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Press Release

**STATEMENT ON THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CAMBODIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE KHMER ROUGE TRIALS ON
29 APRIL 2005**

by

His Excellency Mr SOK An

Deputy Prime Minister

and

Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers

Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force for the

Khmer Rouge Trials

On 28 April 2005 the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr Kofi Annan wrote to the Prime Minister, Samdech Hun Sen informing him that all the legal requirements on the United Nations side for entry into force of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Royal Government of Cambodia concerning the Prosecution under Cambodian Law of Crimes Committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea have now been met.

According to Article 32 of the Agreement, it therefore entered in to force on 29 April 2005 – the day following his notification -- given that His Excellency Mr. Sok An had on 16 November 2004 informed His Excellency Mr. Nicholas Michel that the legal requirements on the Cambodian side had been met.

The Prime Minister has responded to the Secretary-General stating that we are indeed relieved that we have finally concluded these preparatory stages, and are now able to move on to the long-awaited task of establishing the Extraordinary Chambers. Both sides have given their assurances that they will spare no effort in this regard, and are ready to move ahead in the coming weeks and months.

We were extremely gratified by the results of the Pledging Conference held at the UN Secretariat in New York on 28 March 2005. Japan made the very substantial contribution of \$21.6 million – fully 50% of the international share of the budget.

Complementary to the Secretary-General's appeal for the international share, we are appealing to interested states to assist Cambodia in meeting its allocated share of the budget, amounting to \$13.3 million. The Royal Government of Cambodia will contribute \$6.7 million (consisting of \$1.5 million in cash, and an estimated \$5.2 million in kind expenses which lie outside the budget itself). This pledge from Cambodia amounts to over 10% of the total costs of the Extraordinary Chambers (\$61.5 million – \$56.3 in the budget plus the \$5.2million extra-budgetary expenses).

Several countries have indicated that they are willing to contribute bilateral contributions to help us meet the total allocated to the Cambodian share, and we expect to be able soon to announce the achievement of this target. I would like to emphasise that both sides of the budget are of equal importance to the challenging task of establishing a sound process that meets international standards.

I wish to express our profound thanks for the work of so many individuals and organisations, both in Cambodia and around the world, who have worked tirelessly to achieve justice on this issue for over twenty five years.

We are confident that the formula we have agreed to establish will not only meet our country's needs for justice in this egregious case, but will also assist the wider process of legal and judicial reform by providing a model court meeting international standards. Furthermore, we are hopeful that the Cambodian model may also serve as an inspiration for other countries in their search for justice.

Now, as we stand on the brink of establishing the Extraordinary Chambers, is the time for all Cambodians, and all fair-minded people around the world, to do our utmost to make the Khmer Rouge trials a successful process, despite any past differences of opinion as to what form of court, tribunal or commission is most appropriate. Let us pledge to work together towards this end as our commitment for the coming year.

A generation has passed since these crimes were committed. We cannot afford to lose any more time. I can assure that the Royal Government of Cambodia will do our utmost to ensure the Extraordinary Chambers may begin to function as soon as possible, and that they attain the level of international standards that we have both agreed on and that are needed to address the needs for justice of the Cambodian people and all humanity.

Phnom Penh

03 May 2005