



General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 June 2025

Original: English

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 32

Prevention of armed conflict

Letter dated 16 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, on 15 June 2025, the Royal Government of Cambodia submitted a letter to the Registrar of the International Court of Justice, expressing its intention to file an application concerning the ongoing and unresolved border issues between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand, in accordance with the Court's established procedures (see annex).

Despite the existence of the Franco-Siamese treaties of 1904 and 1907, as well as the maps prepared by the Commission of Delimitation between Indo-China and Siam in accordance with the two treaties, the border disputes between Cambodia and Thailand have persisted for decades. While the International Court of Justice rendered judgments in 1962 and again in 2013 – both affirming Cambodia's sovereignty over the Temple of Preah Vihear and its surrounding promontory – tensions remain in other contested areas, including Mom Bei, Tamone Thom Temple, Tamone Touch Temple and Ta Krabey Temple.

Most recently, on 28 May 2025, a serious armed confrontation occurred in the Mom Bei area when Thai military forces opened fire on a Cambodian army unit stationed inside our sovereign territory, resulting in the tragic loss of a Cambodian soldier. In the aftermath, thousands of heavily armed troops were deployed on both sides of the border, raising the spectre of a renewed large-scale conflict reminiscent of the hostilities between 2008 and 2011. Such an escalation poses a grave threat not only to our two nations but also to peace, security and stability in the broader region.

The Kingdom of Cambodia has consistently advocated for the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and in accordance with international law, while always striving to promote mutual respect and understanding with Thailand. However, repeated attempts at bilateral negotiations have failed, hindered by a lack of political will from the Thai authorities, their persistent reliance on a unilaterally drawn map, and actions that encroach upon Cambodian sovereignty. The recent threat by the Commander of Thai Military Region 2 to resolve the dispute by force exemplifies this pattern of unfriendly behaviour. Another deeply worrying development is the widespread rise of extreme nationalist sentiment, fuelled largely



by irresponsible remarks from the Thai army and certain political figures, risking the incitement of ethnic hatred or even ethnic conflict.

In the light of the seriousness and urgency of the current situation, and in keeping with our utmost commitment to preventing the current rising tension from spiralling into an armed conflict that endangers civilian lives, the Royal Government of Cambodia finds itself with no alternative but to seek recourse through the International Court of Justice, requesting adjudication of the long-standing border disputes concerning the aforementioned four sites. We firmly believe that peace can only endure when it is built on the solid foundation of justice, impartiality and respect for international law, so that our two peoples can live side by side as good neighbours for generations to come.

In this regard, I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 32, prevention of armed conflict.

(Signed) Chhea **Keo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 16 June 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The recurring border problems that Cambodia faces with Thailand, the dialogue of the deaf that characterizes the meetings of the Joint Commission on the Demarcation of Land Boundary that brings our two countries together to discuss these issues, and the recent tension that resulted in the death of a Cambodian soldier, lead me to inform you of the Royal Government of Cambodia's imminent intention to file, in accordance with the required procedures, an application with the International Court of Justice.

The long-standing border disputes between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand have persisted for many decades, despite the existence of the Franco-Siamese treaties of 1904 and 1907, as well as the maps prepared by the Commission of Delimitation between Indo-China and Siam established pursuant to those international instruments.

Although the Court rendered two judgments in 1962 and 2013 confirming Cambodia's sovereignty over the Temple of Preah Vihear and its promontory, tensions persist in other border regions, notably in the areas of MOM BEI, TAMONE TOUCH Temple, TAMONE THOM Temple, and TA KRABEY Temple. More recently, on 28 May 2025, a serious armed confrontation erupted once again in the MOM BEI region when Thai military forces opened fire on a Cambodian army position, resulting in the death of a Cambodian soldier. Following this incident, several thousand heavily armed soldiers were deployed on both sides of the border between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand. This military escalation poses a real risk of triggering a large-scale conflict, similar to the one that opposed the two countries between 2008 and 2011, with potentially serious consequences for both nations as well as for peace, security, and stability throughout the region.

The Kingdom of Cambodia has consistently favoured peaceful means to resolve this dispute, placing emphasis on bilateral dialogue with Thailand, in accordance with international law and based on mutual respect. Despite these repeated efforts, the bilateral process remains at an impasse due to a clear lack of political will on the part of the Thai authorities and, above all, due to their unilateral presentation of the border line and repeated actions that infringe upon Cambodia's sovereignty.

Given the urgency and gravity of this situation, I wish to inform you of our intention to submit an application to the International Court of Justice in the near future.

We are currently consulting the best experts on recourse to your jurisdiction.

Please accept, Mr. Registrar, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) **PRAK Sokhonn**