Report

Empowering Women in Politics and the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023



December 2023









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The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL), SILAKA Cambodia, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), Banteay Srei Organization and an independent consultant all are members of "Women for All Group", which works together to promote women's participation in politics and leadership at both national and sub-national levels, aiming to promote positive change in women's democratic participation through women's capacity development, advocacy and lobbying political party and government leaders to formulate policies and laws conducive to increasing the number of women political representatives and gender equality at all levels.

The report "Empowering Women in Politics and the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023" is a form of analysis of collected data and opinions of Cambodian women engaging in politics, especially in the recent National Assembly Election process. The report presents an assessment of the empowerment of women in politics and the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023, particularly underlining the following aspects: number of female candidates; elected women; political party policies to enhance women's participation in politics; political party platforms on women's and children's issues and increasing gender equality; challenges facing women, both female voters and candidates, in the electoral process; women's opinions over the electoral process; and activities related to promoting women in politics, among others. Further, the report provides the results collected from the monitoring of women's political participation in the annual voter lists revision and voter registration, in the election campaign as well as their activities on the Polling and Counting Day in the target areas of COMFREL and GADC. Furthermore, it also unveils findings of a rapid survey on women casting their ballot or having indelible ink on their finger and women not casting their." ballot or not having indelible ink on their finger" conducted in COMFREL's target areas after the Polling Day and two case studies. Finally, it proposes key recommendations to further foster gender equality and women's political empowerment in Cambodia.

We hope this report will be an essential and valuable document for practitioners, especially for political parties, Members of the Parliament-MP (parliamentarians), the Royal Government and staff of associations and NGOs as well as representatives of development partners and researchers, to help promote more women's participation in politics and decision-making role.

We would like to extend our special thanks with appreciation to a COMFREL team represented by Ms. Sonket Sereyleak, the author of this report. She is also the Head of COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit and a leader of the working team comprising the following: Miss. Nut Thi, COMFREL's Education and Gender Officer, Miss. Bloe Ni and Miss Sry Lida, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit Volunteer staff, COMFREL provincial secretaries and its female election observers for their collective effort and diligence in performing their respective duties in line with the action plan in place to collect data, produce observation reports and design the report layout in close collaboration with Miss. Norm Sina, GADC Program Manager, and colleagues stationed in the target provinces for providing training sessions and deploying female and male observers in COMFREL and GADC's seven target provinces.

We thank the working group, comprising SILAKA Cambodia, GADC, Banteay Srei Organization, and Ms. Pok Nanda, an Independent Consultant of the Women for All Group, for their dynamic collaboration with COMFREL in advocacy and observation of women's political participation in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 (NA Elections).

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ACRONYMS

BSDP Beehive Social Democratic Party
CEC Commune Election Commission

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CIPDP Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Democracy Party

CNP Cambodian Nationality's Party

CMDGs Cambodian Millennium Development Goals

COMFREL Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia

CPP Cambodian People's Party

CPWP Committee to Promote Women in Politics

CSO Civil Society Organization
CYP Cambodian Youth Party
DP Dharmacracy Party
DPP Democracy Power Party
ECP Ekpheap Cheatkhmer Party

FUNCINPEC/FUN National United Fronts for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative

Cambodia

FP Farmer's Party

GADC Gender and Development for Cambodia

GDP Grassroots Democratic Party
KAPP Khmer Anti-Poverty Party
KCP Khmer Conservative Party

KEDP Khmer Economic Development Party

KNUP Khmer National United Party

KUP Khmer United Party

LEMNA Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly

LEMCC Law on Election of Members of Commune/Sangkat Councils (LEMCC)

MPs Member of Parliaments
NA National Assembly

NEC National Election Committee
NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

PSO Polling Station Official
PSC Polling Station Commission
PEC Provincial Election Commission

PPP People Purpose Party

RGC Royal Government of Cambodia SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SILAKA SILAKA Cambodia VOA Voice of America

WPW Women for Women's Party

There are numerous arguments¹ for gender balance in politics, and benefits not only women and female politicians, but also political parties themselves and the rest of society. After all, Women make up half of the population and need to be better represented in power structures.

It has been discovered that gender diversity yields better outcomes in political decision-making and that women's role in local and national political processes greatly improves democratic outcomes, according to the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics)'s experience and research. Women's rights to equal voice and participation in political life has a strong foundation of international commitments - from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet women continue to be under-represented across every area of political life – including in political parties, being part of inclusive law-making processes, as candidates, elected representatives, etc.

Legal and Policy Frameworks Instrumental to Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Cambodia²

Legal Framework

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, adopted in 1993, explicitly prohibits discrimination against women in Article 45 which states "All forms of discrimination against women shall be prohibited. The exploitation of women in employment shall be prohibited."; Article 38 which guarantees "there shall be no physical abuse of any kind"; and Article 46 which states "Human trafficking, exploitation of prostitution and obscenities which affect the dignity of women shall be prohibited". Legal instruments to protect and promote women's rights which have been developed and adopted since 1993 include: Labour law (1997), Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims (2005), Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (2008).

In addition to the national legal framework to protect and promote women's rights, the Kingdom of Cambodia has ratified a number of conventions. For example, in 1992 Cambodia ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and also endorsed the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) at the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in 1995. As a member state of the United Nations (UN), Cambodia is bound by all decisions of the Security Council of the UN, especially decisions relating to women, peace and security.

Policy Framework and Government's Commitment to Gender Equality

For the last two decades, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has put gender equality as a top priority in the government development agenda by acknowledging that promoting gender equality and social protection are important for enhancing the socio-economic situation and strengthening women's role in society who are the backbone of economy and society³. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are set out as both the stand-alone and crosscutting of national priorities whose notable examples are to be found in the Rectangular Strategies Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4 for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency which are the political platform of the government; the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs); the Cambodian Sustainable Development

¹ European Union, 2021 on Women in Politics in the EU

² Advance International Training Programme (ITP 307, Statistics Sweden/SIDA) 2020 on Gender Statistics: Cambodia Team Assignment

³ Royal Government of Cambodia (2018) Rectangular Strategy Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, Phase-IV

Goals (CSDGs); the National Strategic Development Plan; a policy to guarantee a quota of 20%-50% for the recruitment of new female civil servants⁴ and the National Action Plans to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW).

Meanwhile, numerous national and sub-national mechanisms have been developed/established and implemented. These include the Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW), the Technical Working Group on Gender (TWG-G), Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups (GMAGs), Women and Children Consultative Committee (WCCC), Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) to coordinate and specifically provide technical advice to their own sector and institutions and join actions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

As the national gender machinery, the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) coordinates with all other stakeholders to develop and implement the five-year national strategic plan, namely "Neary Ratanak (NR)" and currently so-called Neary Ratanak V (2019-2023), to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across sectors and at all levels in Cambodia. The strategic areas in this NR V include: 1). women's economic empowerment, 2). education of women and girls, and behavioural change, 3). health of women and girls, 4). legal protection for women and girls, 5). women's public decision-making and leadership, and 6). gender mainstreaming in climate change⁵.

In addition, the MoWA is taking a leading role in formulating a National Policy on Gender Equality. This policy provides a long-term policy framework for and further enhances the principles of gender equity in the national policies, National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), and sectoral strategic plans to achieve gender equality that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, aiming at "leave no one behind", and the principles of CEDAW in the development agenda, and to contribute to inclusive and equitable human resources development for building a foundation to achieve the Cambodia vision 2050.

⁶Through of the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I for **Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability Pentagon 4- Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Development**, angle 1 on **optimization of demographic dividends, strengthening of demographic resilience and promotion of gender equality**, the new Royal Government of Cambodia of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly has placed priority on increasing investment in gender-related agenda, and empowering women and girls in the fields of economy, education, health, and public leadership to take advantage of gender dividends, and reduce vulnerability of gender-based violence against women and girls.

Cambodia, nevertheless, has not yet had gender equality policy and no gender-responsive election laws in politics. For instance, a lack of specific written gender equality policy within political party, which is an affirmative action, including a lack of several articles to meet the gender-responsive Election Laws to support and provide opportunities for both women and men to participate equally in a decision-making role in politics in accordance with the CEDAW Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that Cambodia has taken on. In addition, female political party activists and female politicians continue to face all forms of discrimination and violence, which hinder their participation in political activities as well as their access to gender justice and the benefits of taking part in politics. Article 3 of the CEDAW Convention states, Article 3 of the CEDAW Convention states, "States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and

⁴ Prime Minister's speech in the national forum on women in public and political leadership in 2015, committed set in policy as special measures

⁵ Royal Government of Cambodia (2019-2023) Neary Rattanak V, national strategic plan to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

⁶ the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I of RGC, 7th legislature of NA. Phnom Pen, August 2023

² | Report on Empowering Women in Politics and the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023

advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in equality with men".

The result of COMFREL's 2020 survey on "Women Political Activist's Participation in Politics in Cambodia" reveals that women politicians still face many forms of discrimination and violence against them in their political participation and interests although the political rights and participation of women are fully guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the CEDAW International Convention. Violence against women in politics becomes a daily experience for women who wish to get involved in politics and be a politician. 71% of the survey respondents experienced violence against women; 82% faced threats; 70.9% experienced psychological violence; 34.5% suffered from physical abuse; and 9.1% experienced sexual harassment.

Consequently, Cambodia continues to encounter inequality of representation and disparity of access to equal opportunity between women and men in the political and public affairs. In fact, the total sex distribution of immediately elected during the 7th Legislature National Assembly (NA) Elections 2023 is the most uneven between the sexes; It has **12.8% elected women**, whereas that of **elected men** is **87.2%**. Meanwhile, the total sex distribution of women and men holding public leadership positions, which are deemed political posts is also the most uneven in the new government of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly, at only **14.7%** women and **85.3%** men while the full official authority for women to fulfil their duties and roles remains discriminatory and limited. This does not yet include the analysis of other diversity of women, including women with disabilities, indigenous peoples, homosexuals, LGBTQI+ lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people, among others due to a lack of data.

In Cambodia, women have been actively involved in politics and elections, both in terms of voice and activities from one term to another for the last decade but the number of elected women has persistently gradual decline since the 5th Legislature NA Elections 2013 up to the 7th Legislature of 2023. Meanwhile, the sex distribution of women and men candidates is remaining a big gap although the number of female candidates increased for the 7th Legislature of 2023. Two political parties obtaining huge support from voters and winning the most seats in the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly are the **Cambodian People's Party (CPP)** and the **FUNCINPEC Party**, but leaders of both parties still lack high commitment while their parties also lack policies and reserved fund to increase gender equality in politics and decision-making role since they placed a **small percentage of female candidates**, majority of whom are at **the bottom** of their party list running for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023.

The result of COMFREL's 2023 interview with female and male candidates and/or male political party representatives about women's political party participation for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023 has unveiled that five of six political parties interviewed had a total of 52% (ranging between 45% to 81%) female activists, while male activists accounted for 48% only. This figure clearly indicates that political parties have enough women to stand for the election and to carry out political activities in support of their party; This interview result proves the contrary to what most political parties have complained about, underlining the lack of women and their difficulty in finding women to be placed for their political party candidates.

The result of COMFREL's 2020 survey on "Women Political Activist's Participation in Politics in Cambodia" has also discovered that although the political situation has changed dramatically, especially during the 2018 Parliamentary Elections, including the shrinking of the democratic space for citizens, the closure of some media outlets, the decline of respect for human rights, the intimidation of human rights defenders and civil society figures, and the dissolution of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), particularly the intimidation and restrictions on women politicians and the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, **85.5%** of the respondents said they were still interested in and

involve in politics/elections in the **next two or three years** (2022 and 2023). However, **14.5%** of them are not sure whether they will continue their political engagement. "I am still interested in politics because I believe that my engagement and other women's participation can improve the status of women in Cambodia as a whole," said one female politician. "Nevertheless, political oppression and systematic violence are so serious today. Therefore, I need to reassess the situation and advocate for more support to continue my political efforts in the future," she emphasized.

According to the official result of the registration of political parties and the list of candidates contesting for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023 announced by the National Election Committee (NEC) on 6 June 2023, there was an increase in the number of female candidates running for the 7th legislature, which was a commendable positive change. In fact, there was a total of **523 female candidates** contesting for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023, equivalent to **32.4**% of the total 1,614 male and female candidates from 18 competing political parties, an increase of **7.2**% compared to that of the 6th legislature 2018, which was only **25.2**%. Nonetheless, the total sex distribution of candidates is still significant gap between the sexes. In this candidate, there are **32.4**% (**523**) women while the majority are men with **67.6**% (**1,091**). The number of female candidates at the first rank was 55 (18%), a percentage similar to that in 2018, which was **17.8**%. The CPP and FUNCINPEC parties compiled and registered a list of candidates in all 25 Capital and provinces nationwide, but both parties had the lowest percentage of female candidates, a noticeable decline compared to the figures of the 6th legislature.

Out of the 18 contesting political parties, only two parties⁷ received the most votes and won seats in the National Assembly, namely the CPP obtaining 120 seats and the FUNCINPEC 5 seats, of which elected female MPs were only 16, equivalent to 12.8% of the total number of 125 MPs. All elected female MPs are from the CPP, a decline of 8% compared to the number of elected female MPs at the end of the 6th Legislature, which was 26, accounting for 20.8%.

Despite an increasing number of women candidates remarkably, the Women for All Group of civil society organizations remains concerned over the persistent wide gap between female and male candidates (32.4% female and 67.6% male), underscoring a lingering issue of gender inequality in politics that needs further attention and specifically special measures taken by political party leaders as well as by leaders of both the Royal Government and the National Assembly.

The tiny number and gradual decline of elected female MPs are due to the following main contributing factors and challenges: (1) lack of political will from political parties and of high commitment from leaders, especially the leaders of political parties receiving the most support from voters (obtaining parliamentary seats), to promote gender equality in politics and decision-making levels. The CPP and the FUNCINPEC, for instance, fielded too few female candidates running for the 7th legislative term; (2) A lack of specific written gender equality policies within political parties, including a lack of specific affirmative action in some articles of the election laws to support and provide opportunities for both women and men to participate equally in politics and especially to stand as election candidates and be elected as leaders; (3) A male-dominated governance structures and men continuously holding their positions or/and their lineage, which narrows women's opportunities of reaching such positions; (4) financial issue of standing as a candidate to the elections required by their political party for the election campaigns, which remains one of the most significant obstacles women face; (5) Women political party activists and women politicians continue to face all forms of discrimination and violence, which hinder their participation in political activities as well as their access to gender justice and the benefits of taking part in politics; (6) Some social and cultural norms influenced by negative gender stereotypes concerning women leadership create barriers to women politicians' effective and valuable participation and are a root cause to the problem.

⁷ Official result of the 7th National Assembly Election 2023, released by the NEC on August 5, 2023

^{4 |} Report on Empowering Women in Politics and the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023

II. New Royal Government and New National Assembly of the 7th Legislature

1. The new Royal Government

The percentage distribution of women holding political office in leadership at the national level is miniature, and the total sex distribution of women and men holding political office is a wide gap between the sexes, ranging from Deputy Prime Minister, Senior Minister, Minister, Minister Delegate attached to Prime Minister, Secretary of State to Undersecretary of State of the new Royal Government of the National Assembly of the 7th Legislature. The new government is led by a new potential prime minister, who is highly educated and comprises a new generation of many young leaders full of potential, dynamism and agility. In fact, there are only 222 women, equal to 14.7%, while the largest number of men is 1,291, amounting to 85.3% of the total 1,513 (excluding the Secretariat of State for Border Affairs) holding public leadership positions, including 3 female ministers, equal to 10%, and 27 male ministers, equivalent to 90% of the total 30 Ministers (including the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation and Secretariat of State for Border Affairs). Out of the 28 ministries and Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation, there are 109 female Secretaries of State, accounting for 14.9%, and 624 male Secretaries of State, or 85.1% of the total 733 Secretaries of State. Further, there are 109 female Under Secretaries of State, accounting for 15.8%, and 580 male Under Secretaries of State, equal to 84.2%, of the total 689 Undersecretaries of State. Notably, no women have been appointed for the positions of Deputy Prime Minister, Senior Minister or Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister.

The percentage of women in the new Royal Government has decreased compared to the figure of the 6th Legislature of the National Assembly, which women holding political positions in public leadership were about **16%** (as of February 2020) and to **16.7%** of the 5th Legislature of the National Assembly, which women accounting for **16.7%** holding senior positions of the Royal Government, ranging from Under Secretary of State to Deputy Prime Minister.

Significantly, the most interesting notice for the new Royal Government of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly is the appointment of **Dr. Chea Serey**, the first female dignitary to be appointed as a new Governor General of the National Bank of Cambodia, on July 29, 2023, by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia. **Dr. Chea Serey** is the most suitable person for the position of Governor-General of the National Bank of Cambodia for she is so qualified with indepth knowledge and precise long-term vision to effectively carry out and lead the Cambodian banking system to achieve many reputable results at the international stage.

The appointment is a testament to Cambodia's growing human resources to the world where outstanding and highly capable women serve as the country's central bank governor, a position traditionally dominated by men.

A report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows that of the 190 IMF member countries, **only 26** are female leaders serving as finance ministers and **only 17** are central bank governors. This figure means that only **11.3%** of women leaders hold leadership positions in the two main economic policy institutions: central bank governor and finance minister.

⁸ According to the report released by the Secretariat of the National Assembly in early 2020

 $^{^9}$ A Report jointly produced by COMFREL in collaboration with \mathfrak{A} on Empowerment of Women in Politics and the Election of Members of the National Assembly, 5^{th} Legislature, 2013

Under her proficient and able leadership, the payment system infrastructure has been modernized, especially the introduction of the newly modern "**Bakong**" payment system, which uses blockchain technology, facilitating local transfer of money from one bank to another easily, rapidly and safely.

