

Developing a national coordination mechanism to recover stolen assets in Cambodia

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), November 2019- A national workshop on Asset Recovery was organized in Phnom Penh in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of Cambodia, gathering various national agencies to develop a coordination mechanism among relevant agencies in Cambodia to recover funds stolen by criminals and corrupt officials.



H.E. Om Yentheng, Senior Minister and President of the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of Cambodia and Mr. Francesco Checchi, UNODC Regional Adviser for Southeast Asia, raising awareness on asset recovery requirements in relevant national agencies.

The second cycle of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) review is on-going in Cambodia and a country visit was held in October. Cambodia was put on the grey list by the [Financial Action Task Force \(FATF\)](#) due to shortcomings in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism legal and institutional frameworks. Given the shortcomings highlighted by the UNCAC review with regards to UNCAC Chapter V on Assets Recovery and the close links between anti-money laundering and asset recovery, this workshop was organized to enhance awareness of relevant national institutions regarding the need to develop regulatory and institutional frameworks for effective action in this area and to

support the Anti-Corruption Unit in the development of a coordination mechanism for asset recovery in Cambodia.

The workshop, held over two days, gathered more than a hundred representatives of the Anti-Corruption Unit, Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor's Office, Financial Intelligence Unit, police, customs, tax administration, Courts and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A series of presentations were delivered on all the main stages of the asset recovery process, including preventing the transfer of proceeds of crime and the conduct of financial investigations.

A group work on drafting asset recovery-related Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests was also conducted, leading to enhanced awareness on asset recovery requirements in relevant national agencies.

UNODC will continue to support the Anti-Corruption Unit in the revision of the legal framework and the development of a dedicated task force on asset recovery.