



CAMBODIA

# UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF R2P IMPLEMENTATION 2023



Asia-Pacific Centre for the  
Responsibility to Protect



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# CAMBODIA

Cambodia has declined slightly since the 2022 assessment, mostly due to decreasing domestic human rights protections. There is still a risk that crimes against humanity may be committed by the Cambodian government.

The country has been a trailblazer in the region for furthering atrocity prevention in the past. This has included being the first and only ASEAN member to nominate a national R2P Focal Point. It has progressed further than most in taking forward consideration of risk and resilience and developing an action plan for atrocity prevention. It was a founding member of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) network, which since 2009 has initiated a series of regional and international conferences on atrocities prevention. It has also been (and remains) a decent contributor to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including those with a protection of civilians mandate.

The Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), established to prosecute atrocity crimes perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge, continues to be plagued with problems and controversies and Cambodia remains reticent to support initiatives such as veto restraint and the Kigali Principles. There is also a gap between the government's rhetoric and its actions in regional organizations.

Whilst the Prime Minister and National Focal Point have committed Cambodia to lead initiatives for atrocity prevention within ASEAN, this has not always translated into practice. Cambodia was the chair of ASEAN in 2022. Although it oversaw the bloc's efforts in dealing with Myanmar and spoke out against the actions of Myanmar, there was no evidence of supporting atrocity prevention.

Cambodia has struggled to translate its international commitment to R2P into domestic change. The government, under Hun Sen's leadership, continues to repress its population, with widespread human rights abuses and limited civic freedoms. There are also concerns about the politicization of reconciliation and justice following the Khmer Rouge regime, as well as the lack of domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.

As it currently stands, Cambodia is in effect a one-party authoritarian State, with little chance of change in the near future.

Its overall index score has dropped by a point since 2022.

Thematic Area	Indicator	Assessment	Notes
Basic Compliance	Protection of populations from atrocity crimes.	Fair <b>Decrease</b>	The possibility of crimes against humanity having been committed by the Cambodian government against certain sections of its population is persistent. Unfortunately, this circumstance is unlikely to improve in the near future, and further assessments would likely see a reduction in this Indicator.
	Reduction of atrocity crime risks.	Weak <b>Unchanged</b>	Hun Sen's government continues to repress its population. Human rights abuses are common, and civic freedoms are severely limited. Impunity reigns within the security services and the judiciary is seen as corrupt and partisan in favour of the ruling party.  While risks of widespread atrocity crimes may not necessarily be imminent, the risks of them occurring in Cambodia is, unfortunately, high.
	Dealing with past atrocities.	Fair <b>Unchanged</b>	Reconciliation and justice following the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime has been politicised by Hun Sen's government. The tribunal to convict former Khmer Rouge members for atrocity crimes has now finished its work. While its achievements are noteworthy and unique for the region, it is clear the proceedings have been politically compromised by the rising authoritarianism in Cambodia. <sup>1</sup> This has only further added to the wider air of impunity within the country.
Policy Mechanisms	Appoint national R2P Focal Point.	Very Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	Cambodia retains a national R2P Focal Point. <sup>2</sup>
	Incorporate atrocity crime risks and dynamics into conflict analysis and/or development partnerships.	Fair <b>Unchanged</b>	There is no evidence of the Cambodian government incorporating R2P into official policies. This Indicator has not fallen due to the work of Cambodian civil society, which ensures the norm continues to be discussed within government, academia and civil society. <sup>3</sup>
	Establish domestic mechanisms to hold the government accountable for upholding its responsibility to protect.	Very Weak <b>Decrease</b>	Under the leadership of Hun Sen, there are no domestic mechanisms in place within Cambodia to ensure the government upholds the responsibility to protect.
International Human Rights Obligations	Sign, ratify and implement relevant instruments of international law.	Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	There is no update on this Indicator. Cambodia has ratified eleven of the twelve international human rights laws and treaties most relevant to R2P. It has yet to fully ratify the <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i> (ATT). <sup>4</sup>
	Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with the Court.	Very Strong <b>Unchanged</b>	Cambodia continues to fully ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.  There was no update found for the issue of land clearances and whether they constitute crimes

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see: Dordeska, Marija, 2022. 'The ECCC Begins Winding Down: In Cambodia, a Hybrid Tribunal's Hybrid Legacy'. *Just Security*, 3 October. Available at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/83316/eccc-winding-down-in-cambodia-hybrid-tribunals-hybrid-legacy/>; Stensrud, Ellen Emilie, 2022. 'The Politics of the ECCC: Lessons from Cambodia's Unique and Troubled Accountability Effort'. *Just Security*, 13 October. Available at: <https://www.justsecurity.org/83534/the-politics-of-eccc-lessons-from-cambodias-accountability-effort/>.

