



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Department of Information**

**Press Release**

From 24-26 February 2019, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a delegation to attend the High Level Segment (HLS) of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

H.E. Mr. Prak Sokhonn had the opportunity to address the Human Rights Council (HRC) at which time he highlighted the achievements and challenges in the area of socio-economic development, democracy and human rights of the country. While underlining the divergent external perceptions on Cambodia, he reiterated the Royal Government's continued commitment to promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, but equally stressing on the importance to protect the hard-won peace so cherished by the Cambodian people. He also highlighted the Royal Government's active contribution in the UN peace keeping operations in promoting peace and development in other parts of the world.

On the sideline of the High Level Segment, he met with H.E. Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), H.E. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and H.E. Yu Jianhua, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva. He updated them on the current state of Cambodia's democracy and human rights focusing on the government's consistent efforts to increase democratic and political space with the aim of ensuring the development of a peaceful pluralist democracy.

In the meeting with H.E. Ms. Arancha González, views were exchanged on how to promote institutional capacity for Cambodia to boost its economic, trade, cultural and tourism diplomacy. She gave a strong assurance of ITC's support to such endeavor and committed to provide some technical assistance in this field to the National Institute for Diplomacy and International Relations (NIDIR) to build the capacity of Cambodian diplomats.

In the exchange with H.E. Kiyoto Tsuji, H.E. Prak Sokhonn expressed his appreciation for the role played by Japan in supporting the peaceful development of Cambodia's democracy. Japan's constructive engagement in providing opportunities for



young Cambodian politicians from different political orientations to jointly learn from Japan's democracy was heartily welcome by H.E. Prak Sokhonn. H.E. Kiyoto Tsuji also reiterated Japan's continued support to Cambodia's socio-economic development across various sectors.

In the meeting with Ambassador Yu Jianhua, both sides reaffirmed the existing good bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. Based on the solid ties of friendship between the top leaders, both countries will continue to extend mutual support on regional and global issues in various international fora and platforms.)

Phnom Penh, 28 February 2019

