

TERMS OF REFERENCE
for
Project Review of the "Strengthening Democracy
and Electoral Processes in Cambodia" project
and Project Formulation Proposal

1. INTRODUCTION

The Strengthening Democracy and Electoral Processes in Cambodia Project was signed between the Royal government of Cambodia (RGC) and the UNDP in January 2006. Through this project UNDP and RGC agreed to move beyond the traditional short-term technical cooperation limited to electoral events to longer term support to electoral institutions and assistance to improve electoral legislation and processes with a view to making these more transparent, participatory and independent. The planned project activities reflected that elections alone are not enough to allow democratic values to flourish, but would require greater substantive electoral assistance with broader ranging initiatives involving the Cambodian people as a whole, its civil society and especially the younger generation to foster the emergence of a culture of democracy going beyond the ballot boxes.

A mid-term project review mission was conducted in May 2007 and made recommendations to re-focus the project in advance of the 2008 National Assembly elections. Following the conduct of these elections, and given that the UN has been providing electoral assistance to Cambodia since 1992, it would be useful at this stage to take stock of the impact of such assistance, and to look strategically at future electoral assistance with a view to increased effectiveness and a focused coherent approach.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The primary objective of the mission is to conduct a comprehensive review of the project results and achievements and to make recommendations for future action. Specific objectives include

1. Assessing the overall performance of the project with reference to its respective strategy, objectives and quantitative and qualitative indicators defined by the project document and the implementation arrangements, and identify major management and operational issues that impacted on the achievement of project objectives.
2. Assessing the relevance of the project in the emerging country context and priorities, taking into consideration other electoral assistance interventions, and to identify possible needs for future electoral assistance.

3. DUTIES/TASKS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Duties and tasks will include the following:

- a. Conduct a review of the activities being undertaken by the project including:
 - Equity news programmes;
 - Voter Information Support to NEC;
 - Support to MoI towards National ID card programme;
 - Support to political parties and facilitation of high level NEC-political parties dialogue facilitated by the project;
 - Partnership with civil society organizations; and
 - UNDP's coordination and electoral assistance role.
- b. Assess input of UNDP's capacity building efforts for the preparation of the NEC's technical organization of 2008 National Assembly Election;
- c. Determine how NEC performed in the conduct of 2008 National Assembly Election particularly in the areas of complaint management, participation in the electoral process by most vulnerable groups, efforts by NEC to remove obstacles for poor groups, accountability during election and independence of NEC, gender mainstreaming, where NEC stands when compared with 2002 and 2007 commune elections and reliabilities of voter register;
- d. In the light of NEC's performance in 2008 National Assembly Election, identify needs and approach for future technical assistance to further strengthen NEC;
- e. Review the reports submitted by short-term consultants with the aim to identify areas for decreasing or scaling down of future interventions;
- f. Assess existing strategy and identify priority areas of engagement, offering recommendations intended to ensure the coordination of UN assistance with other donor support; and qualify and define priorities for what the UN can and should do.

4. OUTPUTS

The Review Mission will produce a final report of the mission's findings which will be submitted to the UN Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities and the UNDP Country Office:

5. ASSIGNMENT METHODOLOGY

Briefing and debriefing meetings will be arranged with UNDP Resident Representative, UNDP Country Director and UNDP Deputy Director for Programme. The UNDP project team and the UNDP Country Office Governance Cluster Team will facilitate day-to-day coordination of the review.

The review mission is expected to employ a variety of methods including documentation review (desk study), direct interviews and meetings with involved stakeholders including donors and government counterparts, and field visits.

6. DURATION AND COMPOSTION

The mission will be conducted from 23 October to 01 November, and will comprise of two representatives of the Electoral Assistance Division and Asia Pacific Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs, and one representative of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy. The mission team will be led by the expert on governance from UNDPHQ/BDP.