



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations Office and other
International Organisations at Geneva**

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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the letter dated 10 February 2021 of Mr. David R. Boyd, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, has the honor to transmit to the latter herewith inputs from the Ministry of Environment of the Kingdom of Cambodia as to his questionnaire on the report on “Reducing Environmental Impacts of the Global Food System on Human Rights”.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia would be greatly appreciated if the said details could be conveyed to its high destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 May 2021



Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Geneva

ANNEX

I. Department of Green Economy

1. Please provide examples of ways in which the environmental impacts of the global food system are having adverse impacts on human rights. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water and sanitation, food, culture, livelihoods, non-discrimination, a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and Indigenous peoples' rights.
 - When population continuous to rapidly increase, food supply industries will be scaled up to respond to demand. Behind the scene of that, natural resources like water, forest and NTFP, and land use are being over-used for making raw materials in particularly in under-developed and developing countries. If no any action taking on time, waste water will be released from industries into natural water sources, solid waste will be over-controlled, unclean air from industries and chemical substance from agriculture will be generated, ecosystem will be lost and so on. According to one study from Benton in 2017 revealed that while food production is growing up, water and air pollution, loss of wildlife, and natural habitats are repeatedly occurred and around 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emission come from agriculture in Amazon area which produced only for food supply.
2. How has climate change affected the global food system?
 - N/A
3. To protect a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and responsibilities of businesses in terms of preventing, reducing, or eliminating environmental impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food? How can we shift to food systems that restore and regenerate nature rather than degrading ecosystems, while providing healthy diets for a global population that will exceed nine billion by 2050?
 - To prevent, reduce, or eliminating environmental impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food and also shift to food systems that restore and regenerate nature rather than degrading ecosystems while providing healthy diets for a global population that will exceed nine billion by 2050:
 - States/business have to consider to apply for the strategy or guideline of circular economy that takes care about sources of food raw material, food production line (energy and technology use), food packing, food delivery, food supply, food use and waste of final users. This will contribute to bring green food system for human rights.
4. Please provide specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, institutions, regulations, standards, jurisprudence, policies and programmes that apply a rights-based approach to ensuring healthy and sustainably produced food. Please include, inter alia, any instruments that refer directly to the right to a healthy environment.
 - N/A
5. If your State is one of the 156 UN Member States that recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, has this right contributed to preventing, reducing, or

eliminating environmental impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food? If so, how? If not, why not?

- N/A (Similar to Q6)
6. Please provide specific examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating environmental impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food. These examples may occur at the international, regional, national, sub-national, or local level. Examples may involve monitoring food quality; guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g. public access to food information, public participation in decision-making about the environmental impacts of producing or consuming food, access to remedies); new technologies; legislation, regulations, standards, jurisprudence and policies that address the environmental impacts of the food system; and initiatives to achieve healthy and sustainably produced food (e.g. halting land conversion for agriculture, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing air and water pollution, supporting agroecology, agroforestry, organic farming and closed-loop aquaculture, increasing efficiencies, promoting healthy and sustainable diets such as plant-based, and avoiding food waste).
 - In the region, Circular Economy, Green/ Public Procurement and Ecolabelling on the products are being come together to ensure the quality and waste reduction from the food production. They are playing a potential guiding to think about life cycle of product, recycling, more high value material retaining, increasing the resilience of industries, and innovation incentives. They are also being applied for policy making in order to achieve sustainable environment in coming future.
 7. Please identify specific challenges that your Government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to employ a rights-based approach to address the environmental impacts of food systems and the consequences of these problems for human rights.
 - The trade-off between environmental impacts of food systems and human rights.
 - Little involvement of the private sector to incorporate human rights and environment into their operation. The important actors in food systems are the private sector. The goal is to achieve higher incomes and benefits. The private sector tends to ignore the human rights and environment. The government have to regular monitor and visit the factories.
 - The shortage of funds and human resources specializing in employing a rights-based approach.
 8. Please specify ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for small-holders and populations who may be particularly vulnerable to unhealthy and unsustainably produced food (e.g., women, children, persons living in poverty, members of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial, religious or other minorities, migrants and displaced persons). How can these populations be empowered to produce and consume healthy and sustainably produced food?
 - Educate and promote healthy and sustainable produced foods to the public to enjoy consuming the food which create the demand. The high demand for healthy produced foods will be the motivation for the population to supply the healthy foods.
 9. How do you ensure that the rights of environmentalists working on food issues (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government,

business, or organization made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, or reprisal?

