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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

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H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn's Meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives 20 September 2022, New York City

On 20 September 2022, on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, U.S.A., His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic and also with His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives.

<u>Meeting with Excellency Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International</u> <u>Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic</u>

The two Ministers briefed each other on the economic and social development in Cambodia and Argentina, including on addressing COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn welcomed the strong interest of Argentina, as expressed by His Excellency Santiago Cafiero, to enhance cooperation with Cambodia and ASEAN region in many potential areas, including health, food security, agriculture and fishery, energy and mineral extraction, promotion of trade and investment. Both Ministers also agreed to work together to explore the possibility of advancing cooperation between ASEAN and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in these areas.

Concurring on the need to establish a mechanism to jump-start the realization of their shared desire for stronger relations of friendship, greater economic exchanges and cooperation in all feasible areas between Cambodia and Argentina, his Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn and His Excellency Santiago Catiero signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries.

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The two Ministers also exchanged views on the war in Ukraine and its impact on global food and energy security and the crisis in Myanmar. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister briefed his Argentine counterpart on Cambodia's efforts, as the Chair of ASEAN, in assisting Myanmar's return to normalcy through the implementation of the ASEAN Five-point consensus and the challenges that Cambodia faces in this regard.

Meeting with His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives.

The two Ministers recalled the fruitful outcome of the working visit of His Excellency Abdulla Shahid to Cambodia last August, and discussed the realization of the exchange of top-level visits between two countries. H.E. Prak Sokhonn informed his Maldives counterpart that Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia would be pleased to receive the state visit of the President of Maldives early next year on a mutually convenient date. They agreed that this visit to Cambodia and the return visit of Samdech Techo Hun Sen to Maldives will further strengthen the relations of friendship and lead to the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two nations.

To further enhance Cambodia-Maldives ties, both Ministers agreed to consider concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultation Cambodia and the Maldives. They commit to explore the possibility of cooperation in tourism, establishment of a direct flight between the Maldives and Cambodia, investment on rice milling for export including to the Maldives and other feasible areas. They also discussed on formalizing a visa facility arrangement, with a view to promote people-to-people exchange and businesses between the two countries.

His Excellency Prak Sokhonn and His Excellency Abdulla Shahid expressed commitment to promote international cooperation between Cambodia and the Maldives, including support for each other's candidacy in regional and international organizations.