As the initiator of the Bakong system, **Dr. Chea Serey** has been named one of the 50 Most Influential People in the annual list of crypto movers and shakers in the world of financial technology by CoinDesk, a world-renowned financial technology news organization. In addition, the **Bakong Payment system** was awarded a Nikkei Superior Products and Services Award for the year 2021 by Japan's renowned economic news organization Nikkei Asia.

Source: Fresh News - 01-08-2023

2. The New National Assembly

the total sex distribution of immediately elected during the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 is the most uneven between the sexes; It has 87.2% elected men, whereas that of elected women is 12.8%, and 8% decreased, as compared to 26 (20.8%) women MPs by the end of the 6th legislature, a decline from 26 female MPs to only 16 female MPs. We, nevertheless, have observed a historically positive change, providing a great opportunity for women to become a new president of the National Assembly of the 7th Legislature, an unprecedented positive change in Cambodia, in which Her Excellency Khoun Sodary was the first woman to be elected as President of the National Assembly 10. It showcases a high commitment and the increase of gender equality by the President of the Cambodian People's Party, the winning political party in the 7th legislative term. It is of a firm conviction that Her Excellency President of the National Assembly will obtain full power and authority in leading the Legislative Branch inclusively and in promoting genuine gender equality, paying high attention to the participation of vulnerable groups, especially women with limited opportunities through initiating the reviewing of the Election Laws as well as amending the Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly (LEMNA) and the Law on Election of Member of Commune/Sangkat Councils (LEMCC) in response to a gender need with stipulation of affirmative action to ensure equal opportunities for women and men running as election candidates and to have many more women becoming elected representatives at both the national and sub-national levels.

"Even though she (Her Excellency **Khoun Sodary**) has been elected from a political line, in which she is a party member, this Legislative Branch is an independent institution serving the whole nation, helping people and further developing Cambodia; it has been found that when there are more female leaders holding top positions, there will be better outcomes in the country," COMFREL Education and Gender Unit Coordinator Sonket Sereyleak underscored. (source: VOA news broadcast dated August 10, 2023).

Her Excellency Khoun Sodary was also honoured with the royal title **"Samdech Moha Rathsapheathika Thipadei"** by His Majesty King **Norodom Sihamoni**, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Source: Fresh News dated 3 September 2023.

Out of the **10** commissions of the National Assembly, 7th Legislature (2023-2028), only **two women** have the opportunity to chair two commissions. <u>One</u> is the **Chairperson of the Commission on Health, Social Affairs, Veterans' Affairs, Youth Rehabilitation, Labour, Vocational Training and Women's Affairs, and <u>the other</u> is the Chairperson of the Commission on Public Works, Transport, Telecommunication, Post, Industry, Commerce, Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction**¹¹. The number of women chairing the commissions is so small; it needs special measures taken by the new leadership of the National Assembly to give women at least four out of

¹⁰ An announcement made by Prime Minister Hun Sen on 9 August 2023 (voice message)

¹¹ The National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Commissions of the National Assembly of the 7th Legislature (2023-2028)

10 commission chairpersons of the National Assembly so as to pave the way for women to chair and lead inclusive and comprehensive discussions on legal aspects and law making.

The following report is a consolidation of data/inputs collected from COMFREL female election observers in collaboration with male and female election observers deployed by GADC, Gender/Women Working Group of CSOs as well as from other sources. The report focuses on issues or challenges; solutions or measures relating to the selection of women candidates; the registration of female and male candidates; political party platform on addressing issues of women and girls; elected women; women serving as election officials at all levels; women and the annual voter lists revision and voter registration; female election observers; women political party agents and female voters.

It has been found that women's political participation in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 **is better** compared to previous terms, but continues to encounter **some major challenges** in terms of obtaining equal opportunities between women and men to stand as election candidates; facing some irregularities in the electoral process, which impacting voters, and grasping opportunities to advance their political life as elected women.

1. Selection of Female Candidates and Registration of Political Party Candidates

All the 18 political parties running for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 continued to express that the work of promoting women's leadership is still limited. This limitation can be reflected on the result of their registration in political party candidate lists, particularly their hardship in being listed at the first rank of the party lists, which will be later more likely to become elected representatives. For instance, the total sex distribution of candidates at the **first rank** on the party lists is the most uneven between the sexes, with **only 18% female candidates** and **82%** male candidates.

According to the results of the Consultative Workshop on "Affirmative Action to Accelerate the Increase of Women Candidates for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023" coorganized by COMFREL, SILAKA Cambodia, GADC, Banteay Srei Organization, Development and Partnership in Action (DPA), Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP), and an Independent Gender Consultant on 14 March 2023, before the aforementioned election, 16 political parties and key stakeholders attending the workshop expressed their views and willingness to encourage and promote more participation of women in politics and to enhance their equal and non-discriminatory participation in the political parties as listed below:

- **FUNCINPEC** has been fostering women's movement to enhance their empowerment, but it does not have any specific quotas on the list of elected candidates nor does it have a gender equality policy.
- Candlelight Party has encouraged women through the provision of incentives amounting to
 USD 300 to the first to third-place female candidates. The party has been promoting women
 and expanding its recruitment of women based on their respective capabilities and
 affordability to run as national candidates and has prepared three to four female candidates
 to be placed on the list number that could be elected. The party has expressed concern over
 the reluctance of women to join the party membership due to their safety concerns.
 Therefore, the party has called on the government to enlarge the space of freedom in the
 political spectrum.
- Cambodian National Love Party has encouraged and nominated women accounting for 45% of its total candidates contesting the 2022 Commune/Sangkat Council Elections. The party principles always prioritize and offer women more opportunities to stand as candidates at the first rank and will encourage more and more women than men to stand for election candidates with a view that in Cambodian society nowadays, social morality is dwindling since men do not give women opportunities and encouragement, which are instrumental to nation development.

- **Grassroots Democratic Party** has an internal party policy with alternatively placing women and men in the positions of president and vice president and building capacity for female candidates. The party will use a sandwich system between female candidates and male candidates for the 2023 national election.
- Khmer National United Party has implemented the principle of a sandwich system ranking between female candidates and male candidates on the party list, having at least 30% female candidates running for the 2023 national election. The party has strongly pushed for and encouraged women to grasp an opportunity to participate in and stand as candidates for the 2023 national election. For instance, Ms. Kong Chanmalin is a 2nd place candidate in Prey Veng province.
- People Purpose Party has prepared and encouraged women in its political party. The party
 does not hesitate to put female candidates in the first, second, and third ranks so long as they
 are courageous and competent.
- Cambodian Reform Party has placed women in all positions of the Board of Directors and the Steering Committee, with 30% of women holding positions within the party, some of whom are chairwomen of the National Movement and training to female candidates. The party is seeking to recruit more women to run as election candidates for the upcoming NA election.
- **Khmer United Party** has viewed that the root cause of significant gap between female and male candidates is that men obtain more priorities than women. The party continues to implement a policy promoting and encouraging more and more women to engage in and stand as candidates than men following a voluntary basis, not a dragging force.
- **Democracy Power Party** has inspired women to political engagement by supporting their families as well as providing opportunities and training to ensure that at least 50% of the candidates are women.
- Participants from civil society organizations have advocated for the establishment of a "Support System for Women" which is crucial at both the political party level and in public sector leadership to enable more women to political engagement through the provision of opportunities for women to participate in, to stand as candidates, to lead at all levels and to be further trained as neither women nor men can be competent if there are no opportunities for employment and leadership roles.
- A representative of the NEC stated that the NEC operates and adheres to the electoral law, and cannot create directives or electoral procedures and regulation that contravene the existing electoral legislation.

Various affirmative actions such as a gender equality policy, the Gender-Responsive Election Law, the establishment of specific gender quotas, the implementation of sandwiching male and female candidate lists, and the provision of a gender-responsive budgeting package are **critical tools**. Furthermore, the **high commitment** of leaders from both political parties and the government as well as the **political will** to support are **essential factors** to accelerate the increase of female candidates and elected women and to ensure genuine gender equality in the liberal multi-party democratic process, which implement a proportional representation system in Cambodian elections, especially for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023.

Prior to the 7th Legislature NA Elections and the registration of political parties and the list of candidates, the Women for All Group, comprising various civil society organizations, including COMFREL, SILAKA Cambodia, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), Banteay Srei Organization, and the Independent Gender Consultant, sought to arrange meetings to garner support

from influential political parties and institutions. The objective was to discuss and share recommendations aimed at enhancing gender equality within the political sphere, such as the National Assembly, the National Election Committee (NEC), the Cambodian People's Party, and the Candlelight Party. However, the National Assembly did not grant an audience for the Women for All Group to discuss these matters, citing overseas mission commitments as the reason. Meanwhile, the Cambodian People's Party did not provide any response to the said request.

Based on the results of the meetings to seek support from the NEC President and its high-level leadership, as well as from the leadership of the Candlelight Party, the Women for All Group noted that the NEC President has been attentive to promoting women. Furthermore, the NEC has encouraged and prioritized women for being recruited in the electoral work. He underscored that "the NEC is an institution that implements the law. The NEC does not have the authority to propose amendments to gender-responsive election laws since it shall perform its duties in accordance with the laws, regulations, procedures, master plan, and work schedules to ensure a smooth, free, fair, and just electoral process". "I, nevertheless, encourage all political parties to nominate more female candidates for the upcoming 7th legislature NA election," said the NEC President. He further viewed that "Placing many female candidates might impact the voting voice". In his concerns, the Women for All Group perceived this view as a misunderstanding, as a lack of deep knowledge about gender equality, and as a misjudgment because the increase or decrease in a party's votes does not depend on female candidates, as voters do not tend to focus on the women or men candidates when voting for a party they fully support. Instead, the party popularity, party potential, political party platform and the reputation of the party leader are instrumental factors contributing to the increase or decrease in the party votes. Further, the Group still deems the NEC a key player in initiating and participating in advocating for electoral law amendments that ensure gender equality in elections, particularly supporting and seeking all means to assist women in having the opportunity to stand as candidates and be elected in greater numbers. This is because the NEC is the direct electoral lawsenforcing institution, the organizer of elections, and it is the NEC's duty to contribute to increasing the percentage of elected female representatives in line with the CEDAW convention and the Sustainable Development Goals that Cambodia has committed to, which fall under the obligations of Cambodia as a state party.

On the other hand, the Candlelight Party aims to nominate female candidates for up to 30% of its election candidates contesting the 2023 national election. However, the party faces challenges in recruiting women for several reasons, such as the use of the judiciary to impose burdens on women and exert all kinds of pressure on women affiliated with opposition parties. Some women are disheartened by the political climate, which is not very conducive to opposition parties. Additionally, the socio-economic status of women makes it difficult for them to stand as candidates due to the financial requirements imposed by the party. Both female and male candidates are expected to contribute an average of USD 25,000 to 30,000 for conducting political party campaign activities for the 7th legislature NA elections 2023. Concurrently, the Candlelight Party encourages and financially supports female candidates running at the first place with a contribution of USD 300. The party is seeking funds to enable women's movements to organize programs that empower and enhance women's capabilities and mental strength. The party has acknowledged that many capable and qualified women have been hesitant to engage in politics, particularly with the Candlelight Party, over the past five years. Despite this, the party is unable to participate in the 2023 national election due to several issues encountered during the process of registering political parties and the list of candidates.

The Women for All Group of CSOs has made a number of recommendations, such as proposing amendments to the election laws to have a gender-responsive election laws that set out affirmative action to promote gender equality and provides equal opportunities for women to participate in

politics through encouraging all political parties to place more female candidates on their respective political party candidate lists.

- a) Amendments to the election laws to further improve the criteria for the registration procedure of candidates of political parties, which requires the use of a sandwich system between female and male candidates from the top to the bottom ranking on the political party candidate lists.
- b) Amendments to the election laws: The Law on Elections of Members of the National Assembly's Article 27 and Article 28 of Chapter 4 "The list of political party candidates in each constituency shall use a sandwich system from top to bottom ranking between women and men candidates" and the Law on Elections of Members of Commune/Sangkat Councils' Article 39 of Chapter 6 "Candidate lists of each political party shall alternate female and male candidates from the top to bottom ranking."

More significantly, the formation and implementation of **gender equality policy within political party** is an urgent measure to increase the number of female candidates and the number of women in the political party's internal board of directors as well as in other decision-making structures within the political party. The candidate list of each political party shall guarantee the alternating of female and male candidates from the top to the bottom ranking.

The results from advocacy through the consultative workshops and meetings with key stakeholders show that **9** (50%) out of **18** political parties have nominated female candidates ranging from **36.2% to 80.9%** on their candidate lists for the 7th legislature NA elections 2023. This is an improvement compared to the 6th legislature of 2018, where only **7 parties (35%)** out of 20 registered political parties. It is worth noticing that the two parties that received the most votes and won seats in the National Assembly, namely the CPP and the FUNCINPEC, placed **the fewest female candidates**, leading to **a decrease in the number of elected women** and **a significant gap** between the number of elected female and male representatives.

Some political parties competing in the 7th legislature NA elections 2023 have raised about how to selection of female and male candidates and the financial requirements related to candidate nomination, as well as certain conditions for candidacy, such as **competence**, **knowledge**, **experience**, **popularity**, **commitment to work**, **and social work achievements**, **activeness and courage in expressing opinions**, **as well as networking and faithfulness to conscience**. These financial requirements are intended for campaign expenditure. Consequently, some parties have set a budget requirement for candidate nominations, especially for top-ranking nominations; some other parties have requested party members to contribute funds voluntarily or according to their affordability and capability without imposing any specific budget requirement for nominations while others do not require candidates to contribute their own funds as they are the ones to bear all campaign expenses.

COMFREL's 2023 report on Women Participating in Political Parties for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023 through interviewing female candidates, male candidates, and/or male political party representatives discovers that **Khmer United Party** have recruited candidates based on the deliberation of the Steering Committee and on an evaluation by each province to select female and male candidates. This party has implemented a policy that prioritizes female candidates as well as enhances and increases more number of women actively engaging in politics. However, placing female candidates at the top of the list is based on certain criteria such as **education level**, **activeness, courage in expressing opinions, networking, and friendliness with all people living nearby.** Each candidate is not required to contribute their own fund as the party is responsible for all expenses. As a result, there are many more female candidates, **61.6%**, while male candidates account for only **38.4%**, and 32% of female candidates are listed on the first place.

The recruitment of female and male candidates by the Cambodian People's Party is based on democratic principles, requiring discussion and decision-making within the political party. The placement of candidates at the top of the list is based on **knowledge**, **experience**, **popularity**, **commitment to work**, **and social work achievements**. Candidates have to contribute funds according to their top-ranking order from the 1st place to the 3rd place, requiring more contribution of funds than those in previous terms¹². The CPP has a policy to promote gender equality to encourage women and provide opportunities for women from the national to the grassroots levels without discrimination.

However, due to the lack of specific special measures for female candidates, combined with the high expense for candidate nominations where women have to compete with men, most of whom are affluent and can afford to cover the expenses while the party leadership does not effectively promote its gender equality policy, the number of female candidates is only **12.8%**, a decrease compared to the 6th legislative term in 2018 with 15.2% female candidates. This number is the smallest compared to other parties participating in the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023. The total sex distribution of candidates at the 1st rank is the most uneven between the sexes; **Only 4%** female candidates, while the overwhelming percentage of male candidates is **96%**.

The selection of female and male candidates by the **Ekpheap Cheatkhmer Party** is based on voluntary nomination and selection process for ranking with a **two-thirds decision**. The requirements for listing female candidates at the first place are as follows: **acquiring high experience**, **obtaining social work achievements**, **knowledge**, **and being more active than other members**. The party does not discriminate against women but empowers and prioritizes them. Nonetheless, there are no specific policies in placing female candidates. There is no budget requirement for candidacy. However, during the political campaign period, the candidates have to cover their campaign expenses based on their capability. Based on the said requirements and the lack of a specific policy for candidate nomination, the **Ekpheap Cheat Khmer Party** has only **19.1%** female candidates and an overwhelming **80.9%** male candidates, with no female candidates placed at the first rank.

The selection of candidates and their placement at the top of the party list for the **People Purpose Party** is based on the following criteria and requirements: **experience**, **capability**, **knowledge**, **social work**, **work efficiency**, **faithfulness to conscience**, **and popularity**. The party has a gender equality policy to encourage women's participation, aiming for more women, regardless of their affiliation, to be involved in politics and political parties. Candidates are not required to contribute their own budget for their candidacy. However, during the election campaign period, its candidates have to cover their campaign expenses based on their capability. Despite the party's gender equality policy in place and unfavourable conditions on candidate recruitment posing challenges for women, the party has a suitable proportion of 37.8% female candidates and 62.2% male candidates. The disparity between female and male candidates running at the first place is significant, with only 11.1% women and an overwhelming 88.9% men.

Separately, the selection of candidates for the **Women for Women's Party** is based on voluntary commitment and aspiration without internal voting. Placing female candidates at the top of the list aims to increase the number of women in politics. The criteria for selecting candidates to be listed at the top rank include **nationalism**, **contribution to national and social enhancement**, **knowledge**, **capability**, **active political participation**, **dedication**, **strong commitment with open heart and sufficient time**. The party has a gender equality policy to promote women's participation and provides additional training for female candidates. There is no discrimination against female activists within the party; the party welcomes and promotes the equal participation of women and men in

¹² COMFREL Report on Women's Political Empowerment and the 5th National Assembly Election 2013 and the 6th National Assembly Election 2018

politics without hindering women's expression of opinions. Its candidates do not incur personal expenses to be listed, as the party covers all costs of political activities and election campaigning. Due to the party's leadership being female, placing more women candidates at the top list, and its gender equality policy in place, the **Women for Women Party** has an excess of 80.9% female candidates and only 19.1% male candidates. More significantly, the percentage of female candidates listed at the first place is also high, 77.8%.

