



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

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**STATEMENT BY**  
**AMBASSADOR RUCHIRA KAMBOJ,**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO UNESCO**  
**ON PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE COMPLEX CAMBODIA**

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**AT**  
**THE 195<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**PARIS**

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Mr. Chairperson,

India has very ancient cultural linkages with Cambodia. The historic monuments and the archaeological discoveries in Cambodia are important testimonies of the profound influence of the Hindu civilization on the Khmer culture.

The Temple of PREAH VIHEAR which dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century is considered as a most holy place for Lord SHIVA, the creator of the universe. A Khmer inscription found within the area of the temple mentions that SHIVA has chosen the promontory (about 600 m high) of Preah Vihear to locate his Temple in order to be seen from everywhere.

It would be recalled that at the time of inscribing the PreahVihear Temple on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee in 2008 had asked the Government of Cambodia to convene an International Coordination Committee for the safeguarding and development of the property inviting the participation of the Government of Thailand and not more than seven other appropriate international partners, to examine general policy matters relating to the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in conformity with international conservation standards.

It is in pursuance of this decision that the Government of Cambodia is proposing establishment of the ICC and is seeking the help of UNESCO in its endeavor. Cambodia has confirmed that there are no financial implications for UNESCO in this proposal. India agrees to support Cambodia in the conservation of this important World Heritage Site. In this regard, it may also be noted that India's Archaeological Survey of India has been actively working with Cambodian authorities in safeguarding of the monumental ensemble of ANGKOR WAT since 1981.

In coordination with the Delegations of Cambodia and Thailand and with the support of a few other countries we have proposed a draft decision, which is acceptable to both Cambodia and Thailand. Para 4 of this draft decision makes a mention that *"all activities to be carried out by or under the ICC for the Temple of Preah Vihear shall be without prejudice to Thailand's and Cambodia's rights and duties with regard to the land boundary under international law, and shall by no means prejudge the outcome of future consultation between Thailand and Cambodia regarding the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 11 November 2013"*. This is mutually agreed wording

*between the two countries.*

In conclusion, we would appreciate the support of the Members of the Executive Board to this proposed draft Decision.

Thank you.

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