



The Missions of Cambodia, Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom and the Delegation of the European Union invite you to:

‘The ECCC: its successes and preserving its legacy’

A Lunchtime Panel Discussion

23 June 2023, 1.15-2.30 pm

at the Delegation of the European Union, 666 3rd Avenue, 31st floor

A light lunch will be served

Click [here](#) to register for this event

Background

Between 1975 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime that ruled over Cambodia committed untold atrocities, with an estimated 1.5 to 2 million people dying from executions, torture, starvation, forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Following the request of the Cambodian government, the United Nations helped to establish the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), a special Cambodian court to prosecute the crimes of the senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge. An agreement with the United Nations, detailing how the international community would assist and participate in the ECCC, was reached in June 2003. The Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia entered into force on 29 April 2005. The ECCC combines Cambodian and international judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers and applies both Cambodian and international law.

On 22 September 2022, the ECCC issued the final decision of its judicial mandate. The Supreme Court Chamber upheld the life sentence against Khieu Samphan, former head of State of Democratic Kampuchea for all but two convictions related to crimes against humanity and affirmed the convictions for war crimes and genocide against the Vietnamese. The ECCC has since moved into a residual phase, during which it will carry out a range of functions, including: supervising the enforcement of sentences; managing the ECCC’s archives, records, legacy-related matters; disseminating information to the public regarding the ECCC; and monitoring the enforcement of reparations awarded to Civil Parties.

The ECCC has an important role in the pursuit of justice, national reconciliation, stability, peace and security following the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge.

Objectives

This panel event seeks to support the residual phase of the ECCC by helping to share information regarding the ECCC beyond Cambodia.

First, it will look at the implications of the ECCC's judgments and explore their conclusions. This could include the Chamber's recognition of genocide against the Cham and the Vietnamese.

Second, it will discuss the ECCC's successes more broadly, including its contributions to international criminal law and its legacy for Cambodia. This will look at the ECCC's contribution to justice for victims and its role in establishing the truth about the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge, as well as its novel approaches to victim participation and reparations.

Finally, the panel will go on to explore the role of the ECCC, as well as other courts such as the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, in securing the legacy of their judgments, as part of the reconciliation, stability, peace and security that follows atrocity crimes.

Format

Opening Remarks:

- H.E. Olof Skoog, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Panellists:

- H.E. Mrs. EAT Sophea, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations
- Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel
- Judge Martin Karopkin, Judge at the ECCC
- Dr. Yael Danieli, Founder and Executive Director, International Center for the study, prevention and treatment of MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma

Moderator:

- Jonathan Hollis, Legal Counsellor, UK Mission to the United Nations

Closing Remarks:

- Michael Hasenau, Legal Adviser, German Mission to the United Nations