



Phnom Penh, 9 May 2012

**Local EU Statement on announcement by the Royal Government of Cambodia
on Economic Land Concessions**

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with EU Heads of Mission in Cambodia

The EU Delegation welcomes the announcement by the Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, made on the 7th of May, to temporarily suspend the issuance of new Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) and review those already granted.

The EU is aware that land management in Cambodia, including land rights related to ELCs, involves complex governance issues requiring long-term and sustained efforts by the government, local authorities and civil society. The EU hopes the review of the ELCs will include efforts to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable groups and lead to improved compliance of ELCs with the 2001 Land Law and the sub-decree on ELCs.

Complementary to ongoing activities of EU Member States in the land sector, the EU reiterates its support for efforts to effectively implement land reform in a manner which both protects the rights of citizens and ensures green and inclusive economic growth as defined in Cambodia's National Development Strategy.