

ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers

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Mr. Chairman,

So now, allow me to briefly introduce to you the so-called "Defense White Paper" by the Cambodian Ministry of National Defense. The Prime Minister **Samdech Hun Sen** approved it recently, and it has become a genuine **Government's** policy in which the RCAF will use it in defending the homeland and in national security matters are outlined. Its official release was presented yesterday at this same location. It is the first time in the history of Cambodia that the government has established its defense and security guidelines in order to guide RCAF to implement its contemporary and future role and responsibility. As Cambodia is striving to integrate herself into the international community and because security **and** development remain the key issues for the nations in the globe, it is essential to reveal the authentic strategic security policy. The production of such Defense White Paper is only one of the many parts of CBMs principles. As all of you are aware, ARF organizes many CBMs conferences and seminars of a varied range, as well as regional security outlook, Annual Security Outlook (ASO), issue on weapons and its proliferations and many more. For Cambodia, the establishment of a defense policy has several objectives:

- Provides realistic policy guidance for the RCAF to implement its roles and responsibilities, which focus on safeguarding independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; guaranteeing peace, stability, and social order; and participating in national construction and development.

- Creates transparency of the use of national resources in defense for public understanding within the nation as well as among the donor friends.
- Strengthens regional and international cooperation through the promotion of mutual confidence and transparency on security matter.

The defense concepts have been set up recognizing the regional and national security environment. The Defense White Paper would be beneficial to the following audience:

- Members of the RCAF so they can implement the **government's** defense policy successfully.
 - The Government to be able to supervise the implementation of the defense policy by the RCAF, particularly in the areas of force development and the use of national resources.
- The Cambodian people so they have a clearer picture about the roles and responsibilities of the RCAF.
- Our friends and donor agencies to understand our efforts of reforming the armed forces and our clear security objectives for the future.
- " Our neighbors and nations in the region to understand Cambodia's defense policy, transparency, and cooperation for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

When it comes to the production of such Defense White Paper, Cambodia is not the first neither the last country to do so. After the official launch yesterday, it is only the starting point for Cambodia to implement its guidelines. Afterward, a review of the results will take place, and any changes necessary will require additional works.

Due to limited time here, I have distributed a copy of the Defense White Paper to each of the participating country. This will give you ample opportunity to explore in details our defense policy, and then I believe that you will understand more about the objectives and actions to be taken by the RCAF.

Finally, I cannot omit the people who have contributed so much to the realization of this paper. I would like to thank and present my appreciation to the Government of Australia in particular the Department of Defense of Australia, Australia National University for their contribution technically and financially. Its realization would have been difficult without their help. I also want to thank all international donors for their contributions.

Thank you for your kind attention.