

Country/entity	Cambodia
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreement Concerning the Sovereignty, Independence, Territorial Integrity and Inviolability, Neutrality and National Unity of Cambodia (Framework for a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict or Paris Accords)
Date	23 Oct 1991
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Cambodia Conflict (1975 - 1999)

After the agro-communist Khmer Rouge won the 1970-75 civil war, they installed a regime that subsequently killed almost 2 million people. Despite previous cooperation with Vietnamese communists, the Khmer Rouge feared the potential power of their neighbour and began purging Vietnamese-trained members of their cadre as well as launching attacks on the Vietnamese border from 1975 onwards. In response, Vietnam launched a full invasion in 1978, displacing the Khmer Rouge government and installing a puppet government in Phnom Penh. Vietnam continued fighting members of the Khmer Rouge until Vietnamese forces withdrew in 1989 and in 1991, the UN mediated a ceasefire. By 1992, however, the Khmer Rouge withdrew from the agreement and resumed fighting until they were defeated in 1999. Meanwhile, the 1993 elections formed a power-sharing arrangement between the two largest political parties; Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC). However, the CPP consolidated political power following the overthrow of FUNCINPEC's co-Prime Minister in mid-1997.

Close

Cambodia Conflict (1975 - 1999)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Cambodian peace process
Parties	Unsigned copy of the agreement but based on the agreement text and additional research, parties are presumed to be those included in the Supreme National Council, namely: H.R.H Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the government of Cambodia, Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), FUNCINPEC, Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge).

Third parties Unsigned copy of the agreement but based on the agreement text and additional research, parties are presumed to be: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Description This agreement, one of the four agreements which constitute the Paris Accords, commits the parties to preserve and defend the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia and to refrain from any action which might affect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of other States.

Agreement document [KH_911023_CambodiaSovereignty.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) Page 1, Untitled Preamble: ...Reaffirming the inalienable right of States freely to determine their own political, economic, cultural and social systems in accordance with the will of their peoples, without outside interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever,

Page 1, Article 1, 1: Cambodia hereby solemnly undertakes to maintain, preserve and defend its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality, and national unity; the perpetual neutrality of Cambodia shall be proclaimed and enshrined in the Cambodian constitution to be adopted after free and fair elections.

Page 2, Article 2, 1: The other parties to this Agreement hereby solemnly undertake to recognize and to respect in every way the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia.

Page 4, Article 4: The parties to this Agreement call upon all other States to recognize and respect in every way the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and Inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia and to refrain from any action inconsistent with these principles or with other provisions of this Agreement.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination Page 2, Article 2, 1: The other parties to this Agreement hereby solemnly undertake to recognize and to respect in every way the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia.

Page 4, Article 4: The parties to this Agreement call upon all other States to recognize and respect in every way the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and Inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia and to refrain from any action inconsistent with these principles or with other provisions of this Agreement.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

**Political
institutions (new or
reformed)** No specific mention.

Elections Page 1, Article 1, 1: Cambodia hereby solemnly undertakes to maintain, preserve and defend its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality, and national unity; the perpetual neutrality of Cambodia shall be proclaimed and enshrined in the Cambodian constitution to be adopted after free and fair elections.

**Electoral
commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties
reform** No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making
Page 1, Article 1, 1: Cambodia hereby solemnly undertakes to maintain, preserve and defend its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality, and national unity; the perpetual neutrality of Cambodia shall be proclaimed and enshrined in the Cambodian constitution to be adopted after free and fair elections.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 3, Article 3, 2: To this end,
a. Cambodia undertakes:
• to ensure respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cambodia;
• to support the right of all Cambodian citizens to undertake activities that would promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 1, Untitled Preamble: ...Recalling their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and other rules of international law,

Page 1, Untitled Preamble: ...Desiring to promote respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international instruments,

Page 3, Article 3, 1: All persons in Cambodia shall enjoy the rights and freedoms embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments.

Page 3, Article 3, 2: To this end,
a. Cambodia undertakes:
...• to adhere to relevant international human rights instruments;

Page 3, Article 3, 2: To this end,
...b. The other parties to this Agreement undertake to promote and encourage respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cambodia as embodied in the relevant international instruments in order, in particular, to prevent the recurrence of human rights abuses.

Page 4, Article 5, 2: Such steps may include, inter alia, reference of the matter of the Security Council of the United Nations or recourse to the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes referred to in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions Rights institutions→Regional or international human rights institutions→Monitoring calls
Page 3, Article 3, 3: The United Nations Commission on Human Rights should continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Cambodia, including, if necessary, by the appointment of a Special Rapporteur who would report his findings annually to the Commission and to the General Assembly.

