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ច្បាប់ដើមប្រទេស. ទន្ទឹមស្រី... (១២១១)
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Note No. 0678/2023

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and has the honor to request the Ministry's assistance in facilitating the fourth bilateral Counter-Human Trafficking Inter-Ministerial Dialogue between the United States and Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy and Minister of Women's Affairs H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi will co-chair the event, which we would like to propose be held in either late October or early November.

This event would represent the fourth inter-ministerial dialogue to discuss ways to cooperate in combatting human trafficking in the Kingdom and throughout the region. We hope to build on the productive conversation from our last meeting in October 2021, co-chaired by Minister of Women's Affairs H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia W. Patrick Murphy, and attended by senior representation from relevant ministries. The event provides an opportunity to discuss the government's recent efforts to combat trafficking and identify ways in which we can work together to advance points identified in the enclosed 2023 TIP Report Action Plan.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

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permission to work, temporary residency, or other relevant immigration status to foreign victims wishing to remain in country during proceedings.

10. Implement a system for monitoring, collecting, and reporting data on anti-trafficking prosecution and victim protection efforts, and disseminate data among the relevant government agencies in a manner that protects victims' identities and privacy.
11. Eliminate recruitment or placement fees charged to workers by Cambodian labor recruiters and ensure they are instead paid by employers.
12. Increase inspection and oversight of lending institutions, including private micro-finance organizations, to reduce vulnerability to debt-based coercion among economically disadvantaged communities.
13. Allow restitution upon conviction of the trafficker and establish and train relevant officials on procedures for calculating and granting restitution.
14. Establish and allocate resources to implement systematic procedures at diplomatic missions to assist Cambodian victims abroad, including in countries without Cambodian diplomatic representation.
15. Amend regulations on labor recruitment licensure and contract requirements to include strengthened language on worker protections and labor rights.
16. Strengthen efforts to inspect private labor recruitment agencies and their sub-licensed brokers for fraudulent recruitment and other trafficking indicators.
17. Incorporate NGO input into the policy for formally transferring custody of child victims.

2023-2024 Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for Cambodia

Below please find recommendations for specific goals and objectives to further the Government of Cambodia's anti-trafficking efforts over the next year:

1. Investigate and prosecute traffickers involved in forced labor crimes in cyber scam operations, including complicit officials.
2. Fully implement victim identification guidelines, apply them to both domestic and foreign suspected victims, and train officials in all areas of the country on their use.
3. Screen all individuals in immigrant detention or custody for human trafficking indicators, including foreign workers, men and boys, LGBTQI+ individuals, and persons with disabilities.
4. Investigate and prosecute trafficking crimes and seek adequate penalties for convicted traffickers, which should involve significant prison terms.
5. Increase funding to anti-trafficking law enforcement units and disburse it in advance of investigations, rather than by reimbursement.
6. Allocate increased resources to anti-human trafficking police to better facilitate the monitoring of defendants released under judicial supervision pending trial.
7. Increase or start unannounced labor inspections in high-vulnerability professions, especially in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and at brick kilns, entertainment venues, construction sites, and plantations, with a focus on identifying labor trafficking and debt bondage and holding business owners accountable to the law.
8. Increase the availability of services for male victims, especially men and boys exploited in commercial fishing abroad.
9. Incentivize domestic and foreign victims' participation in criminal and civil proceedings, including by establishing a victim's fund and granting

The Embassy's point of contact for this request is Political Officer John Milicevich who can be reached at 012-230-029 or by Email: MilicevichJL@state.gov, and who will coordinate directly with the respective ministries on the logistics and details for the event.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: Suggested Action Plan, 2023-2024

CC: Ministry of Women's Affairs
Ministry of Interior
National Committee for Counter Trafficking

Embassy of the United States of America,
Phnom Penh, October 3, 2023.

