



SENATE

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
Nation - Religion - King



**Intervention by**

**His Excellency Ouch Borith**

**First Vice President of the Senate, and  
Head of the Cambodian Delegation to the  
153<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly**

**Theme: “Enhancing Good Governance and  
Empowering Communities through Inclusivity,  
Trust and Opportunities for All”**

**Arusha, Tanzania**

**7 October 2026**

## **Honorable President, Distinguished Delegates,**

- 1- I have the honour to address this august forum not only as a parliamentarian, but also as a representative of the Cambodian people, whose journey to peace has been marked by profound sacrifice, resilience, and resolve. Our experience has taught us that good governance is essential to lasting peace and sustainable development grounded in the rule of law, accountability, transparency, respect for human dignity, and trust between institutions and the people they serve.
- 2- Through the successful implementation of the visionary Win-Win Policy under the leadership of former Prime Minister, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Cambodia achieved national reconciliation and lasting peace, laying the foundation for inclusive development and greater opportunities for its people. This experience has taught us that lasting peace and prosperity depend not only on the absence of conflict, but also on inclusive institutions, opportunity for all, and the trust that binds society together.
- 3- The same principles that sustain peace and trust within societies are equally important in relations among States. Trust between States depends on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, faithful observance of treaties and agreements, good faith, dialogue, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. When commitments are not honoured or established mechanisms are abandoned, trust is weakened and the foundations for peaceful cooperation are placed under strain.

## **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

- 4- Cambodia has, unfortunately, seen these principles put to the test along our western border, where the situation has remained unchanged since the 2025 conflict: certain areas of Cambodian territory remain occupied; military and civilian infrastructure continues to be constructed; containers and barbed-wire barriers have been emplaced; and restrictions continue to prevent displaced civilians from returning home safely. These concerns are compounded by damage to Preah Vihear Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and reports concerning the use of prohibited weapons. Such concerns have been documented or raised in recent reports and assessments by United Nations human rights

mechanisms, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as well as by the Cluster Munition Monitor 2026, which has reported on the use and impact of cluster munitions in the context of the conflict.

- 5- Even in the face of such a situation, Cambodia continues to uphold the values of peace and remains firmly committed to resolving disputes peacefully, in accordance with international law, mutual respect, the United Nations Charter, and the ASEAN Charter. In this spirit, following the unilateral termination of the 2001 MOU—the only existing bilateral legal framework specifically established to address our maritime disputes—Cambodia initiated compulsory conciliation proceedings under UNCLOS, in accordance with the Convention’s applicable provisions.
- 6- These experiences reaffirm that peace, trust, and the rule of law are mutually reinforcing, both among States and within societies. Parliaments, as the embodiment of the people’s will, have a vital role in ensuring that these principles are translated into practice. Through inclusive lawmaking, effective oversight, and responsive representation, they strengthen accountability, build confidence in public institutions, and empower communities to shape the decisions that affect them. In doing so, they extend the same values that underpin peaceful international relations into the domestic sphere, thereby contributing to a more inclusive, just, and enduring peace.
- 7- Against this backdrop, I would underscore five priorities:

**First**, uphold international law consistently and in good faith, including compliance with binding decisions of the International Court of Justice and other applicable international obligations.

**Second**, safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity by resolving disputes peacefully and respecting ceasefire arrangements in both spirit and text.

**Third**, strengthen accountability by addressing serious violations of humanitarian and human rights law through appropriate national and international mechanisms.

**Fourth**, build trust through justice and humanitarian action – protecting civilians, ensuring the safe and dignified return of displaced persons, meeting humanitarian needs, and providing remedies.

**Fifth**, empower communities through meaningful participation, fair access to opportunities and resources, and the ability to shape their future within the framework of sovereignty, constitutional order, and international law.

Thank you.

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