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Situation Room on Cambodia Election Day 2013

Decision of the National Election Committee to Announce Preliminary Election Results Prior to Independent Investigation

Phnom Penh – 12 August 2013

We, the members of the Situation Room on Cambodia's National Election would like to express our extreme disappointment with the decision of the National Election Committee (NEC) to announce the preliminary election results prior to a transparent and independent investigation into widespread irregularities, and prior to verification of discrepancies between election results offered by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP).

This decision flies in the face progress in negotiations between these parties. This attitude does nothing but increase existing tension amongst Cambodia's disenfranchised voters. During such a tense period the announcement will obviously invite reaction and is potentially destabilizing for the nation.

We remind the National Election Committee of the sentiments of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia who recognizes that "if the electoral process is unable to command the trust and confidence of the electorate, the very foundation of the Cambodian political and constitutional architecture embodied in the Paris Peace Agreements will be shaken and the country may run the risk of a return to violence."

The consequences of such would lie with the NEC and will be noted in history.

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