

United Nations Human Rights Council 27th Session

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in
Cambodia**

Statement by Ireland

24 September 2014

Ireland would like to add some remarks to those made on our behalf in the statement of the European Union.

Mr President,

Ireland wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report on the human rights situation in Cambodia and would like to express appreciation for all his work over the past six years as he reaches the end of his mandate.

While welcoming developments towards peaceful political cooperation, in particular the recent agreement between the two main political parties, Ireland agrees that progress is still needed in a number of areas.

Ireland further welcomes the constructive cooperation provided by the Government of Cambodia to the Special Rapporteur during the two visits he made in 2014, in particular the government's willingness to conduct meaningful and informative dialogue on a range of human rights issues.

Ireland supports the Special Rapporteur's recommendation to continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for human rights protection, and calls on the Government of Cambodia to continue moving forward with the implementation of recommendations by the Special Rapporteur regarding promised electoral, parliamentary, and institutional reform.

Furthermore, and following the recommendations made by Ireland at the recent Universal Periodic Review of Cambodia, Ireland supports the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur to the Government of Cambodia to officially lift the ban on demonstrations in law and in practice, and to protect human rights defenders and trade union representatives in order that they may carry out their work without intimidation or harassment.

Ireland also encourages the Government of Cambodia to continue to engage with and support the work of civil society organisations, particularly in areas where civil society organisations are supplementing the services delivered to citizens. Ireland recognises the important role played by civil society organisations in efforts to achieve development targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, Ireland would like to pose the following question to the Special Rapporteur: Can you tell us more about your overall assessment of the situation faced by trade union leaders and labour representatives following the demonstrations in early 2014?