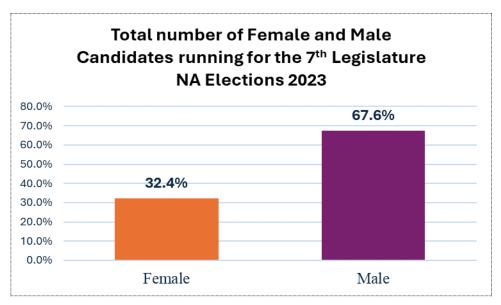
To select candidates, the **Democracy Power Party** conducts internal voting, meetings, deliberations and consideration of general knowledge by its Steering Committee. The party encourages candidates who are students and company employees to participate, requiring political experience (previous background of political involvement and understanding of politics). For placing female candidates at the top of the list, criteria such as capability, no affiliation with other political parties, aspiration and virtue, justice, activeness, and courage in expressing opinions and strong character traits are considered. Knowledge is not overly rigid, as the party will provide additional training to enhance their capacity. The party is discriminatory against women, considering women as weaker (evaluating women without having any knowledge of their capabilities) and believing women cannot do things as men can. Its candidates do not incur personal expenses to be listed, as the party covers all costs of political activities and election campaigning. With the party's encouragement of student and company employee candidates and not focusing solely on knowledge, the party has a small gender gap with **45.5%** female candidates and **54.5%** male candidates. However, due to the said discrimination against women within the party, only **16.7%** of female candidates are placed at the first rank on the party list, compared to an excessive **83.3%** of male candidates.

Table 1: Number of Female and Male Candidates from all the 18 political parties contesting in the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023

				Titular Candidates				
No.	Political Parties	Women		Men		Takal	Number of	
		#	%	#	%	Total	constituencies	
1	BSDP	15	26.3	42	73.7	57	6	
2	KUP	77	61.6	48	38.4	125	25	
3	CNP	28	22.4	97	77.6	125	25	
4	KNUP	19	15.2	106	84.8	125	25	
5	DPP	30	45.5	36	54.5	66	12	
6	FP	19	41.3	27	58.7	46	8	
7	WPW	55	80.9	13	19.1	68	18	
8	KAPP	56	44.8	69	55.2	125	25	
9	FUNCINPEC	8	6.4	117	93.6	125	25	
10	DP	63	50.4	62	49.6	125	25	
11	GDP	19	22.9	64	77.1	83	12	
12	PPP	17	37.8	28	62.2	45	9	
13	KEDP	21	36.2	37	63.8	58	7	
14	ECP	9	19.1	38	80.9	47	7	
15	КСР	21	42.9	28	57.1	49	7	
16	СҮР	34	27.2	91	72.8	125	25	
17	CIPDP	16	16.8	79	83.2	95	22	
18	СРР	16	12.8	109	87.2	125	25	
Total	18 political parties	523	32.4	1,091	76.6			

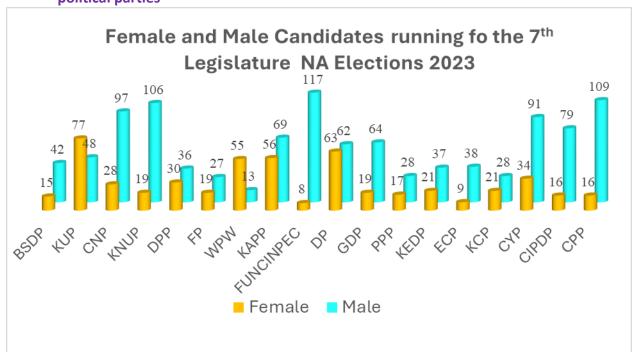
Source: NEC

Graphic 2: Total number of Female and Male Candidates running for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023



Source: NEC

Graphic 3: Female and Male Candidates running for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023 by political parties



Source: NEC

There has been an increase in the number of female candidates standing for the 7th Legislature NA Elections 2023, which is a commendable positive change. Specifically, there are a total of **523 female** candidates, which constitutes **32.4**% of the total number of male and female candidates, amounting to 1,614 individuals. This represents an increase of **7.2**% compared to the 6th legislature in 2018, which had only 25.2%. Despite this, the total sex distribution of candidates is very uneven between the sexes. In this candidate, there are 523, or **32.4**% female candidates, while male candidates number 1,091, or **67.6**%.

In spite of the increased number of female candidates, the Women for All Group of CSO has noted that the 18 political parties had placed different numbers and percentages of female candidates. Some parties **have increased** the number of female candidates to equal that of male candidates, and others put **more female than male candidates**. Conversely, some other parties have reduced the number of female candidates for this 7th legislature NA Elections 2023.

The nomination of candidates in varying numbers and percentages by each political party, due to the absence of a gender-responsive election law in Cambodia that specifies special measures for equal opportunities for women and men to stand as candidates, influences the election results and affects women's participation in the political arena, both at present and in the future. Therefore, having in place the political party gender equality policy and the gender-responsive election law that sets out affirmative action is essential, and they should be effectively implemented as tools for women to claim their rights and seize equal opportunities to stand as candidates and elected. Furthermore, the high commitment of leaders and the political will to support women's political participation are crucial factors that drive the success of these endeavours.

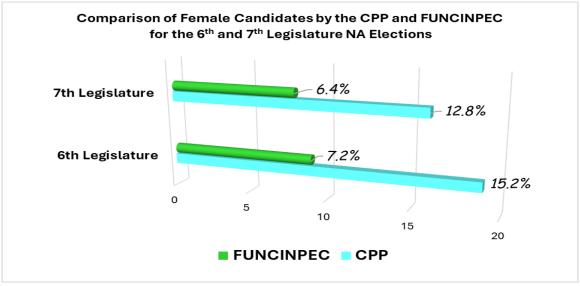
6th legislature NA elections 2018 compared to the 7th legislature of 2023 Increase percentage of female candidates by parties contesting in the 6th legislature of 2018 compared to the 7th legislature NA elections 2023 70 61.6% 60 50.4% 50.4% 50 44.8% 36% 40 27.2% 30 22.8% 22.4% 22.9% 17.6% 16.2% 20 12% 10 0 **KUP** CNP **KAPP** DP GDP CYP 6th Legislature 7th Legislature

Graphic 4: The increase in the percentage of female candidates by political parties contesting in the 6th legislature NA elections 2018 compared to the 7th legislature of 2023

Source: NEC

Political parties that **have commendably increased** the number of female candidates are the following: The **Khmer United Party** placing 61.6% female candidates in 2023 compared to only 22.8% in 2018, the **Khmer Anti-Poverty Party** 44.8% compared to 36% in 2018, the **Cambodian Youth Party** 27.2% compared to only 16.2% in 2018, the Cambodian Nationality's Party 22.4% compared to 12% in 2018, the **Grassroots Democratic Party** 22.9% compared to 17.6% in 2018, while the Dharmacracy Party maintains a significant number of female candidates at 50.4%.

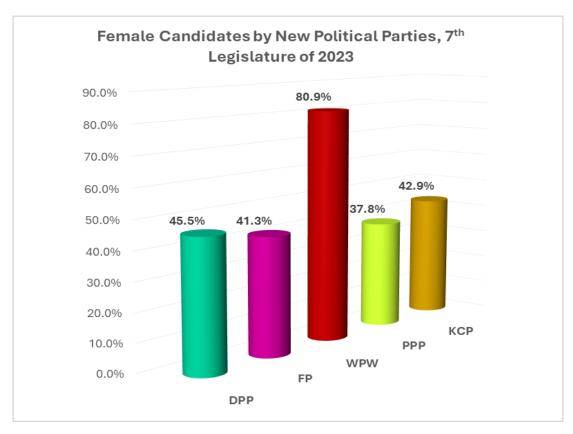
Graphic 5: The decline in the number of female candidates for the 7th legislature of 2023



Source: NEC

Two political parties that **have fielded a decreased number of female candidates** for the 2023 NA elections are the **CPP** listing **12.8%** female candidates in 2023 compared to 15.2% in 2018, and the FUNCINPEC **6.4%** compared to **7.2%** in 2018. This signifies the modest figure small and far from what was proposed by the Women Working Group of CSO for an equal number between female and male candidates in this 7th NA election 2023.

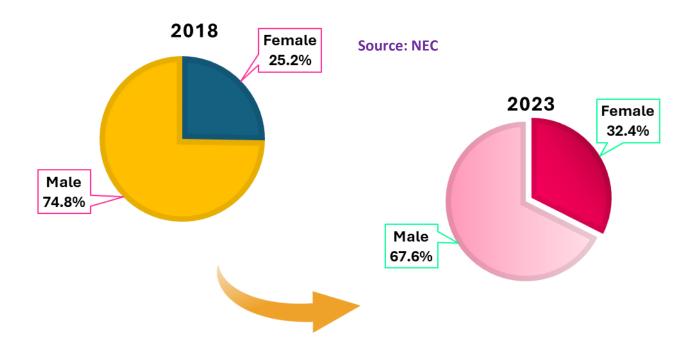
Graphic 6: New Political Parties to Enter NA Elections 2023 Contest



Source: NEC

New political parties that have recently contested in the 7th legislature NA elections 2023 had placed a commendably significant number of female candidates are as follows: the Women's Party for Women at 80.9%, the Democracy Power Party at 45.5%, the Khmer Conservative Party at 42.9%, the Farmer's Party at 41.3%, and the People Purpose Party at 37.8%. These figures reflect the high commitment of the leaders of all these five political parties to promote more women's participation in political affairs, especially by providing opportunities for women to stand as candidates.

Graph 7: Comparison of the numbers of female and male candidates for the 6th and 7th Legislatures NA elections



When compared to the 6th Legislature of 2018, the number of female candidates standing for the 7th Legislature NA elections 2023 totals 523, equivalent to 32.4% of the overall number of candidates, which is 1,614. This represents an increase of 7.2% compared to the 6th Legislature of 2028, which had only 25.2%. Despite this increase, the total sex distribution of candidates is remaining a significant disparity between the sexes, with 32.4% female candidates while male candidates comprise 67.6% in the 7th Legislature of 2023. In the 6th Legislature of 2018, female candidates constituted 25.2%, whereas male candidates accounted for a much higher percentage of 74.8%.

The number of female candidates from the 1st rank to 3rd rank for the 7th Legislature NA elections 2023

Table 8: Number of female candidates at the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ranks by political parties

	Titular candidates placed at 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd ranks							
No.	Political Parties	1 st rank		2 nd rank		3 rd rank		Number of constituencies
		#	%	#	%	#	%	constituencies
1	BSDP	1	16.7	3	50	3	50	6
2	KUP	8	32	7	41.2	12	70.6	25
3	CNP	1	4	3	17.6	6	35.3	25
4	KNUP	0	0	0	0	2	11.8	25
5	DPP	2	16.7	6	66.7	4	44.4	12
6	FP	3	37.5	2	28.6	3	42.9	8
7	WPW	14	77.8	8	80	8	80	18
8	KAPP	7	28	5	29.4	11	64.7	25
9	FUNCINPEC	2	8	0	0	2	11.8	25
10	DP	9	36	9	53	4	23.5	25
11	GDP	1	8.3	2	20	4	40	12
12	PPP	1	11.1	1	16.7	1	16.7	9
13	KEDP	1	14.3	2	28.6	3	42.9	7
14	ECP	0	0	2	28.6	0	0	7
15	КСР	2	28.6	1	16.7	2	33.3	7
16	СҮР	1	4	4	23.5	6	35.3	25
17	CIPDP	1	4.5	1	7	1	7.1	22
18	СРР	1	4	3	17.6	2	11.8	25
	Total		18	59	27	74	34	

Source: NEC

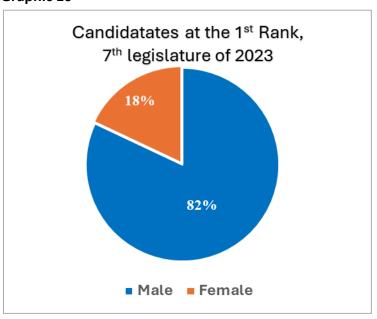
The percentage of candidates at the 1st rank, 2nd rank, and 3rd rank shows a significant gap between the sexes for the 7th Legislature NA elections 2023. In these ranks, there are 18% female candidates at the 1st rank, while male candidates overwhelmingly represent 82%. At the 2nd rank, female candidates make up 27%, and male candidates account for 73%. At the 3rd rank, there is an improved percentage of female candidates at 34%, with male candidates at 66%. These figures reveal that women have a slim chance of being listed at the first place, while the presence of women increases at lower-ranking positions, indicating a lack of special measures from political parties to provide opportunities and support for women to be listed in positions that could lead to successful election outcomes. However, political parties that have placed a higher number of female candidates at the positions of 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd places include the Women's Party for Women, the Khmer United Party, the Beehive Social Democratic Party, the Dharmacracy Party, the Khmer Anti-Poverty Party, the Farmer's Party and the Democracy Power Party.

Table 9: Number of female candidates listed at the first rank by political parties

		Titu	listed at the	first rank			
No.	Political Party	Women		Men		Sub-total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Sub-total	
1	BSDP	1	16.7	5	83.3	6	
2	KUP	8	32	17	68	25	
3	CNP	1	4	24	96	25	
4	KNUP	0	0	25	100	25	
5	DPP	2	16.7	10	83.3	12	
6	FP	3	37.5	5	62.5	8	
7	WPW	14	77.8	4	22.2	18	
8	KAPP	7	28	18	72	25	
9	FUNCINPEC	2	8	23	92	25	
10	DP	9	36	16	64	25	
11	GDP	1	8.3	11	91.7	12	
12	PPP	1	11.1	8	88.9	9	
13	KEDP	1	14.3	6	85.7	7	
14	ECP	0	0	7	100	7	
15	KCP	2	28.6	5	71.4	7	
16	СҮР	1	4	24	96	25	
17	CIPDP	1	4.5	21	95.5	22	
18	СРР	1	4	24	96	25	
Total	18 political parties	55	18	253	82	308	

Source: NEC

Graphic 10

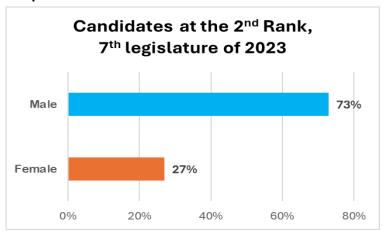


In the 7th Legislature, 2023, the **most gap** sex distribution is the **first rank** of candidates where we find **55** (18%) women and **253** (82%) men. This percentage of first-rank female candidates is **approximately the same** as that in 2018, which was at 17.8%.

Source: NEC

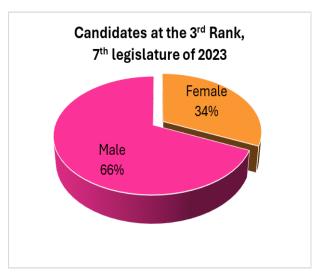
The total sex distribution of candidates at the **second rank** is also **very uneven** between the sexes, with 59 (27%) women and 159 (73%) men. It is noteworthy that the number of female candidates standing at the second rank for the 7th legislative term **has increased by 11.2**% compared to that in the 6th legislative term in 2018, which was only 15.8%.

Graphic 11



Source: NEC

Graphic 12

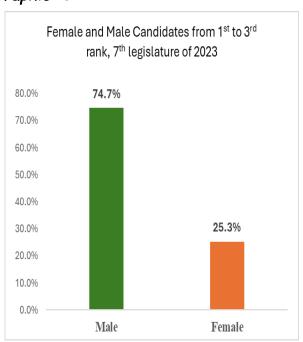


Meanwhile, the total sex distribution of candidates at the **third rank** is **uneven** between the sexes. In this rank, there are **74 (34%) women** and **144 (66%) men**. Similarly, the number of third-rank female candidates for the 7th legislative term **has increased by 14.5%** compared to that in the 6th legislative term in 2018, which was only 19.5%.

Source: NEC

Further, the number of female candidates standing from the first to the third places is 188, accounting for 25.3% of the total number of female and male candidates standing from the first to the third places, which is 744. This number has increased by 7.6% compared to that in the 6th legislative term in 2018, which was only 17.7%. However, the total sex distribution of female and male candidates from the first to third ranks is very uneven, with 25.3% women and 74.7% men. The sex distribution of candidates from the first to third ranks by political parties is even more significant gap between the sexes. For instance, the CPP has 10.2% female candidates and 89.8% male candidates, while the FUNCINPEC has only **6.8%** female candidates and a significantly higher number of 93.2% male candidates.

Graphic 13



Source: NEC

These numbers still show a wide gap between female and male candidates, indicating that Cambodia continues to face issues of imbalance in exercising the rights and political power between women and men. Meanwhile, gender disparity in politics remains a haunting issue that requires increased attention and specific measures to be taken by political party leaders, government leaders, and National Assembly leaders.

2. Elected Women

The number of elected women as members of the National Assembly has continuously declined since the 5th legislature in 2013, the 6th legislature in 2018, and the 7th legislature of 2023 National Assembly Elections while the number of women actively participating in political affairs and the electoral process has gradually increased over the last decade.