- To ensure the rights of environmentalists working on food issues are protected, we should practice the underlying principle of the goal “leave no one behind”. The goal is to combat inequality and discrimination against women and minority working on food issues by empowering women, girls, minority people, enforcing non-discriminatory law and policies, and implementing the rights without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, languages, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.
- In order to create a safe and enabling environment for environmentalists to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, reprisal, the government has put the promotion and protection of human rights as an integral part of the Rectangular Strategy. People are placed at the center of development which 90 percent of the targets in the plan link to human rights and labor standards. Moreover, in Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs), goal 5, 8, 10 and 16, they cover areas such as health, education, decent work, food, water and equality, as well as personal security, access to justice and fundamental freedoms. These refer explicitly to human rights, rights of environmentalists such as ending all forms of discrimination, protecting labor rights, prohibiting torture and protecting fundamental freedoms.

10. There is substantial evidence that the actions of high-income States (e.g., high levels of meat consumption, excessive calories, and food waste) are linked to adverse effects on food availability, food quality and ecosystem health in low- and middle-income States. What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in reducing the environmental impacts of food systems while promoting healthy and sustainably produced food?

- Assist low-income States in not just policy-making but implementing those policies that promoting healthy and sustainably produced food.
- Invest in healthy and sustainably produced food industry in low-income states.
- Provide ODA
- Carbon-trading

11. For businesses, what policies or practices are in place to ensure that activities, products, and services across the entire food system (production, processing, distribution, marketing, retail, food loss and waste) achieve healthy and sustainably produced food and meet human rights standards, especially those articulated in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?

- Three guiding principles are grounded in recognition of: (a) states’ existing obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights and fundamental freedoms; (b) the role of business enterprises as specialized organs of society performing specialized functions; required to comply with all applicable laws and to respect human rights; (c) the need for rights and obligations to be matched to appropriate and effective remedies when breached. To ensure that activities, products, and services across the entire food system follow these principles, government should promote and educate the all forms of business—large or small—to understand the responsibility to respect human rights ensuring they have commitment and provide remedy when things go wrong. The law enforcement policies should be put at the

priorities. For example, if any business is found employing a child, they should be involved in lawsuits, suffering reputational harm, shutting down the business for a period of time; thus forgoing business investment and opportunities.

II. Department of Climate Change

1. Progress:

- Climate change is becoming more frequent and intense and has severely affected key sectors such as human health, agricultural, productivity, forestry, water resources, coastal areas, eco-systems, and Economics due to Cambodia's limited adaptive capacity, technology, institutional capacity, and lack of financial resource to address it
- The Third National Communication (TNC) is in developing
- The Department Climate Change is the secretariat of the Joint Carbon Credit Mechanism Committee (JCM), which has six projects underway related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy saving, and is coordinating REDD+ projects in the Prey Lang sanctuary area with the Japanese side
- The draft sub-decree on GHG emissions reduction mechanisms is at the final review stage.
- Preparation of the National Position on Climate Change for CoP26
- Finalize the Third Knowledge, Attribute and Practice on Climate Change (KAP3)
- Preparing the progress report of the Joint Monitoring Indicators (2019-2020) and identifying the JMI for 2021-2023 and submit to the CRDB/CDC