<sup>2</sup> Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2022. *Members of the Global Network of R2P Focal Points*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/members-of-the-global-network-of-r2p-focal-points/>.

<sup>3</sup> For example: Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), 2023. *R2P*, <https://cicp.org.kh/r2p/>.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Treaty Collection (UNTC), 2023. 8. *Arms Trade Treaty*, [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-8&chapter=26).

Establish and maintain National Human Rights Institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Very Weak  
Unchanged

against humanity. This is despite widespread reporting<sup>5</sup> and advocacy by civil society.<sup>6</sup>

Cambodia still does not have national human rights institution, despite continued calls and consultations for establishing one.<sup>7</sup>

The government body overseeing the consultation, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, provides responses to international human rights bodies and submits reports to the UPR process. Yet, it does not undertake independent investigations and is thus considered part of the regime that cracks down on human rights within the country.<sup>8</sup>

Ensure domestic promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on the elimination of discrimination.

Very Weak  
Unchanged

Human rights within Cambodia are strongly curtailed under the authoritarian rule of Hun Sen, who has continued to repress opposition politics, the media, and Cambodian civil society. This has resulted in a swathe of human rights violations and a general loss of basic civic freedoms within the country.<sup>9</sup>

In particular, a UN committee reviewing Cambodia's adherence to the ICESCR found three priorities for the government to address: violence and intolerance towards civil society, discrimination and dispossession of indigenous peoples, and alleviating poverty.<sup>10</sup>

As it stands, with the banning of opposition parties, Cambodia is a one-party State where human rights abuses, corruption, and government impunity are rife.<sup>11</sup>

Participate in international peer review processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council.

Strong  
Unchanged

There is no update for this Indicator. Cambodia will undertake its next UPR in January 2024.

Cooperate fully with UN Human Rights mandate holders and those of relevant regional organisations.

Fair  
Unchanged

Cambodia still has not offered a standing invitation to UN mandate holders to visit the country,<sup>12</sup> although it has hosted many visits which have been completed and reported upon.

Recently the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Cambodia, Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, had his

<sup>5</sup> For example: Pry, Nehru, 2022. 'Cambodia's land grab endangers people, forests, and the climate'. *Earth Journalism Network*, 20 October. Available at: <https://earthjournalism.net/stories/cambodias-land-grab-endangers-people-forests-and-the-climate>.

<sup>6</sup> ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, 2021. *Open Letter: Supporting the Cambodian Land Grabbing case*, <https://aseanmp.org/2021/03/18/cambodia-international-criminal-court-prosecutor-urged-to-prosecute-land-grabbing-crimes/>.

<sup>7</sup> Asia Pacific Forum, 2022. *Cambodia moves closer to establishing NHRI*, <https://www.asiapacificforum.net/news/supporting-nhri-establishment-cambodia/>; Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, 2023. *Members*, <https://ganhri.org/membership/>. See also: Human Rights Watch (HRW), 2023. *Cambodia: Events of 2022*, 'New Rights-Abusing Laws and Bills', <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cambodia>.

<sup>8</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Section 5. Governmental Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights', <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/cambodia/>.

<sup>9</sup> For more detail, see: Amnesty International, 2023. *Cambodia 2022*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-east-asia-and-the-pacific/cambodia/report-cambodia/>; HRW, 2023. *Cambodia*, <https://www.hrw.org/asia/cambodia>; Al Jazeera Staff, 2023. 'Cambodia placed on watchlist of "repressive" states: CIVICUS'. *Al Jazeera*, 16 February. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/16/cambodia-earns-place-on-watchlist-of-repressive-states-civicus>.

<sup>10</sup> fidh, 2023. *Cambodia: UN body slams violations of economic, social and cultural rights*, <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/cambodia/cambodia-un-body-slams-violations-of-economic-social-and-cultural>.