Table 14: Number and percentage of elected women and men as members of the National Assembly, 7th legislature of 2023 (immediately elected)

Political Party	Total number of seats received	Women		Me	Men	
		#	%	#	%	
СРР	120	16	13.3	104	86.7	
FUNCINPEC	5	0	0	5	100	
Total	125	16	12.8	109	87.2	

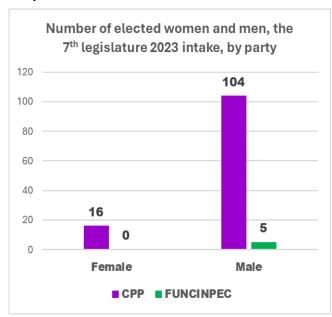
10 constituencies with elected women as representatives: Phnom Penh (3), Svay Rieng (3), Kandal (1), Takeo (2), Kampot (2), Banteay Meanchey (1), Kampong Speu (1), Prey Veng (1), Kampong Chhnang (1) and Siem Reap (1).

Source: NEC

The total sex distribution of elected women and men as member of parliament (MP) in the 7th legislature of the National Assembly is the most gap, with 12.8%, equivalent to 16 women, and a significantly higher number of 87.2%, equivalent to 109 men out of a total of 125 seats. Compared to the end of the 6th legislature of the National Assembly, the number of elected women has **decreased** by 8% for the 7th legislature in 2023, from 26 (20.8%) female parliamentarians at the end of the 6th legislature to just 16 (12.8%) in the 7th legislature of 2023 (elected immediately).

The ten provinces and the Capital with the highest number of elected women as MPs for the 7th legislature of the National Assembly are as follows: Phnom Penh (3) and Svay Rieng (3), presenting a higher number than other eight provinces. As for the province with the highest percentage of elected women, Svay Rieng leads with 60%, followed by provinces with an average percentage: Kampot with 33.3%, Phnom Penh with 25%, Kampong Chhnang with 25%, and Takeo with 25%. The provinces with a low percentage include Siem Reap at 16.7%, Kampong Speu at 16.7%, and Banteay Meanchey at 16.7%. The provinces with the lowest percentage are Prey Veng with 9.1% and Kandal with 9.1%. (Please refer to Appendix 2)

Graphic 15

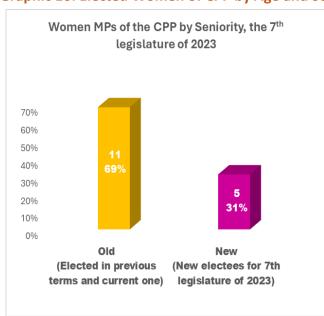


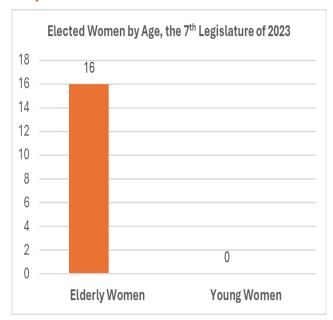
The **two political parties** that received voter support and won seats in the 7th legislature of the National Assembly are the CPP with 120 seats and the FUNCINPEC with 5 seats.

Only the CPP has elected women. However, the total sex distribution of elected is the most uneven between the sexes, with 16 (13.3%) women and a significantly higher number of 104 (86.7%) men.

Source: NEC

Graphic 16: Elected Women of CPP by Age and Seniority

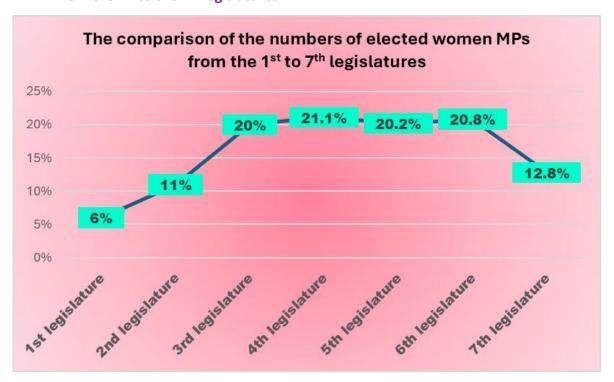




Source: NEC

The above figures of graphic 17 illustrate that among the 16 elected women as representatives (immediately elected), all are aged women (16 individuals), and the majority are incumbent elected women (women who have been elected in previous terms and the current one), totaling 11 individuals (69%), while there are only 5 new electees (31%) for the 7th National Assembly elections 2023. These figures indicate that younger women and new electees have limited opportunities to secure elected positions in their political careers, necessitating the implementation of special measures within political parties and the election laws to ensure substantive gender equality.

Graphic 17: The comparison of the numbers of elected women as MPs of the National Assembly from the 1st to the 7th legislatures



Source: NEC & NA

The percentage of women elected as parliamentarians saw a continuous increase from the 1st legislative election in 1993, with 6%, the 2nd legislature at 11%, the 3rd at 20%, to the 4th in 2008 at 21.1%. However, the percentage of elected women has subsequently declined in the 5th legislature to 20.2% and the 6th to 20.8%, and has further significantly decreased in the current 7th legislature to 12.8% despite concerted efforts from some political parties, the Royal government, civil society organizations, development partners, and the international community in capacity development for women, promoting women through verbal, action plans, and political will, with the aim of increasing opportunities and supporting equal participation of women in the political field. The two dominant and popular parties receiving the most support from voters and obtaining parliamentary seats from one legislature to another, have not considered special measures to accelerate the increase in the number of female candidates standing for and succeeding in elections.

3. Impact

The aforementioned number and percentage of elected women indicate an inadequate response to the representation of women and highlight the lack of high commitment from leaders to increase the number of elected women, which leads to the following impacts: (1) unable to achieve the gender equality goal, particularly the promotion of women's participation in politics as part of the national strategic plan and the sustainable development goals; (2) discouragement of women who are preparing themselves and currently involved in politics at the national level, especially young women, as there is a lack of opportunities for women and that the female role models remain few in number; (3) issue of social inclusion of the citizens, especially issues concerning women, children, and gender equality at the national level and across the country, which will not be adequately addressed and responded effectively and comprehensively; and (4) lack of gender-responsiveness and inclusion in the process of discussion, formation, and adoption of various laws and political decision-making due to the absence of gender diversity in the National Assembly.

4. Challenges

The tiny number and gradual decline of elected female MPs are due to the following main contributing factors and challenges: (1) lack of political will from political parties and of high commitment from leaders, especially the leaders of political parties receiving the most support from voters (obtaining parliamentary seats), to promote gender equality in politics and decision-making levels. The CPP and the FUNCINPEC, for instance, fielded too few female candidates running for the 7th legislative term; (2) A lack of specific written gender equality policies within political parties, including a lack of specific affirmative action in some articles of the election laws to support and provide opportunities for both women and men to participate equally in politics and especially to stand as election candidates and be elected as leaders; (3) A male-dominated governance structures and men continuously holding their positions or/and their lineage, which narrows women's opportunities of reaching such positions; (4) financial issue of standing as a candidate to the elections required by their political party for the election campaigns, which remains one of the most significant obstacles women face; (5) Women political party activists and women politicians continue to face all forms of discrimination and violence, which hinder their participation in political activities as well as their access to gender justice and the benefits of taking part in politics; (6) Some social and cultural norms influenced by negative gender stereotypes concerning women leadership create barriers to women politicians' effective and valuable participation and are a root cause to the problem.

Case Study 1:

The primary reason for my involvement in political affairs is my desire to directly contribute to society, to see national development, to promote gender equality, and to protect the interests of women. There is full support from my family, who respect and follow my decisions.



Ms. Mann Sreynoun was born in 1985 (38 years of age); she is the first-place candidate running for the Phnom Penh constituency from the Khmer United Party. Currently, she resides in Kambol commune, Kambol district, Phnom Penh. She holds a bachelor's degree and has recently been nominated as a candidate for the first time to run for the 7th Legislature National Assembly election 2023.

"The primary motivation that propelled me to engage in political affairs is my desire to directly help society, to witness the development of the nation, to promote gender equality, and to protect the interests of women," Ms. Mann Sreynoun emphasized.

Prior to her parliamentarian candidacy, **Ms. Mann Sreynoun was** merely an ordinary member of the party. In her candidacy, her family has shown full support, respecting, and adhering to her decision, although they also express concerns for her safety. Her relatives and friends have celebrated and admired her courage to participate in politics. However, a small number of friends prefer her not to enter the political arena due to concerns for her personal safety.

The selection process of candidates for the Khmer United Party is based on the deliberations and decisions of the Steering Committee and the evaluations in each province to select a number of female and male candidates under the direct supervision of the party leader. The Khmer United Party has a policy of prioritizing female candidates, increasing and promoting the active participation of more women. Nevertheless, the placement of female candidates at the top of the list depends on several conditions such as educational level, activeness, courage in expressing opinions, having a network, and being amiable and approachable to those around them.

Ms. Mann Sreynoun, like other women, faces discrimination, undervaluation of women, and threats. She raised that "the challenges I face are the same as those faced by other women in the political sector, where women are undervalued, discriminated, and subjected to threatening and discouraging remarks, which deter women from actively participating in politics." Indeed, Ms. Mann Sreynoun herself faced belittlement from some male citizens during her election campaign.

Her election campaign strategy to garner support from the citizens was to make a bold promise and engage in philanthropic activities to assist those facing difficulties. She pledged that if her party won the election, it would increase the salaries of civil servants and workers; provide allowances for the elderly and people with disability; as well as empower women to be more courageous in participating in political affairs. Additionally, she underscored the achievements of her social charitable works by providing help and support to people with disability, orphans, and the elderly from many families.

To increase the number of women candidates for future elections, she suggested that "women should be educated and informed about political affairs as well as be encouraged and empowered to overcome challenges in participating in the political arena."

Ms. Mann Sreynoun has appealed to men to "be open-minded in accepting women's decisions, not to underestimate their capabilities and involvement, and to abandon outdated notions that women are incapable of doing what men can do to criticize and discourage women." Concurrently, she has requested that all families of women "not to create obstacles or prevent women from making decisions to engage in political affairs." On the contrary, both families and men should provide support, encouragement, and further motivation for women to participate more actively. Women themselves, especially young women, should have the willing and strong courage to contribute to the love of the nation and the development of the country through their involvement in the political field.

Case Study 2:



"The main reason inspiring me to engage in politics is the desire to directly help society and prioritize the future of our children, as well as to explore and experience the political field because politics is not solely a man's job; women are a crucial element in the development of the nation. I have received strong support from my family, who value my thoughts and judgments on matters that I am passionate about and decide upon, with constant encouragement and support."

H.E. Ka Tearith is the third-rank candidate from the FUNCINPEC Party, and this is the first time Her Excellency has been nominated as a candidate for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023. Currently, **H.E. Ka Tearith** is 38 years old (born in 1985) and resides in Dem Mean commune, Takmao City, Kandal province. She holds a Master's degree in business and Management. Before her candidacy, she served as a party member and as the Vice President of the Party's Women's Movement. Subsequently, she was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the **FUNCINPEC** Party.

The selection of candidates within the **FUNCINPEC** Party involves undergoing evaluations and **two meetings** with the Executive Committee. Once the Executive Committee decides that an individual has the capability, potential, and resources, along with the expertise to stand as an election candidate, a decision is made and forwarded to the party president for the final appointment of the candidacy running for the election of members of the National Assembly.

The main reason that propelled **H.E. Ka Tearith** to become involved in politics is the wish to directly help society and think about the future of the children. She stated, "I want to know, to try, and to think about the future of the general populace. The political work is not just for men, and women are also an important force in the development of the nation. If there are more women, then the formation of policies to lead the country can incorporate various issues into the policies to protect, safeguard, and benefit women more." She also emphasized that "my family and husband strongly endorse and support me by valuing my thoughts and judgments on what I am passionate about and decide upon."

The methods that **H.E. Ka Tearith** employed to garner support from voters during the election campaign period include:

- Frequently conducting field visits to the grassroots communities where she represents.
- Meeting with citizens to inquire and understand their well-being at the commune and district levels through the FUNCIPEC party working group.
- Discussing solutions for the citizens at the grassroots and creating political platforms to inform the citizens about the FUNCINPEC Party's stance, aiming at helping and resolving various challenges they are currently facing.
- Particularly, as a woman, it is easier to understand the troubles and hardships of fellow women citizens compared to male candidates. Sometimes women cannot share their problems with male activists. Therefore, as women, we have more opportunities to share candidly with each other, especially the issues of harassment, abuse and domestic violence.
- Creating political platforms according to the areas where citizens live and face different challenges.

H.E. Ka Tearith made special promises to resolve women's and children's issues, as well as to ensure gender equality as follows:

- Reviewing and improving management systems according to the procedures and work practices to gender equality-responsive between men and women, aiming to eliminate discrimination, harassment, and disrespect for rights, as well as inequal value between men and women.
- Increasing the number of women in leadership positions through the nomination of female candidates with potential in managerial roles and developing the capabilities of female candidates to be sufficiently qualified for positions.
- Pushing for the creation of more jobs, positions, and resources to gender equality-responsive, ensuring that both women and men receive equal benefits, including gender equalityresponsive resources and the transfers of positions.

In the political life of H.E Ka Tearith, there have been no confrontations or obstacles, only encouragement, celebration, and support from society, family, men, workplace, and especially from the top leaders of the FUNCINPEC Party, who always motivate, encourage, and give advice in work performance and problem-solving. Particularly, most men are pleased and commend what women can achieve. However, some friends and neighbours believe that women should not be involved in politics because it can have many negative impacts on life, pose dangers, and require a significant investment of time.

To increase the number of female candidates for future elections, she has made several recommendations as the following:

- Should collectively encourage and provide opportunities for women, especially young women, to participate in political parties and understand party policies, particularly the promotion of women in candidacy and national social development.
- Women themselves should decide to try participating in political activities to see what benefits they can gain. Women should change the negative mindset of "women cannot do it" to a positive mindset of "women can do it".
- Women should empower all women to be brave and understand that political work is for all of us, not just for men.
- Educate the society as a whole to understand that women are capable of performing various tasks just as men are capable of, and can even undertake tasks beyond those of men.

H.E Ka Tearith appealed to women, especially the youth, to participate more actively, both directly and indirectly, by staying informed about current events and the politics of the country to further national development and professionalize the political field. She has also encouraged the promotion of gender equality within all political parties to allow women the opportunity to participate in decision-making and to elevate democratic society.

She also urged political parties and the government to "provide opportunities for women to hold significant positions and decision-making roles in various matters, just like men." She added, "I firmly believe that national institutions, civil society organizations, and other sectors cannot operate effectively unless both women and men are involved, ensuring the smooth functioning of all institutions, including the art of work."

5. Political Party's National Political Platform on Women's and Children's Issues

During the 21-day election campaign of the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 from July 1 to July 21, 2023, all 18 political parties conducted campaign activities to showcase their political platforms in leading and developing the country so as to attract voters, including the political platform to address women's and children's issues and increasing gender equality in the 7th legislature.

The following key promises and political Platforms of political parties have been extracted from documents on the website of the National Election Committee (NEC), from political parties, from the Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMC)'s Okras Strey program on "Political Platform to Promote Women", from COMFREL observation report on "Women's Political Participation in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023" and information from female candidates in COMFREL's target areas in five provinces: Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, and Preah Vihear.

Approximately 72% of the 18 political parties have considered resolving women's and children's issues as well as promoting gender equality.

