



**REMARKS FOR THE SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT  
OF CAMBODIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY SOK AN  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Chairman of the Royal Government Task Force  
Phnom Penh, 15 June 2006**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Colleagues,

We are gathered here today to witness the signing of a Project Initiative Document between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations Development Programme regarding the management arrangements and disbursement mechanism of funds donated to the Cambodian side of the budget for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

We feel it is important to mark this occasion formally and to extend our deepest gratitude to the many countries who stand behind the \$6.3 million being handed over today in two funds – firstly a \$1.2 million contribution from the European Commission and secondly an amount of over \$5 million, stemming from original contributions to UNTAC-era operations in Cambodia by some twelve countries.

The news of the existence of these remaining UNTAC-era funds, which have appreciated substantially in the period since they were originally donated, came as welcome news, conveyed to us by Ms Michelle Lee on her first visit to Cambodia in December last year. It has taken several months for each of the original donor states to be contacted and for transfer mechanisms to be put in place. We would like to express our special thanks to the major contributors to this trust fund, namely, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands and France -- and we were happy to hear earlier this week that Germany has also agreed to release their funds.

The \$6.3 million we are receiving via UNDP make up a substantial portion of the \$13.3 million allocated to the Cambodian side of the budget. They will be added to the funds already received from India (\$1 million) and the Royal Government of Cambodia (\$1.5 million). At this stage, on the Cambodian side, we are still lacking \$4.96 million, which includes the balance on the original allocation plus support costs of \$453,234 to be paid to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) & UNDP.

We are confident that as we demonstrate that the operations of the ECCC meet international standards and that good progress is being made, other countries now considering contributing will decide to do so, and perhaps our existing donors may also feel able and willing to make further contributions in future financial years. I would like to stress that we are by no means allowing this shortfall in total budget to impede the task of establishing the ECCC, progress on which was reported in detail on Monday of this week by the Director of the Office of Administration to the Inaugural

Meeting of the Friends of the ECCC. However, we must acknowledge that we are greatly relieved that these funds are being handed over today, as we will now be able to move on to actual implementation of several costly building operations, including the fence separating the court from the military part of the compound, the detention centre and safe house for accommodation of witnesses, and installation of air-conditioning in the court building.

Please bear in mind that in addition to the \$1.5 million contribution to the ECCC budget, the Royal Government of Cambodia is also bearing significant extra-budgetary costs, estimated to amount to over \$5.2 million – including the cost of providing the substantial premises for office accommodation and the court over three years, detention and medical facilities for defendants, general security throughout the country associated with the trials, and waiver of visa and customs clearance fees for the many people and goods needed to support the work of the ECCC.

On Monday the Director of the Office of Administration flagged to the Friends of the ECCC that some details of the budget and staffing table prepared in late 2003 need adjusting in the light of the “ground truthing” we have undertaken during this set-up period. It is scarcely surprising if certain estimates and assumptions made two and a half years ago do not accord with today’s reality. For example, prices for certain items have changed; a decision to adopt a certain technology or systems approach may have an effect on the projected staffing levels and numbers to support that operation; or in some areas we find that necessary items were not included in the original budget, including additional funds for important translation programs to ensure that all significant documents are in all the three official languages of the court.

The formal launching of the judicial work of the ECCC will follow a swearing-in ceremony on 3 July, to which diplomatic representatives as well as senior officials of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the United Nations will be invited. This will be followed by an intensive four-day judicial strategic planning and development workshop to enable the national and international judicial officers to begin to forge the team to work together in the coming years. They will discuss mechanisms of cooperation and working arrangements, and will begin the process of examining if, when and how Cambodian criminal procedure will need supplementation, as provided in the Law and the Agreement.

The start-up team, which began its work on 6 February is now going into the concluding weeks of its life. As projected, Year One of our operations will commence when the Co-Prosecutors commence their work – now planned for 10 July 2006.

Let me conclude my remarks by reiterating our deepest thanks to all donors for their contributions to the work of the ECCC through the years of negotiations as we now in the operational phase of this historic undertaking.

Thank you for your attention.