<sup>11</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Executive Summary'.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), n.d. *View Country visits of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council since 1998*, <https://spinternet.ohchr.org/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?visitType=all&lang=en>.

	Ensure equal access to justice.	Weak Unchanged	<p>mandate extended by two years, with a 2023 report on Cambodian human rights forthcoming.<sup>13</sup></p> <p>Despite constitutional guarantees and a fair and equal justice system on paper, Cambodia's judicial system and law enforcement apparatuses are corrupt and partisan in favour of Hun Sen's government. The courts are regarded by Cambodians as corrupt, and those with money and power can force charges against them to be dropped. Therefore, impunity reigns, especially for those in the security forces and with links to the ruling party.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>Judges, appointed by the government, pursue cases against political opposition, and due process is largely absent. Mistreatment by security forces during arrests and during detention is frequent.<sup>15</sup></p>
	Criminalise incitement to commit genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.	Fair Unchanged	<p>Cambodia retains laws criminalising genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.<sup>16</sup> Since 2013, they have also criminalised denial of the crimes of the Khmer Rouge regime,<sup>17</sup> yet there is some concern by rights groups that this law, while promising on paper, is politically motivated.</p> <p>The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) has finally completed its work in investigating and prosecuting former members of the Khmer Rouge regime for mass atrocity crimes.<sup>18</sup> After an appeal, it upheld the conviction of Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge head of state in the 1970s, for genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.<sup>19</sup></p> <p>The ECCC ends after years of hearings that have cost an estimated \$330 million. During this time, the tribunal has been compromised with political interference. This has seen disagreements between local Cambodian prosecutors and international members of the tribunal over certain cases. Despite a final upholding of Samphan's conviction, several other cases were dismissed in 2021/2022 after local judges deemed the cases fell outside of the purview of the ECCC, despite protestations that they did not, and there was enough evidence to prosecute.<sup>20</sup></p>
	Take measures to counter and prevent violent extremism.	Fair Unchanged	<p>There is no evidence to suggest Cambodia has failed to maintain its counterterrorism and counter-extremism capabilities, nor its cooperation with</p>

<sup>13</sup> UNOHCHR, 2023. *Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-cambodia>.

<sup>14</sup> HRW, 2023. *Cambodia: Events of 2022*, 'New Rights-Abusing Laws and Bills'; U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Section 1. Respect for the Integrity of the Person'.

<sup>15</sup> Freedom House, 2023. *Freedom in the World 2023: Cambodia*, 'F. Rule of Law', <https://freedomhouse.org/country/cambodia/freedom-world/2023>.

<sup>16</sup> International Criminal Court Project, n.d. *Cambodia*, <https://www.aba-icc.org/country/cambodia/>.

<sup>17</sup> Library of Congress, 2013. *Cambodia: Criminalizing Denial of Atrocities*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2013-06-12/cambodia-criminalizing-denial-of-atrocities/>.

<sup>18</sup> For more information about the ECCC and its activities, see an overview here: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. *Justice: Early Efforts*, <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/cambodia/case-study/justice/early-efforts>.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, 2022. 'Cambodia: UN-backed tribunal ends with conviction upheld for last living Khmer Rouge leader'. *UN News*, 22 September. Available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127521>.

<sup>20</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Section 5. Governmental Posture Towards International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Abuses of Human Rights'. The cases tried by the ECCC can be found on their website, along with descriptions of the investigations and any disagreements about prosecutions. For example, see: Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, 2023. *Case 004/2*, <https://www.eccc.gov.kh/en/case/topic/1691>.