Table 18: Political Parties' National Political Platforms to Address Women's and Children's Issues

No.	Political Platforms	Political Parties
1	 Protect and promote women as a priority; Help take care of the elderly and orphans nationwide by providing shelter and sufficient food; Reinvigorate the slogan "Women Can Do It"; Aim to recruit 100% female candidates; Implement policies to promote women's economic empowerment by establishing "one village, one market"; and Educate and provide vocational training courses on professional knowledge to women, especially to women in rural areas and the impoverished populace by creating vocational schools in villages and agricultural, industrial, and handicraft markets to enable women to study, and create a prosperous economy, enabling the establishment of women associations in the villages. 	WPW
2	 Enhance gender mainstreaming into policy frameworks and national programs, including all state reform programs, national policies, social protection programs, and green development climate change initiatives; Continue to promote women's participation and strengthen their leadership roles in the public sector, private sector, and politics; Women's economic empowerment through the development of female entrepreneurship, supporting women leaders and managers of micro, small and medium enterprises; Enhance women's knowledge and skills, improve the family economy, protect women's rights in economic activities, and implement programs to promote the balance of working life and family. Continue to prevent of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls through the implementation of a national action plan on preventing violence against women, expanding the scope of victim support services, and strengthening law enforcement. Continue to promote social morality and values of Cambodian women and family through the implementation of the positive parenting programs, promoting a culture of non-violence, and building happy families; and Continuation to further implement supporting programs for pregnant women and children under two years of age of poor families, and support programs for pregnant workers and children under two years of age. 	СРР
3	- The state bears responsibility for the healthcare needs of the elderly, people with disability, single pregnant women, and orphans.	BSDP
4	- Provide financial assistance and monthly food vouchers, as well as insurance cards to ensure high-level medical care and treatment by qualified doctors and specialists from abroad for the poor, the	КАРР

	elderly, people with disability, children, and pregnant women free of charge; and - Pay high attention to reducing maternal mortality by providing special assistance for childbirth.	
5	 Elderly individuals aged 65 and above receive a monthly allowance of 300,000 riels, and children of poor families under the age of six receive a monthly allowance of 40,000 riels; Enhance values of women to more participate in social and political work; Grant equal rights and roles to women and men; Promote and protect women; Educate and raise awareness among men about women's issues, such as health issues and household responsibilities; and Promote laws that prioritize women and focus on women's health as a primary concern. Make a plan for women to have opportunities to manage and hold positions in all ministries and institutions, with at least 50% representation. 	ECP
6	 Promote equal participation between women and men. Competition should be based on merit, competence, production capacity, expertise, technical level, and dedication; With regard to gender equality, the promotion of women shall take capabilities into high consideration; Among 266 candidates, there are 64 female candidates, approximately 24%. The party also encourages and motivates more women to participate in politics; Key specific policies to promote women's participation include: Promote and encourage parents to send their daughters and sons to school. Foster and promote the end of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. Empower women and girls through education, job provision (employment opportunities), their representation in politics, and improving maternal and child health. Advance and promote the development of professional skills and equal participation in work for them at both national and local levels. Forge collaboration with and encourage companies and development partners to help promote and empower women. 	CNP
7	 Conduct an in-depth study on women's issues and find solutions for them; Protect the rights and benefits of all citizens from abuses of power committed by the powerful as well as safeguard civil rights, political rights, women's rights, labor rights, trade union rights, and land rights; Point 1 on Economy: All elderly women aged 65 and above receive a monthly allowance of 250,000 riels; 	GDP

	 Point 2 on Health Work: Women and children, including the elderly women, have access to quality healthcare services. For women giving birth, there is a financial aid of 800,000 riels. Point 3 on Education: To enable mothers to work effectively and provide good care, kindergartens in villages should be of proper quality and quantity appropriate to the community. Point 4 on Social Affairs; Point 5 on Public Services; and There are women-representative groups collecting information related to violence occurring in communities and families. All acts of violence will be resolved by studying the case documents and coordinating with various civil society organizations involved. 	
8	 Promote and provide women with opportunities for training courses that combine personal knowledge and experience to increase the number of women in leadership to advance national development; Enhance women's courage in participating and contributing to society, and in learning from exemplary leadership to acquire expertise and skills as a foundation for national development; Provide training sessions for female candidates to gain expertise, leading to employment opportunities that can enhance family livelihood and further strengthen personal skills and competence. Enable children and impoverished women in rural areas to have opportunities to work in society by encouraging and promoting education so they can study, work, and improve their living standards, thereby helping the entire nation and reducing the need to seek employment abroad. Help victim women who suffer from domestic oppression, such as domestic violence, spousal abuse, and lack of courage to protest or file a complaint to competent authorities for intervention. For children, address the pressure from parents, forcing their children to engage in child labor for income, leading to the cessation of their education. 	KNUP
9	 Increase the transparency of women's participation in education, wage-earning jobs outside the industrial sector, and political candidacy, with policies as follows: Integrate gender equality into the policy frameworks and development plans of the Democratic Power Party, reduce the gender gap in education, foster entrepreneurial initiatives for women, diminish domestic violence and sexual abuse against women and children, and further promote social morality; Eliminate all forms of violence and human trafficking of women and children through educating communities to love their families, especially reducing alcohol consumption, gambling, and illegal drug use that harm family and children's futures; Ensure full leadership opportunities for women to participate in national and social leadership; Provide equal rights to economic resources, property 	DPP

	 management, and financial services; Promote women's empowerment through technology use; Strengthen policies and legal framework for gender equality promotion; Educate women to avoid drugs and all kinds of gambling; Enhance women's empowerment by providing them opportunities to participate and make decisions on any issue based on their rights and freedoms. Enable women to have priority and leadership in managing enterprises or companies. 	
10	 Have a vision for change to promote gender equality between women and men; Strengthen the protection system for women and children; Establish legal frameworks to support women and children; and Eliminate all forms of violence against women and children. 	СҮР
11	- Educate and provide training sessions to women so that they are strong enough to protect the interests of their families and the nation.	DP
12	 Organize a composition of gender balance that provide opportunities for women to participate in social, political, economic, cultural, and developmental works. Encourage and provide opportunities for women to engage in political affairs at national, sub-national, and international levels. Moreover, allocating the national budget for the safegurd of women and children from various cases of abuse, including labour exploitation and discrimination, and imposing strict penalties on perpetrators. Create a National Social Security Fund (MSSF) to assist women and children, especially impoverished women, single mothers, or those without support. Encourage and provide opportunities for women and girls to attend school for general education at all levels and in all villages so that they can gain professional skills and earn extra income. Establish centres to safeguard women and teach them to create small businesses, especially for women with low skills or education and offer scholarships in various places, especially for female students to continue their studies domestically and abroad. Eliminate domestic violence committed by husbands or men and violence against women and children serving as domestic workers. 	FUNCINPEC
13	 Promote women's rights to participate in all forms of political, social, and private sectors; Eliminate all forms of violence, whether physical or psychological and punish anyone who commits violence against women; Ensure women access to education and minimize the drop out of school for female students. Provide vocational training courses and job opportunities for women with disabilities since they encounter social discrimination due to their physical disability. 	PPP

Table 19: Political Party's Political Platforms in Each Constituency Pledged by Female Candidates to Address Women's and Children's Issues





Source: FUNCINPEC

The election campaign for the 7th Legislature National Assembly elections 2023 saw female candidates actively campaigning according to their party's political platforms and making additional promises tailored to the specific needs of women and children in different constituencies. These key promises in the constituencies are extracted from information about female candidates running for the election in COMFREL's five target provinces: Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Takeo, and Preah Vihear.

No.	Political party's political platforms and additional promises made by candidates in constituencies	Female candidates	Political party
1	Assistance is provided in the form of food and housing repairs for women facing difficulties, including homeless women, single mothers, and elderly women. During childbirth, a sum of 50,000 riels is offered along with immediate birth registration for newborns.	Female candidate in Kampong Chhnang	
2	Help children with illnesses (through financial support) and provide the elderly with rice, food supplies, and some amount of budget upon affordability. Help pregnant women to receive health check-ups and/during childbirth without any service charge.	Female candidate in Preah Vihear	
3	Promote gender equality: eliminate domestic violence, support children who are unable to attend school or lack educational materials and promote equal rights between women with men.	Female candidate in Kampong Cham	

4	Make Efforts to empower women to be brave and intelligent, to find employment for them as well as to protect them from rights violations. Provide services for childbirth, help build houses for women and the elderly and encourage women to engage in politics.	Female candidate in Kampong Cham	СРР
5	For women: the emphasis is on promoting equal rights between women and men and encouraging women in policy. Strengthen leadership in both the private and public sectors as well as in the economic domain, strengthen employment, foster efforts to prevent violence, educate women on ethics and culture, and prioritize health issuesetc.	Female candidate in Kampong Cham	
	For children, the goal is to eliminate school dropouts at the primary and secondary levels, protect children from violence and exploitation, and pay high attention to their health.		
6	To promote gender equality, support is given to encourage their participation in national and social work as well as in training sessions conducted by any institutions or partner organizations to enhance their knowledge and provide them with updated information. Help resolve domestic violence and human trafficking abroad as well as help teach literacy to the elderly and children.	Female candidate in Kampong Thom	
7	Address women's and children's issues and promote gender equality, including through providing financial support to pregnant women and their kids from the pregnancy period until the child reaches two years of age. Assistance is given to vulnerable women and children, including those facing financial difficulties. Provide quality education to children and create employment opportunities for youths. Support is extended to poor families with access to health services at state hospitals without charge.	Female candidate in Takeo	
8	Freedom of expression and religious beliefs are protected, and efforts are made to eliminate the human trafficking of women and children. Promote women's rights and their participation in politics and national economic development.	Female candidate in Takeo	FUNCINPEC

6. Female Members of the NEC, PEC, CEC, PSO/BCO

National level

There are no women leaders at the national level serving as members of the National Election Committee (NEC) among its **nine members**, and **five Secretary-General** and **Deputy Secretary-General**. There are **450 women**, equal to **26.4%**¹³ out of 1,702 staff members at the

Women are still underrepresented in national election administrations for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023.

national level of the NEC such as staff, long-term contract officials, short-term contract officials, and some other necessary officials who have worked for managing the 7th legislature NA elections 2023.

Sub-national level

No data from NEC on sub-national election officials.



Source: Phnom Penh Post



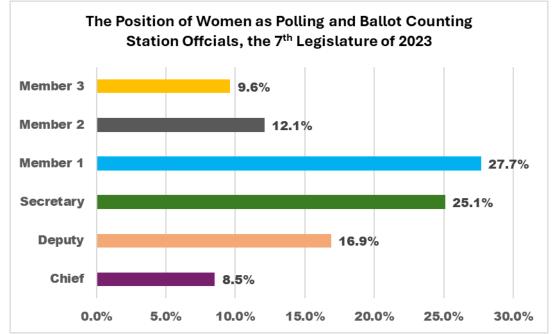
Polling and Ballot Counting Stations

No data from NEC on Polling Station Officials and Ballot Counting Officials.



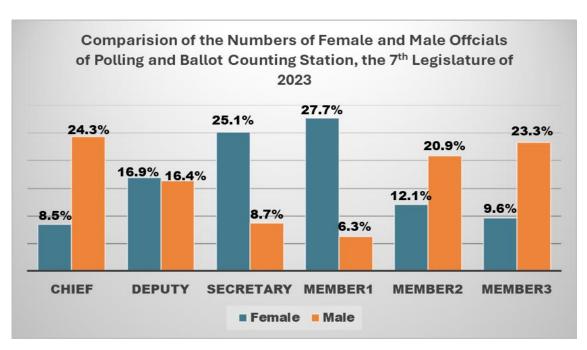
¹³ NEC's Member Report

Graphic 21: The Position of Women Officials of the Polling and Ballot Counting Station Commission



Source: COMFREL and GADC

Graphic 22:



Source: COMFREL and GADC

The observation report on "Women's Political Participation in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023" jointly produced by COMFREL and GADC has discovered that on the polling day, the total sex distribution of polling and ballot counting station officials is almost equal between the sexes, **354 (48.4%) women officials and 378 (51.6%) men officials** out of a total of **732 officials** in the **124** polling and ballot counting stations. However, the majority of female polling station officials (PSO) as members are equal to **49.4%**, while the percentage distribution of women as chairpersons is only **8.5%**; women working as secretaries is **25.1%**, and the vice chairpersons at **16.9%**¹⁴.

 $^{^{14}}$ The deployment of COMFREL's and GADC's female and male election observers in the 7 target provinces on the polling and counting day held on July 23, 2023

7. Female Election Observers, Political Party Agents, and Journalists

In the 7th National Assembly election 2023, particularly on the polling and ballot counting day, international and national NGOs, development partners, embassies in Cambodia and political parties deployed their respective election observers and representatives to polling stations in the Capital and each constituency to monitor the electoral process. According to the official figures released by the NEC, the numbers of national and international election observers, special guests, political party agents and journalists are as follows¹⁵:

Female National Election Observers



Source: COMFREL

It should be noted that this election has a larger number of female observers than that of male observers. In fact, the Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) deployed almost all election observers as women nationwide with a total number of 26,692 female observers, equal to 99.9% of the total of 26,695 observers. Meanwhile, COMFREL deployed 5,036 election observers, including 2,340 women, equal to 46.5%. Separately, the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia deployed the largest number of election observers nationwide, amounting to 41,333, including 17,899 women, equal to 43.3%, for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023. (See Appendix 4 for the details)

52,652 female national election observers, including **12** women with disability, **175** Muslim women, and **2** indigenous women, have been accredited by the NEC to observe the electoral process of the 7th National Assembly election, equal to **58.8**% of the total of **89,562** accredited election observers from **134** Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations. This total number of election observers increased by **12.5**% compared to the 6th Legislature National Assembly Elections **2018** at only **79,612**.



¹⁵ The official result on the registration of international and national NGOs and special guests for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023, and the press release on consolidation of situations on the polling day released by the NEC on 22 and 24 July 2023, respectively.

There were no significant challenges to female observers of COMFREL and to female and male observers of GADC on the polling and counting day. Polling Station Officials prioritised those female and male observers to cast their ballot first and then observe the situation inside the Polling and Ballot Counting Stations in accordance with the election procedures and regulations.

Female International Election Observers

The NEC accredited **163 female international election observers**, accounting for **27.8%** of the total 584 international election observers from 52 institutions such as foreign countries, election commissions, embassies, communities, the National Assembly, research institutions, language translators, associations, and international organizations. The number of male and female international election observers increased by **262 (81.4%)** from 322 in the 6th Legislature National Assembly elections 2018 to 584 in the 7th Legislature of 2023.

Female Special Guests

The NEC allowed **seven female special guests** to observe the electoral process of the 7th Legislature National Assembly elections 2023, accounting for **39%** of the total 18 men and women special guests from 10 foreign embassies, associations, and universities.

Female Political Party Agents

Titular-reserve Political Party Agents for the 7 th Legislature of 2023								
	Fem	nale	Male					
Total male-female	number	Percentage	Number	Percentage				
57,012	40,388	70.8%						

Source: NEC

The number¹⁶ of female political party agents accredited by the NEC is **16,624**, which is **29.1%** (titular and reserve candidates) of the total **57,012** (titular and reserve) candidates from **8 political parties** to observe the electoral process at the polling stations and ballot counting stations of the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023. The total number <u>decreased by 22,837</u> (28.6%) compared to the 6th Legislature of 2018, which had a total of **79,849** candidates.

Female National and International Journalists

The number of female national and international journalists accredited by the NEC is **215**, which is **15%** of the total **1,426** female and male journalists. Of these, **female national journalists'** number **185 (14.4%)** of the total **1,289** journalists from **127 entities**, and **female international journalists'** number **30 (21.9%)** of the total **137** journalists from **38 entities**, to cover the electoral news during the electoral process of the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023¹⁷.

¹⁶ The official results of the registration of political party agents for the 7th National Assembly Election 2023 released by the NEC on July 3, 2023

¹⁷ The official results of the registration of national and international journalists participating in covering the electoral news released by the NEC on July 22, 2023

8. Female Voters

8.1. Women during the 2022 Voter Lists Revision and Voter Registration Process

a. Women who checked their name on the voter lists and registered to vote

Number of people who checked their names in the voter lists and registered to vote in 2022								
Total male-female Total number of women								
Number	%	Number	%					
9,710,655 89.3 5,161,909 53.2								

Source: NEC (See Appendix 5 for the details)

Based on the official result of the 2022 Voter Lists Revision and Voter Registration released by the NEC on 21 February 2023, women who have registered to vote and have their name on the voter lists nationwide are **5,161,909** equal to **53.2%** of 9,710,655 male and female voters. In COMFREL's target areas of 10 communes in five provinces, newly registered female voters number 11,319 (53.6%) and newly registered male voters number 9,815 (46.4) of the total 21,134 registered male and female voters, including 587 young women (2.8%).

COMFREL's women observers conducted semi-interviewed with **60** women who had checked the voter list and registered to vote and noted the following findings¹⁸:

About "convenience" in the Commune/Sangkat							
Voter Lists Revision	Voter Registration						
It is easy to check the names on the voter lists	Voter registration was convenient as registration						
because there are not many people coming to	sites were close to homes.						
check their names on the voter list.							
The Voter Registration Group is ready to provide	The Voter Registration Group encouraged and						
support and assist in voter list checking.	facilitated the process for registrants with						
	respectful and considerate language.						
The Voter Registration Group conducted extensive	Mobile registration offices were set up in villages						
community outreach in villages, communes, and	by the Voter Registration Group, reaching						
districts to inform citizens about the voter list	citizens at their residences.						
verification and registration process.							
Voter-list checking in the commune directly and	The voter registration process was efficient due						
on the NEC website.	to computerized registration and on-site						
	photography.						
	Authorities issued identification documents for						
The closure of the voter list was well organized	voter registration to citizens without						
and managed.	discrimination.						
Holding Khmer ID Card and bringing a	along their voter information notice.						

About "Difficulties" in Commune/Sangkat						
Voter Lists Revision Voter Registration						
None	Some people lacked the necessary documents					
	for voter registration					

¹⁸ COMFREL deployed women observers in five target provinces, namely Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo and Preah Vihear Provinces, during the 2022 voter list checking and voter registration period.

Reasons motivating women to go to check their names on the voter lists and to register to vote									
Voter Lists Revision	Voter Registration								
Be afraid of having their name recorded incorrectly on the voter lists.	Because they are eligible to register to vote (based on their age)								
Be afraid of having their name removed from the voter list	To fulfil their role and responsibilities as Cambodian citizens								
Be afraid that their names were no longer on the voter list.	To have the right to choose good representatives.								
Be afraid of not being able to vote.	To vote for the country's development.								
Be sure that their name is still on the voter list.									
To make it easier to come to the polls and be able to vote their favourite party.									
Want to elect a great leader v	vho best serves our country.								

b. Personal impressions and opinions shared by COMFREL's female election observers

Commune/Sangl	at Voter Lists Revision and Voter Registra	ation Process
Overview	Strengths	Weaknesses
 The process of voter list revision and voter registration was safe and well-conducted. Some communes had 	 Voter registration officials were friendly and had good ethics (used respectful language). They provided information promptly. They were punctual and worked 	 Lacked female voter registration officers in some communes. Some officers of the Voter Registration
few people going to check their names on the voter list and register to vote.	 efficiently. They were well-prepared and were able to explain the requirements and documentation process 	Voter Registration Group did not collaborate well with each other. Commune/Sangkat
 There was a huge participation of people, and The Voter Registration Groups were attentive and provided clear explanations to 	 comprehensively and clearly. People were well-informed about the voter registration process. Observers collaborated with officers of the Voter Registration Group. the Voter Registration Group well 	Council members did not collaborate well with observers. Some people did not understand the NEC's procedures for
people. Voter registration officials provided good service and worked punctually. There was a good	 collaborated with Commune/Sangkat councillors. They were friendly with people going to check their names on the voter list and to register to vote. There were sufficient required 	the voter lists revision and voter registration. • People did not pay high attention to the voter lists revision
collaboration. The officials were cooperative and helped facilitate the engagement of people and observers.	 documents. Commune/Sangkat working group conducted information dissemination directly at people's homes. There was a smooth process of issuing new Khmer ID cards to citizens. Officers of the Voter Registration 	 voter lists revision and voter registration process. There was a small number of people lacking the required documents for voter registration.
	Group and commune/Sangkat council officers worked punctually.	Some officers of the

- The chairperson, vice-chairperson, or computer clerks managed the closure of the voter list well.
- Officers of the Voter Registration Group provided clear information to citizens.

