



Kingdom of Cambodia
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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization
and other International Organizations at Geneva.

Ref: 09/01/ 009

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office, WTO and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), and with reference to its note dated 02 December 2008, has the honour to provide it with the following information in connection with the process of the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM):

In pursuance to the spirit of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) along with the request by the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture-SPT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia has referred to relevant agencies to take step to consider the establishment of such an institution in June 2008.

As a result of consultation process, the Ministry of Interior has formally requested to the Office of the Royal Government of Cambodia to establish a national mechanism along with a draft Sub Decree that has been submitted for discussion among ministries and agencies concerned on the structure, functions and works of this national body under OPCAT framework, since January 2008.

It should be noted that the structure of this national mechanism is proposed to include different national agencies such as the ministry of interior, the ministry of national defense, the ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation, the ministry of justice, the ministry of health, the ministry of social affairs, veteran and youth rehabilitation, including the Cambodian Human Rights Committee.

However due to the national elections in July 2008, there has been a delay of work in finalizing the draft. After the formation of a new Government from the July 2008 elections, the draft is now being discussed among relevant national institutions and agencies at the Council of Prime Minister's Office.

Recently, there were consultation and discussion between representatives of the Ministry of Interior and Representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia and Representative of Asia Human Rights-Organization based in Hong Kong to exchange view on the process of setting up the NPM, including a proposal of organizing a national workshop with a broader participation from other relevant stakeholders in this matter.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Interior is planning to organize another round of meeting to discuss the content of the draft Sub-Decree on NPM before presenting it to the proposed workshop which is tentatively rescheduled to take place in January 2009 whereby the Government could hear the view on the NPM's draft from others stakeholders on that occasion.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and WTO and other International Organizations at Geneva, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture(United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 12 January 2009

**Secretariat of the Sub-Committee on Prevention
of Torture(United Nations Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights)**

cc: Mr. Patrice Gillibert, Secretary of SPT

