



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

**Statement of the Spokesperson
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

1- It is with great surprise and disappointment to note another undiplomatic and disrespectful behavior of the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh toward Cambodia as the host country. Through its official Facebook post on 30 July 2019, the Embassy spread misrepresented comment, openly attacking the integrity of Cambodia's general elections in 2018.

2- Such a flagrantly offensive move in violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 is least expected from the mission representing a civilized country.

3- The Spokesperson of the MFAIC would like to once again remind the Embassy of the United States of America in Phnom Penh of the necessity of adhering to Article 1 of the UN Charter which clearly recognizes that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace". Furthermore, Article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 clearly stipulates that:

- a) It is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State. They also have a duty not to interfere in the internal affairs of that State;



- b) The premises of the mission must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of the mission as laid down in the present Convention or by other rules of general international law or by any special agreements in force between the sending and the receiving State.

To this end, the principles of sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and non-interference into internal affairs of other States must be fully respected.

4- Despite repeated call for a boycott by an outlawed group, last year's election had a high turnout of 83.02%, which is exceptionally high if compared to the elections held in some countries that have long upheld democracy. The election was hailed as peaceful, orderly, free and fair under the watchful eyes of tens of thousands of national and international observers. Furthermore, the high figure of voter's turnout attests to the desire of the Cambodian people at large to see the continuity of the country's development with sustained peace, stability, democracy and rule of law, as well as their renewed confidence in the ruling party. The rejection of these basic facts is tantamount to an affront to the free will of the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people, as well as the integrity of the observers who did on-the-spot evaluation of the election.

5- The Embassy's repetitive slanderous actions not only run counter to the ongoing efforts with good faith of the Cambodian government in seeking to improve all-round relationship with the US, but also raise question on the former's sincerity in its dealing with Cambodia as the host country.

Phnom Penh, 31 July 2019.

