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Canada Welcomes Agreement Ending Political Crisis in Cambodia

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister H.E. John Baird has issued a statement, expressing his warm welcome to the agreement between the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) to end the year-long political crisis on July 22, 2014.

“Canada welcomes news that an agreement has been reached between CPP and CNRP to end the political deadlock following the July 2013 national elections. After the longest parliamentary impasse in Cambodia’s history, this agreement paves the way for government and opposition members to work together to tackle the challenges facing the people of Cambodia,” said the statement dated July 23.

“We also welcome the news that the eight detained CNRP members and members of the National Assembly who were arrested following a violent confrontation with security forces have now been released,” it added.

“As with any agreement, its implementation in good faith by both parties will be essential to its success. Canada calls upon both sides to continue to work together to make this agreement a reality,” stressed the statement.

Besides, Japan, France and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia have also welcomed the political agreement between the two leading parties.

France Welcomes Cambodia’s Political Breakthrough

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France has issued a statement welcoming the political agreement reached by the two leading Cambodian political parties.

“France welcomes the agreement reached on July 22 between the government party and the Cambodian opposition,” said the statement AKP received this morning. It’s now up to the Cambodian political actors to work together constructively to implement this agreement and to promote the democratic, economic and social development of the country, it added.

France will remain alongside Cambodia in order to help it strengthen its democratic institutions, underlined the statement.

UN Special Envoy Hails Political Breakthrough in Cambodia

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Mr. Surya P. Subedi, expressed his congratulations to the political agreement reached between the two main political parties in Cambodia (Cambodian People’s Party and Cambodia National Rescue Party), according to his statement AKP received this morning.

“I warmly welcome the political agreement reached by the leaders of the two main political parties, finally breaking the deadlock that has gripped the country for almost a year,” said Mr. Surya P. Subedi. “The two parties have finally found common ground, in the best interests of the Cambodian people. They deserve our congratulations, and the Cambodian people to enjoy a moment of celebration.”

“However, the agreement reached on the National Election Committee only marks the beginning of the true work of reforming the State institutions,” he said.

According to the statement, Mr. Surya P. Subedi expressed his hope that the two parties will undertake meaningful reforms for the country on principled grounds rather than guided by temporary political expediency.

“This is an opportunity to carry out a comprehensive reform of lasting character in line with international standards, as outlined in my reports on electoral, judicial and parliamentary reforms, so that the situation which has been prevailing since the National Assembly elections in July 2013 does not repeat itself,” he added.

He urged the two parties to work together to establish or strengthen those State institutions with responsibilities for human rights implementation and independent monitoring, and pushed the two parties to launch, without delay, the important and overdue judicial reform that they both promised to their constituencies during the elections last year, noting that it is “now not only possible and inevitable,” with the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) MPs taking up their seats in the National Assembly, but also absolutely crucial.

In the statement, Mr. Surya P. Subedi also welcomed the release of the 7 members of Parliament-elect and another activist from CNRP following the deal reached in the morning of July 22.

U.S. President Thanks Cambodian PM Hun Sen

U.S. President H.E. Barack Obama expressed thanks to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for his congratulatory message on the occasion of the U.S.’ 238th anniversary of independence.

“The people of the United States of America join me in thanking you for your gracious message of congratulations as we commemorate our 238th anniversary of independence,” said the U.S. president in his message posted on the website of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

“We take this opportunity to rejoice in the multicultural heritage and rich traditions that unite Americans as a nation with the rest of the world. We are heartened by our shared ideal that all people should enjoy the freedom to pursue happiness and prosperity,” he added. “As we recall the sacrifices, both past and present, to ensure the freedom we cherish, we reassert our faith and determination to endeavor for all peoples the right to be and remain free and at peace,” concluded H.E. Barack Obama.