Voter Registration Group were not ethical.

8.2. Polling Day

The number of women eligible voters in the 2022 official voter list is **5,161,909**, equal to **53.2**% of the total number of **9,710,665**¹⁹ male and female voters for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023. The voter turnout is **8,214,430**, accounting for **84.6**%²⁰ of the total registered voters. It has been concluded from the





Source: KBN News

Observation that there was a higher percentage of women voters compared to that of men voters going to cast their ballot on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Based on the observation reports collected from COMFREL female election observers and from GADC female and male observers in the seven target provinces, it has been discovered that²¹ out of the total of observed 122 polling stations, 104 polling

stations, had more women voters casting their ballot than men from 50.2% to 77.2%. From 10.2% to

73% of young people went to the polls, of which **23.7% to 64.8%** were young women in **55** polling stations.

On the polling day, there were several notable irregularities, including instances where local authorities stood in front of polling stations engaging in irregular activities and mobilizing citizens to vote. These included: (1) commune chiefs standing in front of polling stations, conversing with voters, and walking around to collect information about voters coming to cast their ballot every hour starting from 8 AM until



Source: Khmer Time

¹⁹ The official result of the 2022 Voter Lists Revision and Voter Registration released by the NEC on February 21, 2023.

²⁰ The official result of the 7th National Assembly Election held on Sunday, July 23, 2023 released by the NEC on July 5, 2023.

²¹ The observation report, jointly produced by COMFREL and GADC, on "Women's Political Participation in the 7th National Assembly Election 2023" in the seven target provinces (Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, Preah Vihear, Pursat and Prey Veng Provinces

near the closure time of voting; (2) village chiefs moving around from one polling station to another, standing in front of polling stations causing fear among the voters; (3) village chiefs calling group leaders to gather members or their team members to come to vote; (4) village chiefs entering polling stations, asking for the names of voters who had not yet voted. The village chief stated, "If we do not gather all the citizens to vote, the higher-ups will pressure us, so we must transport them from their homes," starting to mobilize and transport citizens from 11 AM until near the closure time of voting; (5) authorities speaking harshly to citizens, causing them to feel discouraged from voting; (6) some polling station officials did not verify documents properly, merely asking for the voter's queue number to allow them to vote. Some polling station officials did not adhere to the electoral regulation and procedures thoroughly.

1,496,235 eligible voters, equalling to **15.4%**, did not go to vote and/or did not cast their ballot, including approximately a large proportion of women voters. They encountered difficulty in voting on the polling day due to several reasons and irregularities affecting voters' rights, especially female voters. These issues include having the name on the official voter lists but losing/having no Khmer ID Card; invalid information related to their name and data on the voter lists; being unable to find their names on the voter lists; and accidentally encountering other issues.

According to the election monitoring report of women observers deployed by COMFREL and GADC, it has been found out that 84 cases of irregularities and issues happened to women voters on the polling day at 32 polling stations, including (1) some women voters have their names on the official voter list but losing/having no Khmer ID Card or having insufficient supporting documents; (2) their name and data have been wrongly recorded on the voter list; (3) some female voters could not find their names on the voter lists because they did not receive the Voter Information Card or have not been aware of the change in the polling station code; (4) some female voters accidentally encountered other issues, such as in their family, a patient needed to be hospitalized immediately.

COMFEEL's Rapid Survey²² on Women's Political Participation in the five target provinces on 24 July 2023, one day after the polling day, with "women voting or having indelible ink on their forefinger" has discovered that out of the 60 women surveyed, 50% women voted and provided some reasons for going to vote, and 50% women did not vote due to several personal reasons, making them unable to cast their vote. It should be noted that the majority of women who voted were farmers, housewives, and company or factory workers. In contrast, the majority of women who did not vote were factory workers in Phnom Penh and migrant workers.

50% of women who voted said they wanted to go to vote because:

Reasons

They want to exercise their right to vote.

They support a party they love.

Because everyone goes to the polls.

They want commune authority and ministers to improve road conditions.

They are of the view that women's participation in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 is essential.

Hope to elect women representatives who are good leaders and pay great attention to women's and children's issues, significantly enhancing and broadening the educational system.

Hope that their commune infrastructure will be developed.

Want to elect a great leader.

-

²² Rapid survey of COMFREL's female observers in five provincial target areas; Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, Preah Vihear provinces

50% of women who did not vote responded that they did not want to go to the polls/did not vote due to some reasons listed as follows:

Reasons
Had no spare time to go to vote.
Did not understand politics.
Did not care or pay any attention to political issues.
Could not find their name on the voter list.
Their name and data have been incorrectly incorporated (into the voter list)
Encountered health problems.
Lost Khmer ID Card.
Left their Khmer ID Card at a workplace.

IV. Conclusion and Summary

Cambodia continues to encounter a pronounced inequality of representation between men and women in the political and public sectors. In fact, the total percentage of women and men immediately elected as representatives for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 is the most uneven between the sexes, with women securing only 12.8%, while men overwhelmingly at 87.2%. In terms of women holding political office and positions of leadership at the national level is minuscule, and there is a wide gap in the total sex distribution of women and men in political office, with women accounting for only 14.7% and men for 85.3%, while the full official authority of women to perform their duties is still limited and subject to discrimination. Partly due to a lack of data, these observations do not yet include the analysis of other categories of diversity, such as women with disabilities, indigenous peoples, the LGBTQI+ community, etc.

Her Excellency Khoun Sodary was the first woman to be elected as the President of the National Assembly for the 7th legislature. It showcases a high commitment and the increase of gender equality among top leadership and a positive change unprecedented in Cambodia.

Dr. Chea Serey is the first female dignitary to be appointed as the new **Governor General** of the National Bank of Cambodia for the new government of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly.

The number of female candidates standing for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 is 32.4%, an increase of 7.2% compared to the 6th Legislature of 2018, which had only 25.2%. However, the total sex distribution of female and male candidates still shows a wide gap, indicating that gender inequality in the political sector remains a lingering issue that requires further attention and the implementation of precise special measures by political party leaders as well as leaders of both the government and the National Assembly.

The number of elected women for the 7th Legislature of 2023 decreased by 8% compared to the end of the 6th legislature of the National Assembly, with female MPs dropping from 20.8% (26 parliamentarians) to just 16 (12.8%). The tiny number and gradual decline of elected female MPs are due to the following main contributing factors and challenges: (1) lack of political will from political parties and of high commitment from leaders, especially the leaders of political parties receiving the most support from voters (obtaining parliamentary seats), to promote gender equality in politics and decision-making levels. The CPP and the FUNCINPEC, for instance, fielded too few female candidates running for the 7th legislative term; (2) A lack of specific written gender equality policies within political parties, including a lack of specific affirmative action in some articles of the election laws to support and provide opportunities for both women and men to participate equally in politics and especially to stand as election candidates and be elected as leaders; (3) A male-dominated governance structures and men continuously holding their positions or/and their lineage, which narrows women's opportunities of reaching such positions; (4) financial issue of standing as a candidate to the elections required by their political party for the election campaigns, which remains one of the most significant obstacles women face; (5) Women political party activists and women politicians continue to face all forms of discrimination and violence, which hinder their participation in political activities as well as their access to gender justice and the benefits of taking part in politics; (6) Some social and cultural norms influenced by negative gender stereotypes concerning women leadership create barriers to women politicians' effective and valuable participation and are a root cause to the problem.

The 18 political parties contesting in the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023 continue to show that the work of promoting women's leadership is still limited, as reflected on the result of their registration in the political party candidate lists, especially putting female candidates at the first rank of the lists, which would grant them more opportunities to be elected. In fact, the total sex distribution of candidates at the first rank is the most uneven between the sexes, with female candidates at 18% and male candidates overwhelmingly at 82%.

Two political parties obtaining huge support from voters and winning the most seats in the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly are the CPP and the FUNCINPEC, but leaders of both parties still lack high commitment while their parties also lack policies and reserved fund to increase gender equality in politics and decision-making role since they placed a small percentage of female candidates, majority of whom are at the bottom of their party list running for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023.

Approximately 72% of the 18 political parties have considered addressing women's and children's issues and promoting gender equality for the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly.

More female voters than male voters went to the polls on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Specifically, female voters ranged from 50.2% to 77.2% in 104 polling stations. Youth participation in voting ranged from 10.2% to 73% in 55 polling stations, while young women voters ranging from 23.7% to 64.8% presented in the target areas of COMFREL and GADC organization.

At the national level, there have been no women leaders as members of the National Election Committee (NEC) among its nine members, and five Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General. Against this backdrop, more and more women 48.4%, have participated in lower-level election management as officials of the Polling Station Commission (PSC) and Ballot Counting Station Commission (BCSC), with majority holding 49.4% of the member positions, while only 8.5% are chairwomen in the observed 124 polling and ballot counting stations in COMFREL's and GADC's target areas.

On the polling day, there were some irregularities, with cases of local authorities standing in front of polling stations engaging in irregular activities and in mobilizing citizens to vote.

Cambodian women and men have been guaranteed full and equal access to political participation and the fulfilment of political interests by the Cambodian constitution. However, women-friendly and enabling environment, policies, election laws and operational measurements have not been realistically responsive to the status of women's participation in politics. The gaps of policies and the lack of gender-responsive election laws, operational measurements, and investments have **contributed to the inequality** of women's representation and participation.

Therefore, gender equality policy in the party and gender-responsive election laws and its proper implementation would be a powerful and an effective tool for women to claim their rights and obtain equal opportunities as candidates and elected. In addition, the high commitment of leaders and the **political will** to support women is essential to succeed in this work.

V. Recommendations

To increase gender equality to achieve Sustainable Development Goals as well as to empower women in politics and enhance their inclusive participation, the following measures should be addressed:

1. National Assembly and Senate

Ensure that election laws such as Law on the Elections of Members of the National Assembly (LEMNA) and Law on Elections of Members of Commune/Sangkat Council (LEMCC) are gender-responsive in a way that they stipulate affirmative action to promote gender equality and to provide opportunities for women's equal participation in politics through encouraging all political parties to place more women candidates on their party lists. The motivation for political parties to implement the special measures is to stipulate the provision in a legal framework, meaning to make amendments to the Elections Laws.

- **a.** The election laws amendment would further improve the criteria for the registration procedure of political party candidates, requiring the use of a sandwich system from top to bottom for ranking on the political party candidate lists.
- b. Amendments to the election laws: The Law on the Election of Members of National Assembly, Chapter 4, Article 27 and Article 28 that reads "The list of political party candidates in each constituency shall use a sandwich system from top to bottom ranking between women and men candidates" and the Law on Elections of Members of Commune/Sangkat Councils' Chapter 6, Article 39 "Candidate lists of each political party shall alternate female and male candidates from the top to bottom ranking."

2. Political Parties

- Winning political parties should include reserve female candidates to be parliamentarians of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly after elected female-male are appointed to government positions.
- Ensure the formulation of political party gender equality policy by political parties themselves, and this policy shall be well implemented to promote women's equal and non-discriminatory participation in their political party, including women in the policy-making process, women as decision-makers, women in leadership position, as women candidates and elected representatives and to increase gender equality at all levels of the political parties especially using the sandwich system from the top to bottom for ranking between women and men candidates on the political party candidate lists.
- All political parties contesting in the elections should provide financial support to female candidates for campaign activities and remove financial barriers for women to stand as candidates.

3. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)

The RGC should increase the number of women in leadership roles and decision-making positions in the ministries and institutions to at least 35%, ranging from the position of department director to ministers and to deputy prime ministers, which consequently gives women opportunity to discuss, seek solutions, and make inclusive decisions in compliance with CEDAW and Cambodian's Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG).

The RGC (line ministries) should increase investment in and provide comprehensive support, in a systematic way, such as financial resources, equipment, and human resources to female leaders and elected women to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness and quality of women's work performance, political participation and leadership.

4. CSOs, Educational Institutions and Academies

- Increase supporting mechanisms for women politicians, such as capacity development (self-confidence and skill sets needed to participate in politics, including the development of effective campaign and lobbying strategies), empowerment, and special political funding for women in politics.
- Utilise both the social media platforms and mass media to conduct campaign activities to promote women's rights by emphasizing the importance of women's political participation and leadership role and to accelerate the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women in public, in politics and within the family.

5. National Election Committee (NEC)

- Develop initiatives and join the call for the amendment of the Election Laws to genderresponsive in a way that they stipulate affirmative action to ensure gender equality in elections, primarily to support and explore all means to help pave the way conducive for more and more women to run as candidates and to be elected.
- Ensure the formulation of NEC's gender-responsive election regulations and procedures to increase gender equality and provide equal opportunities to female candidates by putting additional criteria to the registration procedure of political party candidates, requiring the use of a sandwich system from the top to bottom for ranking between women candidates and men candidates on the political party candidate lists.
- Increase and enhance educational activities and disseminate information to the citizens (voters) more extensively about the proper submission of documents for voting purposes, the fundamental principles of voting, the importance of exercising one's rights, the electoral procedures and regulations, and the voters' intelligent in safeguarding against intimidation, misinformation, and manipulation during election process.
- Guarantee safety and security for female candidates from all parties during the election period without discrimination, ensuring that they are free from threats, harassment, and disparagement from other parties or supporters, and enabling them to fully engage in political activities.

ജ്ജ The End രുന്ദര

Appendix 1

The Number and Percentage of Women Candidates and Men Candidates by Capital-Province Constituencies

Nº	Provinces/Capital	Candidates	W	Women		Men	
			Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Parties
1	Banteay Meanchey	66	31	47	35	53	11
2	Battambang	104	34	32.7	70	67.3	13
3	Kampong Cham	120	34	28.3	86	71.7	12
4	Kampong Chhnang	56	14	25	42	75	14
5	Kampong Speu	90	28	31.1	62	68.9	15
6	Kampong Thom	90	27	30	63	70	15
7	Kampot	72	21	29.2	51	70.8	12
8	Kandal	132	45	34.1	87	65.9	12
9	Koh Kong	13	4	30.8	9	69.2	13
10	Kratie	33	6	18.2	27	81.8	11
11	Mondolkiri	12	2	16.7	10	83.3	12
12	Phnom Penh	216	86	39.8	130	60.2	18
13	Preah Vihear	12	1	8.3	11	91.7	12
14	Prey Veng	132	41	31.1	91	68.9	12
15	Pursat	44	12	27.3	32	72.7	11
16	Ratanakiri	12	3	25	9	75	12
17	Siem Reap	84	28	33.3	56	66.7	14
18	Preah Sihanouk	36	9	25	27	75	12
19	Stung Treng	10	5	50	5	50	10
20	Svay Rieng	65	23	35.4	42	64.6	13
21	Takeo	112	38	33.9	74	66.1	14
22	Кер	10	3	30	7	70	10
23	Pailin	10	2	20	8	80	10
24	Oddor Meanchey	11	1	9.1	10	90.9	11
25	Tbong Khmum	72	25	34.7	47	65.3	9
	Grand Total	1,614	523	32.4	1,091	67.6	18

The Number and Percentage of Elected Females and Males by Capital-Province Constituencies

Nº	Provinces/Capital	Total	Women			Men
			Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Banteay Meanchey	6	1	16.7	5	83.3
2	Battambang	8	0	0	8	100
3	Kampong Cham	10	0	0	10	100
4	Kampong Chhnang	4	1	25	3	75
5	Kampong Speu	6	1	16.7	5	83.3
6	Kampong Thom	6	0	0	6	100
7	Kampot	6	2	33.3	4	66.7
8	Kandal	11	1	9.1	10	90.9
9	Koh Kong	1	0	0	1	100
10	Kratie	3	0	0	3	100
11	Mondolkiri	1	0	0	1	100
12	Phnom Penh	12	3	25	9	75
13	Preah Vihear	1	0	0	1	100
14	Prey Veng	11	1	9.1	10	90.9
15	Pursat	4	0	0	4	100
16	Ratanakiri	1	0	0	1	100
17	Siem Reap	6	1	16.7	5	83.3
18	Preah Sihanouk	3	0	0	3	100
19	Stung Treng	1	0	0	1	100
20	Svay Rieng	5	3	60	2	40
21	Takeo	8	2	25	6	75
22	Кер	1	0	0	1	100
23	Pailin	1	0	0	1	100
24	Oddor Meanchey	1	0	0	1	100
25	Tbong Khmum	8	0	0	8	100
	Grand Total	125	16	12.8	109	87.2





