

UN Human Rights Council 48: UK statement for the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia

World news story

The UK delivered this statement welcoming Cambodia's cooperation with the OHCHR as an indication of their commitment to engage on human rights issues.



UK Government

Madam President,

The UK welcomes Prof Muntarbhorn to the role of Special Rapporteur, and we support his assessment of the human rights situation in Cambodia. We also welcome Cambodia's cooperation with the OHCHR as an indication of their commitment to engage on human rights issues.

The UK notes the unique pressures that COVID-19 has placed on countries globally. However, despite the Cambodian Government's good handling of the health aspects of COVID-19, there has been a regression in previously made gains in economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in primary education. As the world begins to emerge from crisis, we urge Cambodia to not

lose sight of the human rights implications, and recommit to making positive progress with respect to, and protection of all human rights.

We are also deeply concerned by the regression of democratic space, civil and political rights and freedoms. As Cambodia moves towards elections, we urge the Government to embrace open dialogue with civil society, the political opposition and its people.

The UK is committed to working with Cambodia to support activities to promote a human rights-based approach, including through Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022.

Special Rapporteur,

What measures do you believe the Government needs to take to ensure Cambodians can safely and legally participate in activism particularly on environmental topics?

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