



អង្គជំនុំជម្រះវិសាមញ្ញក្នុងតុលាការកម្ពុជា

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
Chambres extraordinaires au sein des tribunaux cambodgiens

**ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ**

Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King
Royaume du Cambodge
Nation Religion Roi

**Opening Speech
H.E. Kong Srim, President of the Plenary
ECCC Ninth Plenary Session, 21 February 2011**

Judge Silvia Cartwright, Vice-President of the Plenary, distinguished members of the Plenary, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my warm welcome to your participation in this Ninth Session of the ECCC Plenary, which takes place in the newly renovated Courtroom, which has been adapted for the upcoming trial in Case File 002. This Plenary is scheduled to take place from 21 to 23 February 2011.

During this Session, I have the pleasure to welcome to the Plenary, the recently appointed reserve, Co-Investigating Judge, Mr. Laurent Kasper-Ansermet, following his nomination by the UN Secretary-General and subsequent appointment by the Supreme Council of Magistracy of Cambodia. Mr. Kasper-Ansermet has a distinguished career working for various judicial offices in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland. On behalf of the ECCC, I would extend a warm welcome to you. To mark this occasion, a swearing-in ceremony will take place before the Plenary following the speech of the Vice-President. The oath will be administered by the UNAKRT Coordinator. I would also take this opportunity to welcome back Judge Siegfried Blunk, who has since the last Plenary assumed the position of international Co-Investigating Judge following the departure of the previous incumbent, Mr. Marcel Lemonde and a number of our fellow judges of the Supreme Court Chamber who have since assumed full-time residence.

Since our last Session in September 2010, the ECCC has moved forward significantly and achieved further milestones. Following the conclusion of the ECCC's first trial in the Kaing Guek Eav and the delivery of the verdict by the Trial Chamber in July 2010, the parties have submitted appeals which are duly under consideration by the Supreme Court Chamber. The Supreme Court Chamber has scheduled public hearings to take place from 28-31 March 2011 and is expected to announce its judgment thereafter towards the end of June 2011. As you are aware, the first trial

attracted strong public interest. During the trial proceedings, 31,300 visitors were welcomed to the ECCC proceedings and 950 visitors attended the pronouncement of the verdict.

Since 15 September 2010, when the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges issued the closing order in Case File 002, the parties filed appeals to the closing order to the Pre-Trial Chamber in accordance with the judicial procedure. On 13 January 2011, the Pre-Trial Chamber confirmed and partially amended the closing order and sent the case for trial. The Pre-Trial Chamber is currently engaged in dealing with 95 appeals for admission as civil parties to the proceedings. It has issued a considerable number of directions and decisions on interlocutory requests related to these appeals. Most of these appeals are at the procedural stage with written decisions to be issued. The Trial Chamber has since been seised with Case File 002 and is currently engaged in preparing for the commencement of the trial in Case File 002. The Trial Chamber has announced an *in camera* Trial Management hearing on 4-5 April 2011. This year, the ECCC will look forward to the commencement and conduct of the next trial which will present a number of complex legal and practical challenges.

I wish to thank all whose tireless efforts contributed to these accomplishments of the ECCC so far, both within the Chambers and Office of Administration. I would particularly extend the gratitude of the ECCC to the international community and those who have provided continued support and funding to the operations of the ECCC.

I would like to draw to the attention of members that a purpose of this current Plenary session is to agree certain amendments to the ECCC Internal Rules relating to the further streamlining of proceedings before the ECCC. One of the significant amendments would allow for an efficient procedure in immediate appeals before the Supreme Court Chamber. The proposed amendments have been discussed within the Rules and Procedure Committee which met in late November last year. Following discussion and modification of the amendments, the Rules and Procedure Committee has forwarded the amendments included in the current binders for consideration and approval by this Plenary session. During this Plenary session, each proposed rule amendment will be presented and explained by a member of the Rules and Procedure Committee prior to discussion.

You may also be aware that the Judicial Administration Committee met last December to discuss a number of administrative and media related issues. A recent meeting of the Judicial Administration Committee took place remotely. According to the ECCC procedure, the Judicial

Administration Committee agreed the composition of a substitute panel of judges to sit on a motion filed by defense counsel to disqualify the current members of the Trial Chamber.

In conclusion, I would take this opportunity to thank you for your presence at this Plenary and would encourage all members to share their ideas and discuss issues broadly in order to have a successful Plenary. This Plenary has the opportunity to further contribute to the success of the next phase of the ECCC in providing justice in a timely and efficient manner.

May I announce the opening of the Ninth session of the ECCC Plenary following the speech of the Vice-President of the Plenary, Judge Silvia Cartwright. Following the speech of the Vice-President, I would invite H.E. Mr. Tony Kranh and Mr. Knut Rosandhaug, to provide an update to the Plenary on recent developments of the ECCC with regard to the financial situation.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. May I invite, Judge Silvia Cartwright to address the Plenary.