honor of hosting the 11th Plenary Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace in November of last year, further reaffirming our dedication to dialogue, mutual understanding, and global cooperation. During this important session, Cambodia introduced the Universal Peace Charter for the People and the Planet—an initiative by Samdech Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia—as a complementary framework to the United Nations Charter. We are proud that many countries have expressed their support and joined this initiative.

Excellency President, distinguished delegates,

Social development is one of the three pillars of sustainable development, alongside economic growth and environmental responsibility. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

We are following with great interest the preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar in 2025. Cambodia sees this as an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to equity, dignity, and cooperation in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Cambodia fully embraced the 2030 Agenda and has localized the SDGs through our Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals, including an additional national goal on mine clearance—reflecting our enduring struggle against landmines and explosive remnants of war. To date, we have destroyed over one million landmines and three million explosive remnants of war. More than 3,000 square kilometers of contaminated land have been cleared. Land once sown with danger now supports agriculture, infrastructure, and livelihoods—lifting millions out of poverty.

In November 2024, we proudly hosted the Siem Reap–Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World, bringing together delegates from 150 countries.

Cambodia continues to advocate for universal adherence to the Ottawa Convention and for global mine eradication.

Excellency President, distinguished delegates,

Rising inequality threatens not only social cohesion but also long-term economic progress and the achievement of the SDGs. In response to such challenges, the principle of social justice has long guided Cambodia's development strategies. We continue to address the legacy of conflict, poverty, gender inequality, land tenure issues, and disparities in healthcare and education. Despite these challenges, Cambodia has made important progress, thanks to strong partnerships with development allies.

Thank you.