



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**



**Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:  
Beijing +25 Review**

**Statement of the Royal Government of Cambodia**

**By**

**Ministry of Women's Affairs**

**Royal Government of Cambodia**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Bangkok**

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**Dear Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I am pleased to present our key achievements and challenges in relation to the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. This includes our commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the future.

The situation of women and girls in Cambodia has significantly improved in recent years. Cambodia's strong economic growth, averaging 7.4% over the past 15-year period, has led to **reductions in poverty** to 10% in 2018 and improvements in women and girls' health, education and standards of living with an increased Gender Development Index value of 0.914 in 2018.

**In education**, Cambodia has achieved gender parity in basic education including in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools, with significant changes in favour of girls at lower and upper secondary school.

**In health**, Cambodia is one of ten countries in the world to achieve their 2015 SDG 5 Goal targets associated with improving maternal health. Access to sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning, antenatal care, contraceptive methods and safe abortion services have increased and coverage expanded, especially in rural areas.

Cambodian women's participation in the **labour force** (81%) is one of the highest in the region, and the percentage of women in waged work increased to 45% in 2017.

Under the Social Protection Policy Framework, the National Social Security Fund was extended to the informal economic sector, where the majority of women work, as well as to smaller enterprises employing as few as one worker.

Significant efforts has been made in combating **violence against women and girls** through multi-sectoral mechanisms and plans, including the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women I, II and III, the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children, and the National Plan of Action for Counter Trafficking. Progress includes developing and implementing gender responsive guidelines and systems, training law enforcers, government officials and the general public in prevention and responses to GBV as well as increased budget allocation for justice services including legal aid for poor women.



More women are being recognized for the **leadership** roles at all levels. In 2018, women represented 41% of the total number of civil servants and 24% in decision-making positions.

These achievements reflect the Royal Government's commitment to the advancement of women and gender equality in Cambodia's socio-economic development. This has been accomplished through effective partnerships with CSOs, including women's organizations, development partners, the private sector as well as regional and international collaboration, especially with ASEAN.

Building on past successes, the government situates gender equality and the empowerment of women as both **a stand-alone and crosscutting national priority**. The first draft National Gender Policy has been formulated to provide a longer-term policy framework for gender equality in line with the SDG 5 and Beijing Platform for Action, and aims to further accelerate progress towards gender equality as part of inclusive and sustainable development throughout the nation.

Looking forward, the government will continue to address negative social norms and harmful gender stereotypes, including unpaid care work and the burden of family care on women, that constrain the development of women's potential and empowerment in economic, social, public and political lives.

We will strengthen the legal and policy environment to protect women and prevent gender-based violence against implementing the Minimum Standards of Essential Services, ensuring services are accessible to all survivors of GBV, and increasing access to justice for women and girls through the formal legal system are key priorities. The forthcoming Legal Aid Policy includes specific provisions to ensure adequate, specialized legal aid for women.

We will continue to address household economic factors and lack of employment opportunities in rural areas that are contributing to the migration of women and the increased risk of exposure to labour exploitation and trafficking.

We will continue to strengthen the implementation of key policies including the National Employment Policy, the National Technical Vocational and Education Training Policy, the Labour Migration Policy and the Decent Work Programme as well as further promote



women's entrepreneurship through tailored education, technical and vocational training for women, including access to credit with the establishment of a national fund for entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurs development centres.

To address dropout rates and low enrolment and completion rates of girls in lower and upper secondary schools and tertiary education, the Government has initiated a number of key policies and interventions.

Key gender related actions include 1) systematically increasing coverage of early childcare and education, primary and secondary school completion rates as well as enrolment rates in higher education 2) systematically implementing teacher reforms addressing the issues of recruitment, training, deployment, continuous professional development, mentoring/on-site support and career pathways, 3) strengthening implementation and monitoring of inclusive education policies to ensure equity and no-one is left behind, and 4) encouraging girls and women to enroll in STEM education.

To address the low utilization of public health facilities and health equity funds by poor households, and the differences in health care outcomes for women and girls, especially in remote communities, Cambodia has committed to provide universal health care by 2025, while ensuring gender responsive quality health services.

The government will further promote women's role in society through enhancing their capacity and the proportion of women in leadership roles at the national and sub-national levels, in ministries and institutions both in political and technical positions.

We will continue to strengthen accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment, especially through improved monitoring and evaluation systems, including the collection and analysis of disaggregated data and gender statistics.

We look forward to building on our strong partnerships with civil society, private sector, development partners as well as regional networks especially within ASEAN to further accelerate progress in women's empowerment and gender equality.

Thank you very much!