			<p>other entities on these issues. In early 2023 Cambodian authorities participated in a workshop by a UN body on the proliferation and financing risks of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear material.<sup>21</sup> Otherwise, there is no update for this Indicator.</p>
	Enact and implement laws protecting vulnerable groups, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.	Fair Unchanged	<p>Instances of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) within Cambodia remain high, due mostly to ineffective laws, judicial and police apathy, and intense social stigma regarding sexual violence throughout Cambodia that has lasted for generations.<sup>22</sup> Rates of violence increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and Cambodia's tight restrictions on gatherings disproportionately affected Cambodian women in the entertainment industry.<sup>23</sup></p> <p>With input from international donors and the UN, programs have been put in place that help to address rates of SGBV<sup>24</sup> and provide help for women and families. This also includes training for law enforcement and government authorities.<sup>25</sup></p>
	Protect individuals and groups fleeing atrocity crimes and their risk, in accordance with International Refugee Law.	Weak Unchanged	<p>There is no update for this Indicator. While Cambodia does have systems in place to process the arrival of refugees and asylum seekers, it does not provide for equal access, and there is discrimination towards the small number of Montagnard asylum seekers in the country whom the government does not recognise.<sup>26</sup></p> <p>There are also 200 Afghan asylum seekers temporarily remaining in Cambodia awaiting resettlement in a third country.<sup>27</sup></p>
Domestic Implementation	Conduct a national assessment of risk and resilience.	Weak Unchanged	<p>There is no assessment that has been undertaken. This Indicator is rated 'Weak' due to various Cambodian civil society organisations continuing to interact with other actors in the region regarding atrocity prevention.<sup>28</sup></p>
	Cultivate and protect an active, diverse and robust civil society.	Very Weak Unchanged	<p>As mentioned in previous Indicators, Cambodia's backsliding on human rights and civic freedoms has only worsened since the last assessment. Hun Sen's government has punished opposition parties, corrupted the judiciary to serve him, and has</p>

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 2023. *Awareness raising workshop and consultations on countering CBRN proliferation financing risks with national stakeholders in the Kingdom of Cambodia*, <https://unicri.it/News/Awareness-raising-workshop-consultations-countering-CBRN-proliferation-financing-risks-Cambodia>.

<sup>22</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Women'.

<sup>23</sup> Brody, Carinne, Natasha Harrison and Siyan Yi, 2023. 'Income loss and gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic among female entertainment workers in Cambodia: a cross-sectional phone survey'. *BMC Public Health*, vol. 23, no. 281, <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-15044-9>.

<sup>24</sup> The government has also initialised a national action plan: Royal Government of Cambodia, 2019. *National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2019-2023*, [https://cambodia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/nap\\_2019-2023\\_english\\_final.pdf](https://cambodia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/nap_2019-2023_english_final.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, 2022. *UNODC launches public information campaign to address gender-based violence in Phnom Penh*, <https://www.unodc.org/roseap/cambodia/2022/05/campaign-gender-based-violence/story.html>; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2022. "Violence of any kind is not how you show love" – spreading the message on getting help after experiencing gender-based violence in Cambodia, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2022/July/violence-of-any-kind-is-not-how-you-show-love--spreading-the-message-on-getting-help-after-experiencing-gender-based-violence-in-cambodia.html>.

<sup>26</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, 'Section 2. Respect for Civil Liberties: E. Protection of Refugees'.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., Soeum, Yin, 2022. 'Nearly 200 transiting Afghan refugees in Cambodia'. *The Khmer Times*, 15 March. Available at: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501041364/nearly-200-transiting-afghan-refugees-in-cambodia/>.

<sup>28</sup> This includes APR2P.

	continued to prosecute human rights defenders, the media and civil society organisations. <sup>29</sup>		
Ensure a legitimate, effective and civilian controlled security sector.	Very Weak Unchanged	There is no update for this Indicator. The security services of Cambodia serve at the behest of Hun Sen, and there are accounts of torture and human rights abuses against those perceived to be against the regime.	
Ensure the education system reflects the ethnic, national and cultural diversity of society, and sets examples of inclusiveness.	Fair Unchanged	There is no update for this Indicator. While Cambodia has done well to increase its education sector following its annihilation under the Khmer Rouge regime, <sup>30</sup> lack of inclusion remains an issue, particularly outside of Phnom Penh. <sup>31</sup>	
Prevent nationals committing atrocity crimes overseas.	Fair Unchanged	There is no new evidence for this Indicator.	
Bilateral and Multilateral Relations	Participate in international, regional, and national discussions on the further advancement of R2P.	Fair Unchanged	There was no evidence Cambodia spoke at recent UN debates on R2P. Cambodian civil society organisations have continued to engage with regional bodies and APR2P to discuss issues surrounding R2P both in Cambodia and globally. <sup>32</sup>
	Leverage existing mechanisms and institutions (including regional and sub-regional organisations) to encourage States to fulfil their responsibility to protect.	Weak Unchanged	Cambodia continues to be lax when it comes to voting in the UN General Assembly over resolutions referencing R2P. While it may seem ironic, it voted yes on a resolution condemning extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions.
	Encourage and assist States to fulfil their R2P in situations of emerging and ongoing crisis,	Weak Unchanged	<p><b>UN General Assembly Resolutions:<sup>33</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021: Terrorism and human rights A/RES/76/169: <b>adopted without vote.</b></li> <li>• 2021: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/76/177: <b>adopted without vote.</b></li> <li>• 2021: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/76/228: <b>did not vote.</b></li> <li>• 2022: Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions A/RES/77/218: <b>yes.</b></li> <li>• 2022: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea A/RES/77/226: <b>adopted without vote.</b></li> <li>• 2022: Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar A/RES/77/227: <b>adopted without vote.</b></li> <li>• 2022: Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic A/RES/77/230: <b>did not vote.</b></li> </ul> <p>Cambodia’s efforts in this Indicator have been made through the rubric of ASEAN, which places primary importance on neutrality and mutual consensus in its diplomacy. While chair of ASEAN</p>

