

Joint statement on women in elections

Following the June 4, 2017 elections, according to NEC data, women's representation in commune councils decreased by 1% from 2012.

In 2012, women were elected to 2038 of the 11,459 commune council seats, a total of 17.79 percent. In 2017, women were only elected to 1940 of 11,572 commune council positions, a total of 16.76%. Not only has the government failed to meet its own goals for improving women's role in leadership to 25%, but has taken a step backwards.

Neary Ratanak, the RGC's national 5-year action plan for achieving gender equity, set the goal of increasing women in commune councils to 25% by 2018. The UN CEDAW Committee has repeatedly suggested that temporary special measures (per Article 4 of CEDAW) to promote women in politics are necessary to fully meet the State's obligations under the CEDAW convention and achieve gender equity in politics.

Due to delays by both the legislature and political parties to prioritize the promotion of women in politics or to take any affirmative measure to promote women, Cambodia has failed to meet its goal.

We welcome the act of the RCG in appointing the first woman ever to serve as a provincial governor. We also applaud the past appointments of women as deputy governors in all 25 provinces. However, 1 out of 25 governors (4%) is not enough. More appointments of women must be made until the number of governors reaches 30% (the goal listed in Neary Rattanak for women elected to national office).

We strongly recommend the immediate enactment of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, or requiring alternating men and women on candidate lists, with women to be listed at the top of the list for 50% of each party's candidate lists and women listed second in the remaining lists. This way, the goals of achieving improved representation of women in national office can be reached in 2018.

1. The Cambodian NGO Committee on CEDAW (NGO-CEDAW)
2. Cambodian Food And Service Workers Federation (CFSWF)
3. Gender for Development of Cambodia (GADC)
4. Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM)
5. Fine and Art Association (FAA)
6. Neutral and Impartial Committee for the Free Election in Cambodia (NICFEC)
7. Cambodian Women's Development Agency (CWDA)
8. Cambodian League For The Promotion And Defense Of Human Rights (LICADHO)
9. Positive Change for Cambodia (PCC)
10. Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)
11. Cambodian Association of Domestic Worker (CADW)
12. Indradevi Association (IDA)
13. Women for Prosperity (WFP)
14. Cambodian Youth Network (CYN)
15. Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMC)
16. Coalition of Cambodian Farmer Community (CCFC)

17. Khmer Women's Cooperation for Development (KWCD)
18. Arun Reah Organization (ARO)
19. Family Association of Agriculture Development
20. Gender and Development Network (GADNet)
21. Khmer Farmer Development Association (KFDA)
22. National Prosperity Association (NAPA)
23. Cambodian Domestic Workers Network (CDWN)
24. The Cambodian Committee for Women (CAMBOW)
25. Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
26. Sunshine Cambodia (SC)
27. The Cambodian Center for the Protection of Children's Rights (CCPCR)
28. AMARA
29. Cambodia HIV/AIDS Education and Care (CHEC)
30. Cambodian Alliance of Trade Union (CATU)

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