

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia was dismayed to see the Press Release of the Global Witness dated 18 January 2017 calling for the World Economic Forum to close its door to the Cambodian Delegation led by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in Davos. This act is clearly ill-intentioned.

The Global Witness always turns a blind eye to the rapid development in Cambodia. Cambodia adheres to the principles of democracy and pluralism in its political system. The existing political climate is functioning normally. The communal elections and the general elections with a good number of political parties attending will be held this year and next year respectively showing the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the democratic path and the rule of law.

The allegations made by Global Witness cannot mislead the world while Cambodia is moving forward on the path of strong and sustained economic growth. The increasing number of investors in Cambodia is a positive sign welcomed by the general public. Contrary to the discouragement by the Global Witness, last year the investment in the field of construction alone reached US\$ 8.5 Billion. This demonstrated the investors' confidence in Cambodia.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister has played a key role in the peace process and the current development in Cambodia. Therefore the Cambodian people have democratically voted for him to lead the country. Any attempt to discredit him by any means is tantamount to running counter to the will of the Cambodian people.

The people of Cambodia had been suffering long enough by the devastating war in the 1970's and 1980's. It is time for Cambodia to live in peace and development. The Global Witness should help Cambodia to rebuild the country instead of disrupting the process of development in Cambodia.

London, 19 January 2017