គណៈកម្មាធិការទាំតិផ្សេមទំការបោះឆ្នោត

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SS.5.			រួច រួច រួច			ចំនួនមេអ្នបន					
		ಹಕ್ಟ	ध्यक्षस्थिः	ಹ್ಕಟ	ಚಾಚರ್ಚು	ពេញសិន្ទិ	్రట్	ឧរនិខ	585	ಹ್ಕಟ	ક્ષ્કેં
1	(B ಮ ಪ್ರಜನಿಕ್ಕಾರು	25	25	125	125	125	16	149	38	274	54
2	ದ್ ಜಪಟಕ್ಕೆಮ	25	25	125	125	125	34	141	56	266	90
3	් මුණුෂණකි	25	25	125	125	125	19	141	31	266	50
4	ឧសិរឌូឧមេណិ	25	25	125	125	125	63	141	100	266	163
5	ස ණාසිසසූ භ	25	25	125	125	125	28	141	36	266	64
6	ខ្មែះតែមួយ	25	25	125	125	125	77	141	43	266	120
7	ស៊្វិលស៊ិលច៉ិច	25	25	125	125	125	8	153	21	278	29
8	ឡើបភាគុរិង	25	25	125	125	125	56	141	90	266	146
9	ನಲಮುಕ್ಷಣ್ಣನಾಣ್ಣಣಣಣಾಗಿಕ್ಕು	25	22	125	95	95	16	111	29	206	45
10	ૄ૾ૺૹૢૻૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૹ૿ૢૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼૼ	25	18	125	68	68	55	84	66	152	121
11	អស្លំចម្រសន្និទេមេខា	25	12	125	66	66	30	72	45	138	75
12	តែសង្ខតខេត្តាតំលស៉ី១ខ	25	12	125	83	83	19	87	19	170	38
13	មំណ១ពលខ្មេ	25	9	125	45	45	17	51	31	96	48
14	អសិគរ	25	8	125	46	46	19	48	21	94	40
15	ව නතාග ළු නිද්මුද	25	7	125	47	47	9	47	13	94	22
16	ខ្មែរអតិចខ្លាន់សេដូកិច្ច	25	7	125	58	58	21	58	25	116	46
17	ខ្មែរអភិក្សេ	25	7	125	49	49	21	51	31	100	52
18	សូត់ងវត្ថិទានិតខេងតារិ	25	6	125	57	57	15	57	17	114	32
					សរុទរួម	1,614	523	1,814	712	3,428	1,235

ថ្ងៃ**ស្រាក ព្រឹក្ស** ខែ រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ **ខ្ទែ**

715 ខែ **ស្ត្រ ម៉្នាំក្រ ប៉ុត្តស្រា**ព.ស.២៥ ភ្នំពេញ **ខ្លែ^ង្វី ខែ ១៤៧ ឆ្នាំ២០៤**៣

វិថីរដ្ឋសភា សង្កាត់ទន្លេបាសាក់ ខណ្ឌចំការមន រាដធានីភ្នំពេញ កម្ពុជា St., Ratsaphea Tonle Basac, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia ទូរស័ព្ទ : 023 235 271 អ៊ីម៉ែល : info@nec.gov.kh





គណៈគម្មានិការខាតិឡើមទំការបោះឆ្លោត

8358 :

a. 2. 5

សនិនសន្និនអះខ្មែរ:ស៊េរៈអ៊ែងមាន់ទំនួងអរប្តេះស្រាន់អូវ ខ្លួនសង្គិនប្រទេស សាធាលា ខ្មែរ មានប្រការស្វាន់ និងមានប្រការស្វាន់ ខ្លួន និងមានបន្ទុប្បនិង្គិនប្រទេស

l. អូតសទ្តេតភារណ៍ខាតិ

	សមានម អត្តការ			ស្ដើសុំ			පදිස	NE	អស់ញ្ញាត	
Ω5.S.		හළකාමි පෙසු	សម្រ	188	ธณ		ಹಕ್ಷ	188		185
			wia	Seo	សមុខ	185	enin.	Seo	សមុខ	No.
9	សហភាពសហព័ន្ធយុវជនកម្ពុជា	២៥	៨១,៣៦១	១៧,៩១៨			bd	១៩	៨១,៣៣៣	១៧,៨៩៦
ь	គណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោត ដោយសេរី និងយុត្តិធម៌នៅកម្ពុជា (ខុមហ្វ្រែល)	bď	ď,omb	৳,៣៨០	90	ь			ď,omb	២,៣៨០
m	អង្គការសហព័ន្ធសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស និង អភិវឌ្ឍន៍កម្ពុជា	ь	ednl	hd					១៨៧	bn
ď	សមាគមនារីកម្ពុជាដើម្បីសន្តិភាព និងអភិវឌ្ឍន៍	bď	ង៦៩,៤៧	២៦,៦៩២	90	ถ			ង៦,៦៩៥	២៦,៦៩២
Ğ	អង្គការមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ ដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍និងសន្តិភាព	90	១៥៥	908	90	Ğ			966	908
þ	សមាគមមិត្តយើង	ь	៥៣	១៦	þ	ь			៥៣	98
ni	សមាគមរាជសីហ៍	9.6	៣២៧	Ъď	90	m			៣២៧	bit
ď	អង្គការដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ និងការពារ ធនធានធម្មជាតិ	95	២២៣	pm	90	ь			mdd	bu
đ	សមាគមសហប្រតិបត្តិការអន្តរជាតិ ស្រាវជ្រាវដើម្បីអប់រំសង្គម	ď	ď	m					ď	n
90	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធនិស្សិត បញ្ញវ័ន្ត ប្រជាធិបតេយ្យកម្ពុជា	២៥	២,៤៩៤	9,666	90		bb	១៥	២,៤៧២	9,440
99	អង្គការបញ្ញាមូលនិធិអប់រំនៅកម្ពុជា	9	m	9					m	5
១២	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍កម្ពុជា	-9	G	9					-055E	S.A.
១៣	សមាគមជ័យលាភិបញ្ញាជនកម្ពុជា	ď	øø	g	90	9		1	Co de	13
១៤	អង្គការសហគមន៍គ្រូសារអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ កសិកម្ម	Œ	២២	9 m	ផ	ь		28.50		

9

វិថីរដ្ឋសភា សង្កាត់ទន្លេបាសាក់ ខណ្ឌចំការមន រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ កម្ពុជា St., Ratsaphea Tonle Basac, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia ទូរស័ព្ទ : 023 235 271 អ៊ីម៉ែល : info@nec.gov.kh

				ស្ដើសុំ			មនិព	N5 83	អស់យ៉ាង	
R5.5.	សលាគម ពទ្ធភាព	1881 1881			ธณ	šes		185		
		.cg	wia	186	क्षक	185	Min	1900	श्चा	188
96	អង្គការអព្យាក្រឹត្យ និងយុត្តិធម៌ ដើម្បី ការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរីនៅកម្ពុជា (និកហ្វិច)	ь	ďo	bm					ďo	ba
95	សមាគមយុវជនធ្វើបាន	9	ď	ь					ď	b
១៧	សមាគមអរុណរៈ	ď	90	ď	m	р			90	6
១៨	អង្គការសហព័ន្ធអង្គការស្ត្រីកម្ពុជា ដើម្បីសន្តិភាព និងអភិវឌ្ឍន៍	ď	90	กเ	ď	ď			90	п
១៩	សមាគមសម្ពន្ធយុវជនស្រលាញ់ សន្តិភាព	១៧	៥,៥៥៣	9,000	90	ь			៥,៥៥៣	od6,e
ро	សមាគមបណ្ដាញសង្គមស៊ីវិលកម្ពុជា	ű	99	9	Œ				99	S
рэ	សមាគម សិស្ស និស្សិត បញ្ញវន្តក្មេងវត្ត	90	៨៥២	กสด					៨៥៦	nde
bb	អង្គការសហព័ន្ធសន្តិភាពសកល-កម្ពុជា	9 m	៣៤	១៣					៣៨	១ព
២៣	សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធស្ត្រីខ្មែរ ការពារសិទ្ធិ មនុស្ស ដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍	9	nl	Œ					ถ	t
bď	អង្គការកម្មវិធីជួយកុមារអនាថា និង អភិវឌ្ឍន៍	ь	ď	ь					ď	b
bď	អង្គការសេវាប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ	b	рp	þ	ď	m			ръ	h
bb	សមាគមសហគ្រិនពាណិជ្ជកម្មកម្ពុជា	ц	mm	90	ď				៣៣	90
២៧	សមាគមសម្ព័ន្ធយុវជនមុស្លិមកម្ពុជា	១៨	៥៧៣	១៧៨			Œ	m	gpq	១៧៥
bd	សមាគមនិស្សិតបញ្ញវន្តកម្ពុជា-អាស៊ាន	эŭ	ű0	៣៨	m	9			ű o	តាជ
bd	សមាគមសិទ្ធិមនុស្សដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ និងថែរក្សាកុមារកំព្រាស្ត្រីក្រីក្រ	ъ	១៦២	៥៩	90	Œ			dde	ď č
ma	អង្គការតម្រោងពុទ្ធិកបណ្ណាល័យកម្ពុជា	9	ď						ď	
ms	អង្គការស្ម័គ្រចិត្តកសាងកម្ពុជា	9	Œ	m					d	a
mb	អង្គការសាលាភាសាបរទេសជុំគ្រៀល	9	8	ď					8	t
៣៣	អង្គការស្គារ និងអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ជីវភាព គ្រួសារកម្ពុជា	9	G	ь				1	505055	5546
៣៥	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សេដ្ឋកិច្ចកសិករកម្ពុជា	9	ь	9				8	(A)	2/10
៣៥	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សេដ្ឋកិច្ច អតីត យុទ្ធជនកម្ពុជា	9	ß	G				No.		

				เครียง			650	ME	неш	pa
Q5,5,	พละผล หอัยม	1289 188	ME	188	50	ŠĦ	MIS	188	MIS	185
		•		90	min	ક્ષ્યું	acqu	80	1010	8-
mb	អង្គការសុខភាពផ្លូវចិត្តបែបបុរាណ និងសម័យ	ď	ē	9					đ	5
m cd	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធវិនិយោគិនកម្ពុជា	9	២៥៩	กเอ					២៥៩	រាន
៣៨	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍នារីខ្មែរ	9	ď	р					ď	b
m đ	អង្គការអនាគតកុមារ	9	ď	ь					ď	b
đo	អង្គការព្រហ្មវិហារធម៌	9	ď	р					ď	b
ďЭ	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ និងការពារបរិស្ថាន	9	ď	ь					ď	ь
ďb	អង្គការបញ្ញាពលរដ្ឋកម្ពុជា	ď	ee	n					de	ถ
ď m	សមាតមអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ជនពិការបាភ្នំ	9	ű	ď					ď	Ġ
dd	អង្គការសហព័ន្ធអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ជនពិការ ស្វាយអន្ទរ	9	ď	Œ					ď	Ğ
ďď	អង្គការសហព័ន្ធនារីពិការ	9	Œ	ď					а	G
ďb	អង្គការផ្តល់ក្តីសង្ឃឹម	9	ď	р					ď	b
ផល	អង្គការភ្នំស្រីដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍	9	б	m					ď	a
dd	អង្គការសម្ព័ន្ធសន្តិភាពកម្ពុជា	9	ď	ь					ď	b
dd	សមាគមក្ដីសង្ឃឹមរបស់ជនក្រីក្រ	9	ď	9					ď	9
ű o	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធពាណិជ្ជកម្មតាម ប្រព័ន្ធអេឡិចត្រូនិកកម្ពុជា	9	bűű	ពនា					baa	ពាព
៥១	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធសិប្បកម្ម ឧស្សាហកម្ម និងថាមពលកម្ពុជា	9	bed	bb					bed	bb
d b	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ពីធ្លី និង សំណង់កម្ពុជា	9	bão	bb					560	bb
៥៣	សមាគមអ្នកផ្តល់សេវាសុខភាព ប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា	9	bed	bď					២១៥	56
ផផ	សមាគមអាយវីអេហ្សកម្ពុជា	9	bbd	űэ					bbd	ďs
aa	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធទេសចរណ៍ និង បដិសណ្ឋារកិច្ចកម្ពុជា	9	550	៨១				1	2000	FE
ďÞ	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធការពារអ្នកប្រើប្រាស់ នៅកម្ពុជា	9	bbs	៥៨					Co Apalm Star	
ដែល	សមាគមយុវជនសេដ្ឋកិច្ចកម្ពុជា	9	២៥៩	៧៥				1	1992	750

				៖ស្តីសុំ		- 81	150	NS ES	អត់យ៉ាង	
RS.1.	พละผล หอัยม	18 M MA MA MA		ទន័ត		ME	1865	Ma	183	
		- 81	min	Seo	क्षश्च	186	solo	Sep	mio	no.
៥៨	អង្គការវេទិកាអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ស្ត្រី និងកុមារ ពិការខ្មែរ	9	ď	៣					ď	ពា
ផន	សមាគមស្ត្រីសំរាប់អភិវឌ្ឍន៍សិទ្ធិ មនុស្ស ឧស្សាហកម្ម កសិកម្ម		90	þ					90	b
90	សមាតមសម្ពន្ធភាព អង្គការ-សមាគម និងវិស័យឯកជននៅកម្ពុជា		pole	ល២					២៧៣	៧២
bs	សអាតមសហាព័នធរកិចទី៥ល		២៥៧	ពាថ					២៥៧	៧៤
Þb	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធអាជីវករកម្ពុជា	9	bmm	ณ่อ					bmm	ela
៦៣	សមាគមអ្នកលក់ឱសថកម្ពុជា	9	bww	bd					bmm	bd
bď	សមាគមអ្នកលក់ថ្នាល់នៅកម្ពុជា	9	emd	៧៧					eme	៧៧
bű	សមាគមសហព័ន្ធដជ្ជសាស្ត្រ និសថសាស្ត្រ និងទន្តសាស្ត្រកម្ពុជា	9	bmb	៧៥					bmb	៧៥
bb	សហគមន៍ អភិវឌ្ឍន៍ជាតិ	อกไ	ladel	ďb	ď	9			ppul	ďb
bnl	អង្គការសង្គ្រោះអនាគគកុមារខ្មែរ	9	Œ	ь					ď	ь
៦៨	សមាតមសម្ពន្ធភាពកសិកម្ម និងបរិស្ថានកម្ពុជា	9	emd	ďĐ					emd	ďЪ
bđ	អង្គការសេវាកម្មអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ជនពិការ	9	ь	ď					Б	ď
กเอ	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សុខភាពគ្រួសារ	9	Œ	ь					ď	ы
กโย	អង្គការសកម្មភាពដើម្បីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍	9	ď	ь					ď	ь
៧២	អង្គការមូលនិធិអភិវឌ្ឍន៍មេតង្គកម្ពុជា	m	ď	9					G	9
លាខា	អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សេដ្ឋកិច្ចមូលដ្ឋាន និងសហគ្រិនភាព	9	ď	9					ď	9
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គណៈកម្មាធិការទាំតិឡើមទំការបោះគ្នោត

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13.5 7	រាជនាន្ទ ខេង្គ	ខំនួន	ស្ថិត	ಪ್ರಕ್ಷಚಿತ	ૹૢૺૹૢૹૼૡૹૢ૽૽		<u> </u>	ಡಡಂಡಣ್ಣಿ	
	ត	ಣ್ಣಿ ಜನಪಟ್ಟ	ราริ.	១៨ឆ្លាំផ្ដើច	e ಡ0ಡ	សរុម្បូម	၂နာဋိ	នាគរយ	ចំនួន ភាវិ.
01	បន្ទាយមានជ័យ	67	1,118	541,477	405,730	431,775	230,221	79.74%	1,119
02	បាត់ដំបង	103	1,694	806,746	633,763	661,970	347,812	82.05%	1,692
03	កំពង់ចាម	109	1,678	767,067	618,338	652,540	352,008	85.07%	1,682
04	កំពង់ឆ្នាំង	71	815	381,195	343,368	359,698	194,714	94.36%	818
05	កំពង់ស្ពឺ	88	1,521	598,385	571,608	599,245	320,819	100.14%	1,532
06	កំពង់ធំ	81	1,146	507,221	431,776	456,705	245,169	90.04%	1,152
07	កំពត	93	1,053	420,548	399,385	421,119	225,337	100.14%	1,054
08	កណ្ដាល	127	1,764	885,256	775,804	818,459	434,901	92.45%	1,756
09	កោះកុង	29	190	95,288	73,134	78,301	39,777	82.17%	190
10	ក្រចេះ	48	593	243,540	218,776	231,837	119,389	95.19%	595
11	មណ្ឌលគិរី	21	140	51,018	48,097	51,627	25,534	101.19%	140
12	រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ	105	2,204	1,218,683	899,688	961,742	510,935	78.92%	2,206
13	ព្រះវិហារ	51	358	156,901	143,494	151,191	77,288	96.36%	357
14	ព្រៃវែង	116	1,869	828,039	715,654	750,836	408,649	90.68%	1,869
15	ពោធិ៍សាត់	49	744	324,122	287,078	300,328	159,036	92.66%	744
16	រតនគិរី	50	294	119,583	109,484	117,657	59,199	98.39%	295
17	សៀមរាប	100	1,521	779,170	588,553	618,835	327,696	79.42%	1,521
18	ព្រះសីហនុ	29	324	155,701	136,275	149,807	75,952	96.21%	326
19	ស្ទឹងត្រែង	34	245	94,411	90,968	97,452	47,688	103.22%	245
20	ស្វាយរៀង	80	984	425,808	391,622	415,919	224,881	97.68%	984
21	តាកែវ	100	1,591	693,283	638,627	668,548	359,952	96.43%	1,595
22	កែប	5	69	27,979	26,653	28,198	14,417	100.78%	69
23	ប៉ែលិន	8	120	45,779	42,262	45,740	23,249	99.91%	122
24	ឧត្តរមានជ័យ	24	405	170,838	145,976	151,168	77,111	88.49%	405
25	ត្បូងឃ្មុំ	64	1,320	538,979	469,568	489,958	260,175	90.90%	1,321
	សរុប	1,652	23,760	10,877,017	9,205,681	9,710,655	5,161,909	89.28%	23,789

ថ្ងៃស្ត្រារ ២៤គីត្រីខ ដុស្ត្រ ឆ្នាំខាល ចត្វាស័ក ព.ស.២៥៦៦

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វិថីរដ្ឋសភា សង្កាត់ទន្លេបាសាក់ ខណ្ឌចំការមន រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ កម្ពុជា St., Ratsaphea Tonle Basac, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

ទូរស័ព្ទ : 023 235 271 អ៊ីម៉ែល : info@nec.gov.kh

Phnom Penh, Wednesday 9 August 2023

Press Conference

The Monitoring Result: Women Candidates and Elected Women for the 7th Legislature National Assembly Elections 2023

Joint Statement

Women Candidates

According to official result of the registration of political parties and the list of candidates for the 7th Legislature National Assembly (NA) Elections 2023 which was announced by the National Election Committee (NEC) on 6 June 2023, civil society's Women for All Group (The Working Group) consisting of SILAKA Cambodia, COMFREL, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), Banteay Srei and the Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP) have noticed an increase of women candidates for the 7th legislature in 2023, which represents encouraging positive change. The total number of women candidates for this election is **523**, **equal to 32.4%** of the total male-female candidates of 1,614, an increase **of 7.2%** as compared to the 6th legislature election in 2018, which was at 25.2% only. Number of women candidates who at the **first rank** of the list is **55** (**18%**), a **similar** percentage in 2018 (17.8%). Nonetheless, the total sex distribution of candidates is still **significant gap between the sexes**. In this candidate, there are **32.4%** (**523**) women while the majority are men with **67.6%** (**1,091**).