2. Outputs/ Achievements

- The 1st Cambodia's Biennial Update Report (BUR) was submitted in May 2020 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a strong commitment to global efforts to reducing GHG emissions and also a guide for the policies and strategies development related to Climate Change.
- Cambodia's updated NDC was submitted to the UNFCCC on December 31st, 2020, and officially launch under presided over by **H.E. Say Samal**, Minister of the Ministry of Environment
- Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced sub-national Climate Change Planning and Execution of Priority Actions (SRL) Project was successful implementing and completing by 31 December 2020

3. Best Practice and Challenges

- Promoting the inclusion of climate change in policies and budget allocations at all levels and continue to mobilize appropriate resources and technologies.
- Study and examine the possibility of updating the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), by mainstreaming climate change into the policies and strategies of the relevant ministries, and encourage the preparation of budget plans to address climate

change at the national level, as well as investment and budget plans at the sub-national level to be more comprehensive

- Study and examine the possibility of preparing an educational video on climate change for children, adults and the elderly
- Continue to implement mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Resources and means for supporting the priority works have not yet responded to the requirements to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the department.

4. Climate change and Human rights which related to the following

- Encourage to use and access to clean hygiene, for example, the use of clean water
- Promote and encourage environmental management and use of environmentally friendly technologies, such as using renewable energy, which refers to the low carbon emissions
- Natural resources management and good environment, including waste management, protection, and natural resources conservation, especially forestry, these activities will contribute to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prevention of infectious diseases through the spread of new viruses caused by climate change.

III. Department of Biodiversity

1. Please provide examples of ways in which the environmental impacts of the global food system are having adverse impacts on human rights. Adversely affected rights could include, among others, the rights to life, health, water and sustainable environment, and Indigenous people's rights.

Global food system would depend on the natural assets and their functions, especially the functions and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems. When biological diversity and ecosystems are damaged and lost due to increased temperature, land degradation, and water and air pollution and other natural disasters, they would negatively impact the people and eventually their rights to life, sanitations, food, livelihoods etc. are compromised. In case of Cambodia, people are prone to draughts, flood and other weather extreme and facing such problems leads to the poverty of the people.

2. How has climate change affected the global food system?

Climate extreme would keep the global food production system unstable and unpredictable. The food production fields would be impacted by too much increased floods, droughts and diseases. The farming practices which are traditionally carried out by the food producers can no longer be possible. In such a case, more investments are made on knowledge, efforts and tools to produce sufficient foods to support the decent lives of the people.

3. To protect a wide range of human rights, what are the specific obligations of States and responsibilities of business in term of preventing, reducing, or consumption of food? How can we shift to food systems that restore and regenerate nature rather than degrading ecosystems., while providing healthy diets for a global population that will exceed nine billion by 2050?

As Cambodia is a signatory of many global conventions such as CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and other MEA, the obligations of Cambodia to reach the ultimate objectives and goals of these conventions and their protocols would be a must and sufficient to ensure the balance of capacity of environment and natural resources and food productions. Attitudes of people to the environment and natural resources and shifting their food consumption habits would be needed too.

4. Please provide specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, institutions, regulations, standards, jurisprudence, policies and programmes that apply a rights-based approach to ensuring healthy and sustainably produced food. Please include, inter alia, any instruments that refer directly to the right to a healthy environment.

There are no specific provisions on right-based approaches. However, the existing constitutions, laws, regulations, policies, framework of relevance to environment and natural resources and human rights directly and indirectly provide the core elements of the concepts. They include but are not limited to Labor Law, PAs Law, CPA Guidelines, Forestry Law, Fisheries Law, Law on Environment Protection and Management of Natural resources, Law on Global Green Growth Institute Establishment etc.

5. If your State is one of the 156 UN Member States that recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, has this right contributed to preventing, reducing, or eliminating environment al impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food? If so, how? If not, why not?

Yes, Cambodia has various laws, policies, sub-degrees, programs and projects to contribute to preventing, reducing, or eliminating environment al impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food.