<sup>29</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, ‘Executive Summary’; Freedom House, 2023. *Freedom in the World 2023: Cambodia*, ‘Civil Liberties’; Reporters Without Borders, 2023. *Cambodia*, <https://rsf.org/en/country/cambodia>; HRW, 2023. *Cambodia: Events of 2022*.

<sup>30</sup> Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews, n.d. *Cambodia*, <https://education-profiles.org/eastern-and-south-eastern-asia/cambodia/~inclusion#Learning%20Environments>; Heng, Kimkong, 2022. ‘Cambodia’s Education System: Looking Back to Move Forward’. *Fulcrum*, 11 March. Available at: <https://fulcrum.sg/cambodias-education-system-looking-back-to-move-forward/>.

<sup>31</sup> U.S Department of State, 2023. *2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cambodia*, ‘Section 6. Discrimination and Societal Abuses: Children’.

<sup>32</sup> See: Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), 2023. *The Responsibility to Protect in the Asia Pacific*, ‘Cambodia’, <https://r2pasiapacific.org/responsibility-protect-asia-pacific>.

<sup>33</sup> Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P), 2022. *UN General Assembly Resolutions Referencing R2P*, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/un-general-assembly-resolutions-referencing-r2p-2/>. (Voting records for UN resolutions can be found here: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/?ln=en>.)

	such as good offices and preventive diplomacy.		in 2022, Cambodia oversaw the bloc's efforts in dealing with Myanmar and other actors within the region, mostly through trade negotiations. <sup>34</sup>
	Strengthen regional and international networks for atrocity crime prevention.	Weak Unchanged	While Cambodia spoke out against the actions of Myanmar's junta and its lack of progress on the five-point plan, <sup>35</sup> (as well as against Russia's invasion of Ukraine) <sup>36</sup> there is no evidence of supporting atrocity prevention.
	Strengthen the role and capacity of regional organisations.	Very Weak Unchanged	Despite several Cambodian organisations working on atrocity prevention at a local level with APR2P and APPAP, no evidence was found of Cambodia officially strengthening ties around atrocity prevention.
	Support the development and work of regional human rights and other preventive capacities.	Very Weak Unchanged	During its tenure as chair of ASEAN, Cambodia pushed for the provisional admission of Timor Leste to the bloc. <sup>37</sup> However in 2023, it did not accept an invitation to participate in ASEAN's proposed military drills, a first for the organisation, due to perceived antagonism of China. <sup>38</sup>
	Support atrocity prevention through development and assistance partnerships.	Weak Unchanged	While it participates in many areas of regional diplomacy, it appears Cambodia does not actively seek to strengthen regional bodies in any of its diplomatic overtures.
	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Very Weak Unchanged	There is no update for this Indicator.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Very Weak Unchanged	No evidence could be found to support new information for this Indicator.
United Nations, prevention, Peacekeeping, and assistance	Support the early warning and capacity building efforts of the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and R2P.	Very Weak Unchanged	There is little evidence Cambodia supports any early warning efforts, either with the UN or other organisations.
	Support the strengthening of the UN's capacity for atrocity prevention, including through the UN Human Rights system.	Very Weak Unchanged	Cambodia does little to work with the UN to promote human rights and atrocity prevention. While the country participated in a dialogue around the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (of which Cambodia is a party to), the delegation said "...Cambodia and the Committee needed to agree to disagree" on the human rights situation within the country. <sup>39</sup> This was in response to several questions from the Committee regarding the dire situation of human rights, access to justice and political pluralism within Cambodia.
	Support preventive actions on atrocity crimes.	Very Weak Unchanged	No new information could be found for this Indicator. Given Cambodia's abysmal human rights

