

# Statement of National Committee for World Heritage

Written by Administrator

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ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE  
NATION INDÉPENDANCE SOUVERAINETÉ



COMITE NATIONAL  
DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Phnom Penh, 30 May 2011

## STATEMENT

The National Committee for World Heritage wishes to express its appreciation for the outstanding efforts made by the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, in order to ensure the safety of the Angkor Wat temple and other sites in Cambodia and to provide the best possible protection for the temple of Preah Vihear.

As an outcome from the visit to Cambodia and Thailand in February 2011 by the Special Envoy, His Excellency Kambouy Mearin, Member of the National Committee for World Heritage, the Director General of UNESCO.

Indeed, at their meeting the leader of the Thai delegation, Minister Sontak Khakhai, openly admitted that Thai military forces had fired at the Temple of Preah Vihear and caused damage to the temple. The Thai delegation also made to Cambodia Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva an appeal in the Bangkok Post on 29 May 2011, to help solve the issue of the temple's existence presented by the Cambodian delegation, based on video footage and a written report on site damage, and subsequently withdrew such claim. It is expected that they visited the Temple on 30 May 2011.

Furthermore, at the meeting in Paris, last week, the Thai delegation unilaterally attempted to amend the content of the resolution on the temple's existence, on the grounds that they were not equal participants, and only after the distribution of the work. However, the Director General insisted that the leader of the Cambodian delegation, which together with the World Heritage Committee, is working with the protection and preservation of the site.

The National Committee for World Heritage wishes to Thailand to cooperate with Cambodia and the international community in protecting and preserving the temple, including more actively making reasonable measures to prevent further deterioration of the temple, as well as their responsibility and accountability during the Temple's existence as a result of the impact of the 1954 Geneva Convention that was first signed in partition during the February attacks.

In Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova has said, "the world's cultural heritage should never be a victim for conflict."

Chairman of the Committee

Secretary of the Committee

Member of the Committee