

**WTO Trade Policy Review of Cambodia  
U.S. Opening Statement  
March 26, 2025**

The United States is pleased to participate in Cambodia's Third Trade Policy Review and extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Cambodia, led by Minister CHAM. We appreciate the reports prepared by the WTO Secretariat and Government of Cambodia, which outline recent developments in Cambodia's trade policies and practices.

Since the last review, Cambodia has experienced remarkable economic growth, with trade playing a critical role. We understand, as noted in the Secretariat's report, that Cambodia's trade policy formulation and objectives continue to be shaped by wide-ranging strategies such as the Cambodia Trade Integration Strategy (CTIS). These initiatives, together with the establishment of the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO, Cambodia serving as the chair of the Council for Trade in Services in 2022 and acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, demonstrate that international trade continues to be an integral part of Cambodia's long-term economic growth plans.

We appreciate Cambodia's active implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and continued reform efforts including the use of the Authorized Economic Operator and Best Trade along with the use of electronic pre-arrival declarations, which have helped to reduce administrative redundancies. We look forward to seeing Cambodia's continued implementation of the TFA and further positive reforms.

The Secretariat Report notes that since the last review Cambodia promulgated new food and plant legislation including the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine, the Law on Food Safety, along with labeling legislation. We welcome further information on the implementation of these measures. The United States encourages Cambodia to continue its efforts to improve its implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement.

Cambodia, in conjunction with the International Labour Organization (ILO), has implemented a system through the Better Factories Programme to regularly monitor working conditions in some export factories. However, as noted in the last TPR review, concerns remain regarding restrictions on workers' right to freedom of association, including the criminalization of trade union activities and the failure to reform the Trade Union Law and trade union registration procedure to align with international labor standards. We look forward to hearing what steps Cambodia is taking to address these challenges to ensure alignment with internationally recognized worker rights.

The United States welcomes the efforts by Cambodia to improve enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. However, more needs to be done to combat IP infringement in Cambodia. In addition, we are interested in learning about any additional steps Cambodia has taken to implement the Berne Convention and welcome hearing of any plans to accede to other international intellectual property treaties, such as the WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

*As Delivered*

The United States also recognizes Cambodia's efforts to strengthen its standards and technical regulation framework, including amendments to the Law on Standards in 2018.

The United States submitted advance written questions on certain aspects of Cambodia's trade and economic regime, which requested additional information regarding some of the points that I have mentioned. We appreciate Cambodia's written response to our questions, and we plan to review the responses carefully and request clarifications as necessary during the course of this TPR.

The United States appreciates Cambodia's efforts to prepare for this review and commends Cambodia for advances made in its trade and investment reform since its last Trade Policy Review. The United States wishes the delegation of Cambodia a successful review, and we look forward to continued dialogue with Cambodia at the WTO and on a bilateral basis.