The Kingdom of Cambodia ratified most of the Human Rights Conventions, setting a sound legal basis for an improvement of the human rights (HR) situation on the ground. Nonetheless, practical implementation of these Conventions and a more general government commitment to enhance the situation of human rights are necessary. The HR strategy outlines EU priorities to achieve these goals.

The EU HR Strategy focuses on the following areas:

- **The Judiciary**
  
  It is fundamental to improve the judicial system in order to achieve the effective implementation of laws through a more independent judiciary. In the short term, this implies that recommendations of the UPR are implemented, as well as recommendations of UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the judiciary; joint monitoring indicators on legal and judicial reforms are achieved and the Khmer Rouges Tribunal (KRT) implements legacy activities for national courts.
  
  Examples of EU actions to achieve these goals include, using every opportunity to engage with the Government on the issue, endorsing the UN Special Rapporteur and the supporting implementation of UPR recommendations, monitoring of the trials of human rights defenders (HRD), and funding NGOs working in the sector. Furthermore, the EU and Member States support the work of the Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) and the KRT.

- **Land Rights**
  
  Central to Cambodia's equitable development is the issue of land rights. The EU aims to help establish an acceptable national resettlement policy, participatory land use planning, as well as efficient formal dispute resolution mechanisms all of which should ensure that the rights of indigenous people are protected. In the short term, this implies consultations on the national resettlement policy, the establishment of a comprehensive land policy, peaceful resolution mechanisms for land related disputes, significant progresses in land titling, a more transparent allocation of Economic Land Concessions (ELCs), and an end to criminal charges for villagers exercising their rights.
  
  Activities lead by the EU and MS in this area aim to improve the dialogue with the Government, improve support for land rights programmes, pilot government-NGO land dispute resolution mechanisms, showcase experimental models for small-scale farmers around ELCs and continue dialogue with EU private sector on Corporate Social Responsibility.

- **Freedom of Association-Space for Civil Society**
  
  Closely linked to the other objectives of the HR Strategy is the freedom of association, aiming to ensure a diverse and strong civil society that participates in advocacy, service provision, public policy and debate, and holds government to account. The EU Strategy also aims to promote a clear and consistent legal framework for NGOs, CBOs, Associations and Unions, and enabling informal associations to contribute to democracy and development. In the short term, this implies that proposed laws on CSOs do not restrict freedom of association, that the government undertakes a consultative processes and that ILO standards are upheld for trade unions activities.
  
  Examples of actions achieve these goals include: a continued dialogue and lobbying with RGC and private sector; maintaining regular contacts with NGOs and other embassies to coordinate clear messages to the RGC, providing financial support and capacity building for NGOs, and supporting good practices by EU businesses.

- **Freedom of Expression**
  
  Another objective of the HR Strategy regards ensuring the respect for Freedom of Expression. The EU aims to ensure an objective application of the penal code and guaranteeing that
parliamentary immunity is respected for public debate. This includes safeguarding access to the internet, training of judges on the scope of the penal code, and progress in the implementation of UPR recommendations.

To achieve these goals, a comparative analysis of penal codes to use in advocacy was conducted and concerns are raised in bilateral and multilateral fora. Furthermore, identification of opportunities for training the media, attending trials in cases of charges on defamation, disinformation and incitement, advocating for parliamentary immunity to be respected and support for the CHRC to oversee implementation of the UPR are also provided.

- **Institutional Protection of Human Rights**
  The EU HR Strategy aims to promote institutional protection for HRDs; the establishment of an independent human rights body; and the implementation of UN treaties and recommendations. This is done through support for the UNOHCHR's technical assistance and efforts for better understanding of HR issues among civil servants. In the short term, this implies the drafting of a NHRI Bill and the constructive engagement by Cambodia during the second cycle of the UPR reporting.

  Examples of EU action to promote this goal are consultations and lobbying efforts with RGC and promoting a consultative process with NGOs. The EU is building relations with parliamentary Commissions on human rights and provides diplomatic and practical support for OHCHR and UNSR to carry out their work.

- **Women's rights**
  The HR Strategy regards women rights a key. It aims to develop the capacities of the relevant institutions, implement the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and the protection of victims as well as better use of gender-budgeting for planning and delivery public to achieve equity objectives. In the short term, this implies a PBA with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, a better legal protection against all forms of violence against women, more engagement from the government on the issue, a strengthening of CSOs working in this field, and a National Policy on gender.

  Examples of EU action to promote this include, promoting donors and the government participation in a constructive PBA, advocate for gender mainstreaming, participate in the draft policy and evaluation of national policies and promote public awareness on women’s rights, support the establishment of a National NGO Fund to provide legal aid and social services aimed at strengthening CSOs. Furthermore EU and MS programmes factor in gender continue with clear gender perspectives within them.