6. Please provide specific examples of good practices in preventing, reducing, or eliminating environment al impacts caused by the unsustainable production or consumption of food. These examples may occur at the international, regional, national, sub-national, or local level. Example may involve monitoring food quality; guaranteeing procedural rights (e.g public access to food information, public participation in decision-making about the environmental impacts of producing or consuming food, access to remedies); new technologies; legislation, regulations, standards, jurisprudence and policies that address the environmental impacts of the food system; and initiatives to achieve healthy and sustainably produced food (e.g., halting land concession for agriculture, reducing greenhouse gas emission, reducing air and water pollution, supporting agroecology, agroforestry, organic farming and closed-loop aquaculture, increasing efficiencies, promoting healthy and sustainable diets such as plant-based, and avoiding food waste).

Where possible, please provide evidence related to the implementation, enforcement, and effectiveness of the good practices.

- *MoU with The Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in France on cooperation for establishment and operation of Ex Situ conservation in Cambodia in order to work together on mutually beneficial programmes and in particular to collaborate on fieldwork and science-based research for enabling and enhancing Ex-situ conservation, including establishment of botanical garden, herbarium, seed-bank and tissue culture;*
 - *MoU with Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and Beijing Qiaonyu Foundation on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation in order to work together to enhance the capacity of biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use of biological diversity and ecosystem services through technical support, training, personnel exchange, joint research, technology transfer, data sharing and cooperation activities;*
 - *Member of ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB)*
 - *ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)*
 - *Participated in different international nature conservation processes, initiatives and activities.*
 - *Party to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) and all its protocols on Biosafety & ABS*
 - *Associate member of GBIF in order to establish a standard and comprehensive database system with capacity to record, maintain, and manage species data and information & be used to meet the country's priorities on its conservation and management of biological resources and ecosystem.*
7. Please identify specific challenges that your Government, business, or organization has faced in attempting to employ a right-based approach to address the environmental impacts of food systems and the consequences of these problems for human rights.
- *Lack of human and financial resources*
 - *Lack of irrigation infrastructure and environmentally friendly technologies*
 - *Lack of land use master plan for business development*
8. Please specify ways in which additional protection is provided (or should be provided) for small-holders and populations who may be particularly vulnerable to unhealthy and unsustainably produced food (e.g., women, children, persons living in poverty, members of Indigenous people and traditional communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic, racial, religious or other minorities, migrants and displaced persons). How can these populations be empowered to produce and consume healthy and sustainably produced food?
- *Introduce SMART agriculture techniques to the rural and remote areas by starting from the home-gardening;*
 - *Increase sustainable small-medium enterprises;*
 - *Provide sustainable alternative livelihoods; and*

- *Introduce and strengthen gender equality, gender mainstreaming and IP concepts*

9. How do you ensure that the rights of environmentalists working on food issues (environmental human rights defenders) are protected? What efforts has your Government, business, or organization made to create a safe and enabling environment for them to freely exercise their rights without fear of violence, intimidation, or reprisal?

Law enforcements and capacity building for all environmentalists to do their work. Mutual understanding among all actors need to be made.

10. There is substantial evidence that the actions of high-income States (e.g., high levels of meat consumptions, excessive calories, and food waste) are linked to adverse effects on food availability, food quality and ecosystem health in low- and middle-income States. What are ways in which high-income States should assist low-income States in reducing the environmental impacts of food systems while promoting healthy and sustainably produced food?

- *Provide financial support and the link between public-private partnership;*
- *Provide and transfer environmentally friendly technologies for food productions; and*
- *Ongoing support on REED+, PES and CEBET programs/project*

11. For businesses, what policies or practices are in place to ensure that activities, products, and services across the entire food system (productive, processing, distribution, marketing, retail, food loss and food) achieve healthy and sustainably produced food and meet human rights standards, especially those articulated in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights?

- *Subsidy policy*
- *Social media policy*
- *Confidentiality Policy*
- *Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Policy*
- *Workplace Accommodations for Disabilities policy*
- *Disaster or Severance Policy*
- *Social Net Policy etc.*