Despite an increasing number of women candidates, the Women for All Group of CSO has observed that the 18 political parties had placed different number and percentage of women candidates. Some political parties placed equal number of men and women candidates and some parties put more women than men candidates while still other parties placed decreased women candidates for this 7th legislature NA elections 2023.

Parties participating in election contest in the 6th legislature NA elections 2018:

- Parties that have encouragingly **increased** high number of female candidates include: Khmer United Party (KUP), 61.6% in 2023 as compared to 22.8% in 2018; Khmer Anti-Poverty Party (KAPP) 44.8% as compared to 36% in 2018; Cambodian Youth Party (CYP), 27.2% as compared to 16.2% in 2018; Cambodian Nationality Party (CNP), 22.4% as compared to 12% in 2018; Grassroots Democracy Party (GDP), 22.9% as compared to 17.6% in 2018; and Dharmacracy Party (DP) 50.4%, same figure as in 2018.
- Two political parties saw the decline in women candidates: Cambodian People Party (CPP), 12.8% in 2023 as compared to 15.2% in 2018; and FUNCINPEC Party, 6.4% as compared to 7.2% in 2018. These figures of women candidates are small and far from what was proposed by the Women Working Group of CSO for an equal number between women and men candidates for this 7th legislature national elections.

New Parties to enter 2023's elections contest:

Parties with very high percentage of women candidates: Women's Party for Women (WPW), 80.9%; Democracy Power Party (DPP), 45.5%; Khmer Conservative Party (KCP), 42.9%; Farmer's Party (FP) 41.3%; and People Purpose Party (PPP), 37.8%.

Elected Women

The official election result announced by NEC on 5 August 2023 shows that among the 18 contesting political parties; only 2 parties won the elections and hold seats in the parliament, in which CPP

won 120 and the rest 5 went to FUNCINPEC Party. Only 16 (12.8%) women out of 125 were elected. All women are from CPP, and 8% decreased, as compared to 26 (20.8%) women parliamentarians at the end of 6th legislature.

Impact

The figure does not shows a sufficient representation of women and it shows the lack of high commitment of the leaders to increase elected women representation, which contributes to the following impacts: (1) unable to achieve gender equality goal, especially the promotion of women's participation in politics, as stated in the National Strategic Plans as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); (2) discouraging women who are prepared and involved in political arena at national level, especially young women, as there is a lack of opportunity to women and lack of role models; (3) social inclusion issues particularly women and children, as well as gender equality issues at the national level and nationwide will not receive holistic and responsive attention; (4) lack of gender responsiveness and inclusion in the discussion, formulation and adoption of laws and political decision-making due to lack gender diversity in the parliament.

Challenges

Women politicians still face multi forms of discrimination and violence against them in their political participation and interests though political rights and women's participation are fully guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)²³.

Despite noticeable increase of women candidates, the Women for All Group of CSO are still concerned because the total sex distribution of candidates is very uneven between the sexes, with 324% women candidates and 67.6% men candidates which gender inequality in politics remains an issue that requires more attention, including adoption of specific special measures by leaders of political parties, government and National Assembly. Declining number of elected women parliamentarians due to some principal factors and challenges: (1) lack of political will and high commitment by the leaders, especially the parties receiving a lot of support from voters (winning seats in the parliament), in pushing for gender equality in politics and decision-making level, as CPP and FUNCINPEC Party placed very small number of women candidates for this 7th legislature elections: (2) lack specific written gender equality policy within political parties in place and lacked several articles of gender-responsive election laws to support and provide opportunities for both women and men to equally participate in the politics, especially in standing as candidate and being elected to become a leaders; (3) management structure is dominated overwhelmingly by men and men still continue to hold those positions, which means less opportunity for women to hold those positions; (4) Financing issue in standing as candidate for the election, required by the party for election campaign is one of biggest barrierfaced by women; (5) certain social and cultural norms in negative gender stereotype in promoting women's leadership are at root cause, creating barriers to the women politicians' participation in quality and effectively.

Recommendations

To realize SDG and to increase inclusive participation, the Women for All Group recommend to the National Assembly, the Government, and political parties the following key points.

1. Political Parties

- Winning political party should include reserved women candidates to be parliamentarians for this 7th legislature when the currently elected men-women are to take government positions.
- Ensure the formulation of political party gender equality policy by political parties themselves, and this policy shall be well implemented to promote women's equal and non-discriminatory participation in their political party, including women in the policy-making

²³ 2020 Survey report by COMFREL on 'Participation of women activists in politics in Cambodia'

process, women as decision-makers, women in leadership position, as women candidates and elected representatives and to increase gender equality at all levels of the political parties especially using the sandwich system from the top to bottom for ranking between women and men candidates on the political party candidate lists.

2. Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)

- RGC should increase the number of women leaders and in decision-making positions in the
 ministries/institutions to at least 35%, starting from position of department directors to
 minister, as well as deputy prime ministers, which consequently gives women opportunities
 to discuss, seek solutions and make decisions in an inclusive manner and in compliance
 with CEDAW and Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDG).
- RGC (line ministries) should increase investment and provide all kinds of support, in a systemic way, such as funding, material resources and human resources to women leaders and elected women to facilitate and enhance the effectiveness and quality of women's work performance, political participation, and leadership.

3. National Assembly and the Senate

- Ensure that election laws such as Law on the Elections of Members of the National Assembly (LEMNA) and Law on Elections of Commune/Sangkat Council (LEMCC) are gender-responsive in a way that they stipulate affirmative action to promote gender equality and to provide opportunities for women's equal participation in politics via encouragement to all political parties to place more women on their political party candidate lists. The motivation for political parties to implement this special measures is to stipulate the provision in a legal framework, meaning to make amendments to the Elections Laws.
 - A. Amend election laws to further improve the criteria for the registration procedure of political party candidates, requiring the use of a sandwich system from top to bottom for ranking on the political party candidate lists.
 - B. Amendments to the election laws: The Law on Elections of Members of National Assembly, Chapter 4, Article 27 and 28 that reads "The list of political party candidates in each constituency shall use a sandwich system from top to bottom ranking between women and men candidates" and the Law on Elections of Members of Commune/Sangkat Council, Chapter 6, Article 39 that read "Candidate lists of each political party shall alternate female and male candidates from the top to bottom ranking."

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CO-ORGANIZED















អ្នកស្រី សឺនកេត សិរីលក្ខណ៍ ចង់ឃើញប្រធានសភាថ្មីជាស្ត្រីធ្វើការ ឯភាជ្យ មិនពឹងផ្អែកខ្សែបន្ទាត់នយោបាយ

ភ្ញៀវប្រចាំថ្ងៃរបស់វិទ្យុបារាំងអន្តរជាតិថ្ងៃនេះគឺ អ្នកស្រី សឺនកេត សិរី
លក្ខណ៍ អ្នកសម្របសម្រួលផ្នែកអប់រំនិងយេនឌំរនៃអង្គការខុមហ្វ្រែល។
តាមការប្រកាសរបស់លោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន សែន លោកស្រី ឃួន
សុដារី នឹងក្លាយជាស្ត្រីដំបូងគេ ដែលមានតួនាទីជាប្រធានសភាចាប់តាំងពី
សមំយខ្មែរក្រហមមក។ អ្នកស្រី សឺនកេត សិរីលក្ខណ៍ រំពឹងថា វត្តមាន
អ្នកដឹកនាំជាស្ត្រីនៅស្តាប់នកំពូលរបស់រដ្ឋនេះ នឹងអាចរុញច្រានឱ្យ
រដ្ឋាភិបាលធ្វើវិសោធនកម្មច្បាប់បោះឆ្នោត ដើម្បីលើកកម្ពស់ការចូលរួម
របស់ស្ត្រីនៅក្នុងឆាកនយោបាយកម្ពុជា។ តាមអ្នកស្រី សឺនកេត សិរី
លក្ខណ៍ ឱកាសនេះគឺជាកណ្តឹងមួយបន្លឺឡើងថាកម្ពុជាត្រូវការវត្តមានស្ត្រី
បន្ថែមទៀតនៅសភា ក្នុងជួររដ្ឋាភិបាល និងតាមថ្នាក់មូលដ្ឋាន។ តែ
យ៉ាងណា អ្នកធ្វើការងារលើកកម្ពស់ស្ត្រីក្នុងវិស័យនយោបាយកម្ពុជារូប
នេះ ចង់ឃើញការដឹកនាំដោយឯករាជ្យរបស់ប្រធានសភាថ្មីជាស្ត្រីនេះ មិន
ពីងផ្អែកខ្សែបន្ទាត់នយោបាយ និងគ្របសង្កត់ពីគណបក្សមានអំណាច
នោះទេ។ សូមស្តាប់បទសម្ភាសន៍វាង អោ ស្រីពេជ្រ និង អ្នកស្រី សឺនកេ
ត សិរីលក្ខណ៍៖



ប្រភព ៖RFI ខេមរភាសា/RFI Khmer

ព័ត៌មានថ្មីពី គ.ជ.ប៖ ប្រធាន គ.ជ.ប លើកទឹកចិត្តឱ្យគ្រប់គណបក្សនយោបាយបង្កើនបេក្ខភាពស្ត្រី ក្នុងវិស័យ នយោបាយ

നधुरैष्टें ព័ត៌មានថ្មី ថ្ងៃទី២៤ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ២០២៣

ឯកឧត្តម **ទ្រាខ្ញុំ ខន្ទ្ច** ប្រធានគណៈកម្មាធិការជាតិរៀបចំការបោះឆ្នោត បានទទួលជួបជាមួយ គណៈកម្មការក្រុមស្ត្រីដើម្បីទាំងអស់គ្នា ដែលជាក្រុមអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាល ធ្វើការងារពាក់ព័ន្ធនឹងការលើក កម្ពស់ស្ត្រី ដឹកនាំដោយលោកស្រី **ម៉ុន សារស្តា** ទីប្រឹក្សាឯករាជ្យ និងជាសមាជិកក្រុមស្ត្រីដើម្បីទាំងអស់គ្នា នៅទីស្តីការ គ.ជ.ប។

នៅក្នុងជំនួបនេះ ឯកឧត្តម **ទ្រាខ្ល ខន្ទ** ប្រធាន គ.ជ.ប បានសំដែងនូវសេចក្តីសោមនស្សស្វាគមន៍ ចំពោះគណៈកម្មការក្រុមស្ត្រីដើម្បីទាំងអស់គ្នា ដោយឯកឧត្តមបានលើកឡើងថា ៖ «"ក្នុងនាមឯកឧត្តមផ្ទាល់ មានការចាប់អារម្មណ៍ខ្លាំងក្នុងការលើកកម្ពស់ស្ត្រី ហើយស្ថាប័ន គ.ជ.ប ក៏មានការលើកទឹកចិត្ត និងផ្តល់ អទិភាពចំពោះស្ត្រីក្នុងការបម្រើការងារនៅក្នុងវិស័យបោះឆ្នោតផងដែរ»។ »

ទាក់ទង់នឹងការជម្រុញឱ្យ គ.ជ.ប ស្នើរធ្វើវិសោធនកម្មច្បាប់ ដើម្បីកំណត់ចំនួនស្ត្រីនៅក្នុងវិស័យ នយោបាយ និងជាតួអង្គសម្រេចចិត្តណាមួយនោះ ឯកឧត្តមប្រធានបានពន្យល់ថា « គ.ជ.ប គឺជាស្ថាប័ន អនុវត្តច្បាប់។ គ.ជ.ប មិនមានសិទ្ធិអំណាចអ្វី ដើម្បីធ្វើការងារនេះទេ ដោយ គ.ជ.ប ត្រូវបំពេញការងាររបស់ ខ្លួនឱ្យស្របទៅតាមច្បាប់ បទបញ្ជា និងនីតិវិធី ផែនការមេ និងប្រតិទិនការងារ ដើម្បីធានាឱ្យការបោះឆ្នោត ប្រព្រឹត្តិទៅដោយរលូន សេរី ត្រឹមត្រូវ និងយុត្តិធម៌។ ប៉ុន្តែទោះបីជាយ៉ាងណាក៏ដោយ ឯកឧត្តមប្រធានបាន លើកទឹកចិត្តទៅដល់គ្រប់គណបក្សនយោបាយទាំងអស់ដាក់បេក្ខភាពស្ត្រីឱ្យបានច្រើន សម្រាប់ការបោះឆ្នោត ជ្រើសតាំងតំណាងរាស្ត្រ នីតិកាលទី៧ នាពេលខាងមុខនេះ»។

ទន្ទឹមនឹងនេះ ឯកឧត្តមប្រធាន បានបញ្ជាក់ថា ៖«សម្រាប់ភាពជាក់ស្តែងគឺ អាស្រ័យទៅតាមលទ្ធភាព របស់គណបក្សនយោបាយនីមួយៗ»។

ជុំវិញលទ្ធផលជំនួបនេះ ឯកឧត្តម **មាខ្ស ពុន្ធា** សមាជិក និងជាអ្នកនាំពាក្យ គ.ជ.ប បានបន្ថែមថា ៖ «បាទ លទ្ធផលនៃជំនួបរវាងឯកឧត្តមប្រធានគណៈកម្មាធិការជាតិរៀបចំការបោះឆ្នោត ជាមួយនឹងគណៈ កម្មការស្ត្រីដើម្បីទាំងអស់គ្នា អញ្ជើញមកពីអង្គការមិនមែនរដ្ឋាភិបាលមួយចំនួននេះ បានបង្ហាញឱ្យឃើញថា ៖មានភាពស្និតស្នាលក្នុងរួមប្រាស្រ័យ និយាយត្រង់ទៅត្រង់មក ហើយខាងគណៈកម្មការស្ត្រីដើម្បីទាំងអស់គ្នា លោកបានលើកឡើងនូវសំណូមពរផ្សេងៗ ព្រមទាំងលើកឡើងនូវបទពិសោធន៍នៃការបង្កើនកូតាស្ត្រីនៅក្នុង វិស័យនយោបាយឱ្យបានច្រើនផងដែរ,»»។ ហើយអ្វីដែលជាលទ្ធផលនោះគឺ គ.ជ.ប បានបញ្ជាក់ច្បាស់ទៅលើ អ្វីដែលជាតួនាទីអនុវត្តច្បាប់ និងតួនាទីបច្ចេកទេសក្នុងការរៀបចំបោះឆ្នោត។ ដូច្នេះ ការចង់បានកូតាស្ត្រី ជាលក្ខណៈវិសោធនកម្មច្បាប់ ឬកំណត់កូតាភាគរយគឺ មិនផ្អែកទៅលើដែនសមត្ថកិច្ចរបស់ គ.ជ.ប នោះទេ។ ហើយខាងគណៈកម្មការស្ត្រីក៏បានបង្ហាញថា កំពុងតែមានការជួប និងកំពុងតែរងចាំពេលវេលាណាត់ជួប

ជាមួយនឹងស្ថាប័នផ្សេងទៀត ពីព្រោះខាងគណៈកម្មការស្ត្រីចង់ឱ្យមានការបំពងសំឡេងដើម្បីទទួលបានការ ធ្វើវិសោធនកម្មច្បាប់ និងការកំណត់កូតាស្ត្រីនៅក្នុងវិស័យនយោបាយ។

ជាជំហររបស់ គ.៩.៩ គឺ (១) មើលឃើញ គាំទ្រ លើកទឹកចិត្តចំពោះស្ត្រីលើគ្រប់វិស័យ។ (២) មើលឃើញការវិវត្ត និងការរីកចម្រើនរបស់ស្ត្រី។ អនាគតទៅ ស្ត្រីអាចនឹងមានការរីកចម្រើន និងមានការវិវត្ត ច្រើនជាងនេះ។ ពីមួយឆ្នាំទៅមួយឆ្នាំ យើងឃើញថាកូតាស្ត្រីនៅក្នុង គ.ជ.ប មានការកើនឡើង ហើយ ក្នុងនាមជាមន្ត្រីការិយាល័យបោះឆ្នោតនោះគឺតួលេខរបស់ស្ត្រីមានការកើនឡើងខ្ពស់ នៅតាមការិយាល័យ បើប្រៀបធៀបនឹងតួលេខរប់ស់បុរស។ ទូទៅ មើលឃើញថាតួនាទីរបស់ស្ត្រីនៅក្នុងវិស័យបោះឆ្នោតនេះមាន ការកើនឡើង។

ដកស្រង់ចេញពីសារសំឡេង ៖កម្មវិធីព័ត៌មានថ្មី

