



Remark by
Ms. CHIM Manavy, Executive Director of the Open Institute
at the
Meeting on Gender- Based Violence's Questionnaire
At the Open Institute, 31 August, 2012

Mr. KONG Chheng, President of Council of Commune/Sangkat's Association in Kandal province, Head of the Committee of Public Relations of the National League of Commune/Sangkat,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Open Institute is honoured and very delighted to have you all at this meeting today. On behalf of the organizers, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you for giving up your valuable time to come to this meeting to discuss the questionnaire for the gender-based violence's (GBV) survey. This meeting is co-organized by the National League of Commune/Sangkat and the Open Institute.

The objectives of today's meeting are to:

- Discuss the draft questionnaire for the GBV survey;
- Obtain comments and feedback from participants on the GBV questionnaire.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Violence against women is committed in various forms such as physical, psychological, economic abuses, etc. The term "violence against women" was defined by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993. In the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women which was duly adopted by the General Assembly (General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993¹) and is by now widely used, article one states "Violence against Women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Based on reports, statistics suggest that violence against women is astonishingly pervasive. Overall, it is estimated that one out of 3 women worldwide will suffer some form of gender-based violence in their life time. Forms of abuse include beating, rape, attack, being

¹ [http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.RES.48.104.En](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.RES.48.104.En)

trafficked, murder, humiliation, restriction of social contacts and mobility, etc (UN Commission on the status of women 28/2/00)².

Violence against women has been identified as a key development constraint as the physical and psychological harm experienced limits women's ability to participate fully in economic, social and political processes. Violence against women is one of the most visible outcomes of gender inequality and women's lack of empowerment. Therefore, it is impossible to achieve the third Millennium Development Goal as long as such abuse persists (Ending Violence against Women and Girls-Protecting Human Rights, GTZ).

However, in Cambodia we have no national figures or statistics on GBV yet. Institutions and NGOs provide different figures on incidents of GBV in Cambodia. To try to fill this gap, the Open Institute, in cooperation with the National League of Commune/Sangkat (NLC/S), will conduct a survey on GBV. The purpose of the survey is to identify and provide relevant institutions with a figure on the number of cases of GBV in Cambodia. This will provide NGOs and other institutions with tangible develop policies on GBV. The results of the survey will also be able to assist stakeholders to formulate recommendations on future GBV policy development to support gender equality in Cambodia. In order to begin the survey, the National League of Commune/Sangkat has agreed to cooperate with the Open Institute to assist us in drafting the questionnaire. Your comments and feedback today will strengthen the questionnaire and improve upon its design. Your feedback is highly valued and is very important for this survey. We hope you will all participate well in this meeting today.

Finally, may I wish all of you present here today Good Health and Success in your noble jobs.

Thank you.

² <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ecosoc/GSW/GSWindex.html>