

**Welcome RemarksBy**  
**Hans Born ,Deputy Head Research,**  
**Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)At the**  
**Launch Event of the Handbook “Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector”**  
**Phnom Penh, 9 December, 2016**

*Your Excellency Dr. NguonNhel, second vice president of National Assembly*

*Your Excellency Ivo Sieber, Ambassador of Switzerland to Cambodia*

*Your Excellency Ambassador Pou Sothirak, Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute  
for Cooperation and Peace*

*You excellencies*

*Members of Parliament,*

*Distinguished participants*

- On behalf of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF, in short), I would like to warmly welcome you all to the Launch Event of the Khmer language version of the Handbook Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector. As you may know, my institution of affiliation is an international foundation based in Geneva in Switzerland and established on the initiative of Switzerland. DCAF has currently 65 member states represented in its Foundation Council from all parts of the world, including member and observer states in Southeast Asia, which are Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand – we are very proud that Cambodia is included. The mandate of DCAF to promote the good governance of the security sector and DCAF is fulfilling this mandate in accordance with the traditional Swiss way of impartiality and non-interference.

- In Cambodia, on the parliamentary level, DCAF has been working with the Committee of Interior Affairs, National Defence, Investigation, Clearance (anti-corruption) and Civil Service of the National Assembly of Cambodia since 2008. This included the organisation of joint workshops on international standards of security sector governance in Phnom Penh and in Geneva as well as four regional workshops on security sector governance hosted here in Cambodia, and attended by representatives of the National Assembly.

*Your excellencies, members of parliament of Cambodia and other distinguished guests*

- Today, we feel particularly honoured by the presence of His Excellency NguonNhel, Second Vice President of the National Assembly of Cambodia at the launch event, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation for his willingness to deliver the keynote address. We greatly appreciate his presence and other representatives of the National Assembly and Senate of Cambodia as it is very fitting to the theme of this event, which is the role of parliament in security sector governance. Also, we note with appreciation the interest of the National Assembly and Senate to share their experience and best practices in parliamentary oversight of the security sector. The invitation to foremost experts from other ASEAN countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines to speak at this launch event demonstrates the innovative, outward-looking dimension as well as willingness of the Cambodia to share experiences on this topic.

- The launch event takes place in the context of DCAF's fruitful collaboration with not only the National Assembly but also other national stakeholders of security sector governance in Cambodia. The translation of the handbook as well as this launch event, which brings us together today, would not have been possible without the dedicated support and commitment of DCAF's longstanding partner, the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), here represented by its Executive Director Ambassador Pou Sothirak. Also, I would also like to thank H.E. Ivo Sieber, ambassador of Switzerland to Cambodia and Ms. Rahel Boesch, Development Counsellor and Head of the Swiss Development and Cooperation in Cambodia for supporting the Khmer translation of the handbook "Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector" as well as the hosting of this important event. And last but not least, I would like to thank all the participants here today for your most valuable contribution which is the key to the success of this conference. – Thank you!