

Joint Statement of the Establishment of the Office Administration of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

**Kingdom of Cambodia
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**Office of the Council of Ministers Secretariat of the Task Force
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By His Excellency Sean Visoth, Director of the Office of Administration and Ms Michelle Lee, Deputy Director

This week the Office of Administration of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia is being opened and the joint start-up team is commencing its work.

It is a pleasure for us to welcome the press for the first time in the new premises -- an office building and a court room with generous surrounds -- now dedicated for use as the premises of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the Prosecution of Crimes Committed during the Period of Democratic Kampuchea.

We can now say clearly that we have moved from the planning phase into the actual establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia or ECCC.

We take this opportunity to thank the donors - both those who have contributed to the UN side of the budget as well as to the Cambodian side, which is still lacking \$9.6 million. We are confident that the remaining funds will be soon be secured and repeat our appeal for such assistance.

We are not allowing the current shortfall to impede the opening of the Office of Administration, and are now putting into place the joint start-up team for the Office of Administration. Our counterparts from the United Nations, led by Deputy Director of the Office of Administration Michelle Lee, have started to arrive in Phnom Penh to take up their positions in the ECCC.

In the legal and judicial area, the final stages of appointing both Cambodian and international judges, co-prosecutors and co-investigating judges are under way, and we would expect to be able to announce their names shortly. On 6 February, the United Nations General Assembly approved a decision recommended by the SG that the international judges, co-prosecutor and co-investigating judge will be deemed as officials of the UN for the purposes of their terms and conditions of service and approve the

granting of that status to them for those purpose.

On the United Nations side, the selected judicial officers are now undergoing medical examinations, and the Secretary-General is expected to send the list of nominees for final selection by the Royal Government of Cambodia and appointment by the Supreme Council of the Magistracy. We expect that the Supreme Council of the Magistracy will at the same time announce the names of the Cambodian judicial officers it has appointed.

Other preparations are also being carried out, such as development of a compendium of over 100 basic legal documents in the official languages of the court (with assistance from the Government of Norway) and for a regional outreach program (funded by the Government of Australia).

We know that the tasks ahead for all the staff and judicial officers will be challenging and demanding, but we pledge to do our best to carry out the responsibilities to which we have been assigned so that justice delayed will not mean justice denied for the Cambodian people, who have waited so long.