Page 4, Article 5, 4: In the event of serious violations of human rights in Cambodia, they will call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such other steps as are appropriate for the prevention and suppression of such violations in accordance with the relevant international instruments.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 4, Section V: Cease-Fire and Cessation of Outside Military Assistance
Article 9
The cease-fire shall take effect at the time this Agreement enters into force. All forces shall immediately disengage and refrain from all hostilities and from any deployment, movement or action which would extend the territory they control or which might lead to renewed fighting.

The Signatories hereby invite the Security Council of the United Nations to request the Secretary-General to provide good offices to assist in this process until such time as the military component of UNTAC is in position to supervise, monitor and verify it.

Article 10
Upon entry into force of this Agreement, there shall be an immediate cessation of all outside military assistance to all Cambodian Parties.

Article 11
The objectives of military arrangements during the transitional period shall be to stabilize the security situation and build confidence among the parties to the conflict, so as to reinforce the purposes of this Agreement and to prevent the risks of a return to warfare.

Detailed provisions regarding UNTAC's supervision, monitoring, and verification of the cease-fire and related measures, including verification of the withdrawal of foreign forces and the regrouping, cantonment and ultimate disposition of all Cambodian forces and their weapons during the transitional period are set forth in annex 1, section C, and annex 2.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces	<p>Page 1, Article 1, 2: To this end, Cambodia undertakes: ...b. To refrain from entering into any military alliances or other military agreements with other States that would be inconsistent with its neutrality, without prejudice to Cambodia's right to acquire the necessary military equipment, arms, munitions and assistance to enable it to exercise its inherent right of self-defence and to maintain law and order;</p> <p>Page 2, Article 2, 2: To this end, they undertake: a. To refrain from entering into any military alliances or other military agreements with Cambodia that would be inconsistent with Cambodia's neutrality, without prejudice to Cambodia's right to acquire the necessary military equipment, arms, munitions and assistance to enable it to exercise its inherent right of self-defence and to maintain law and order;</p>
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	<p>Page 2, Article 1, 2: To this end, Cambodia undertakes: ...h. To refrain from permitting the introduction or stationing of foreign forces, including military personnel, in any form whatsoever, in Cambodia, and to prevent the establishment or maintenance of foreign military bases, strong points or facilities in Cambodia, except pursuant to United Nations authorization for the implementation of the comprehensive political settlement.</p> <p>Page 3, Article 2, 2: To this end, they undertake: ...g. To refrain from the introduction or stationing of foreign forces, including military personnel, in any form whatsoever, in Cambodia and from establishing or maintaining military bases, strong points or facilities in Cambodia, except pursuant to United Nations authorization for the implementation of the comprehensive political settlement.</p>
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	Page 3, Article 3, 2: To this end, a. Cambodia undertakes: ...• to take effective measures to ensure that the policies and practices of the past shall never be allowed to return: Page 3, Article 3, 2: To this end, ...b. The other parties to this Agreement undertake to promote and encourage respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cambodia as embodied in the relevant international instruments in order, in particular, to prevent the recurrence of human rights abuses.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	UN present at conference; Article 3 UN HRC to monitor the situation, if necessary by appointing a Special Rapporteur; Article 4 in the event of violation or threat of violation of Cambodia's sovereignty, the country may refer the matter to the UNSC or recourse through Article 33 of the UN Charter, or upon the assistance of the co-chairs of this conference; in the event of a serious HR violation in Cambodia, they will call upon the competent organ of the UN to take appropriate steps
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 3, Article 2, 2: To this end, they undertake: ...g. To refrain from the introduction or stationing of foreign forces, including military personnel, in any form whatsoever, in Cambodia and from establishing or maintaining military bases, strong points or facilities in Cambodia, except pursuant to United Nations authorization for the implementation of the comprehensive political settlement.

Page 3, Article 3, 3: The United Nations Commission on Human Rights should continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in Cambodia, including, if necessary, by the appointment of a Special Rapporteur who would report his findings annually to the Commission and to the General Assembly.

Page 4, Article 5, 2: Such steps may include, inter alia, reference of the matter of the Security Council of the United Nations or recourse to the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes referred to in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Page 4, Article 5, 4: In the event of serious violations of human rights in Cambodia, they will call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such other steps as are appropriate for the prevention and suppression of such violations in accordance with the relevant international instruments.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 4, Article 5, 1: In the event of a violation or threat of violation of the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability, neutrality or national unity of Cambodia, or of any of the other commitments herein, the parties to this agreement undertake to consult immediately with a view to adopting all appropriate steps to ensure respect for these commitments and resolving any such violations through peaceful means.

Page 4, Article 5, 2: Such steps may include, inter alia, reference of the matter of the Security Council of the United Nations or recourse to the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes referred to in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Page 4, Article 5, 3: The parties to this Agreement may also call upon the assistance of the co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

Page 4, Article 5, 4: In the event of serious violations of human rights in Cambodia, they will call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such other steps as are appropriate for the prevention and suppression of such violations in accordance with the relevant international instruments.

Related cases

No specific mention.

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