

## Joint Statement of Civil Society Organizations

On

### the Draft law on the Organization and Function of the National Election Committee and the draft Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly

**March 6, 2015:** We, 60 civil society organizations (CSOs) representative from umbrella organizations, electoral reform alliances, trade union, solidarity house, youth network, gender and women network, human right and development organization in Cambodia, express our great concern regarding the drafting process, quality of, and provisions include in the draft law on the Organization and Function of the National Election Committee (NEC) and the propose draft Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly (LEMNA).

In the name of organizations protecting human rights, freedom, democracy, and economic development of Cambodia; and in the hope of moving on a path toward true and meaningful reform, we strongly urge the two political parties and other parties concerned to implement the following recommendations:

- ***Make official draft laws available to the public, and conduct wide, meaningful and transparent consultations*** with different stakeholders, and ensure women are represented in decision-making positions in all structures resulting from the draft laws on LEMNA and the law on the organization and functioning of the NEC.
- ***Abandon all provisions as enshrined in Articles 84, 137, 147 and 158*** in the new proposed LEMNA<sup>1</sup>, which relate to deprivation of political rights and the right to expression of civil society organizations. The deprivation of political rights and the right to freedom expression is exclusively violated the Constitution of Cambodia, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- ***Fully enforce the provisions of article 15 of the law on Political Parties*** to ensure the neutrality and impartiality of the Cambodian Royal Armed Forces, National Police and Judicial Officers.

We also encourage our fellow citizens to engage in dialogue about these laws, and communicate their concerns to their elected representatives.

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<sup>1</sup> Unofficial draft law