<sup>34</sup> For more information, see: Bong, Chansambath, 2022. 'Cambodia's ASEAN diplomacy in the spotlight'. *East Asia Forum*, 8 September. Available at: <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/09/08/cambodias-asean-diplomacy-in-the-spotlight/>; Vun, Phanit and Sokvy Rim, 2023. 'What Indonesia Can Learn From Cambodia Regarding the Myanmar Crisis'. *The Diplomat*, 1 February. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/02/what-indonesia-can-learn-from-cambodia-regarding-the-myanmar-crisis/>.

<sup>35</sup> Detsch, Jack, 2022. 'Cambodia Blacklists Myanmar From an ASEAN Meeting'. *Foreign Policy*, 21 November. Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/21/cambodia-blacklists-myanmar-asean-meeting-coup-violence/>.

<sup>36</sup> Rising, David, Sopheng Cheang, 2022. 'Ukraine Boosts Southeast Asia Ties With Peace Accord'. *The Diplomat*, 11 November. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/11/ukraine-boosts-southeast-asia-ties-with-peace-accord/>.

<sup>37</sup> Seah, Sharon, 2023. 'Relaying the ASEAN baton from Cambodia to Indonesia'. *East Asia Forum*, 11 January. Available at: <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/01/11/relaying-the-asean-baton-from-cambodia-to-indonesia/>.

<sup>38</sup> Chansammang, Sim, Meas Da. 2023. 'Cambodia Pumps Brakes on Plan for ASEAN Joint Military Exercises in South China Sea'. *VOA News*, 13 June. Available at: <https://www.voanews.com/a/cambodia-pumps-brakes-on-plan-for-asean-joint-military-exercises-in-south-china-sea/7134571.html>.

<sup>39</sup> The United Nations Office at Geneva, 2022. *In Dialogue with Cambodia, Experts of the Human Rights Committee Ask about Freedom of Expression and Raise Issues Concerning COVID-19 Prevention Measures*, <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2022/03/dialogue-cambodia-experts-human-rights-committee-ask-about>.

	Contribute to United Nations peacekeeping operations (especially those with a protection of civilians mandate).	Strong Increase	record, it is likely they do not support atrocity crime prevention. Cambodia maintains a robust deployment of 849 military personnel abroad in four UN peacekeeping missions. <sup>40</sup> Besides UNIFIL, the other three missions <sup>41</sup> where Cambodian peacekeepers are deployed have a mandate to protect civilians.
	Develop the capacities needed to support civilian protection, including through the training of military and civilian personnel for peacekeeping.	Fair Unchanged	Cambodia has continued to receive training from France for its peacekeepers in explosive ordnance disposal and in judicial practices for police. <sup>42</sup> This is to ensure Cambodian peacekeepers can be up to the standard required for UN peacekeeping missions.  However, atrocity prevention in this training is not explicitly mentioned.
	Support the Kigali Principles.	Very Weak Unchanged	There is no update for this Indicator.
	Support UN Security Council veto restraint on issues relating to atrocity prevention.	Fair Unchanged	There is no update for this Indicator. Cambodia is a signatory to the French/Mexican initiative on veto restraint, but not to the ACT Code of Conduct.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations Peacekeeping, 2023. Troop and Police Contributors, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>. (Cambodia can be selected from the drop-down menu.)

<sup>41</sup> These are MINUSCA (Central African Republic), MINUSMA (Mali) and UNMISS (South Sudan).

<sup>42</sup> Sochan, Ry, 2023. 'Thirty peacekeepers complete explosive ordnance disposal training'. *The Phnom Penh Post*, 11 February. Available at: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/thirty-peacekeepers-complete-explosive-ordnance-disposal-training>; Khmer Times, 2023. 'France to provide additional skills training to Cambodian peacekeepers'. *Khmer Times*, 5 June. Available at: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501302617/france-to-provide-additional-skills-training-to-cambodian-peacekeepers/>.