



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Press Release**

**Outcomes of the 16<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS)**

27 October 2021, via Videoconference



The Summit emphasized the important role of the EAS for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern, strengthening multilateralism and maintaining a rules-based regional architecture for constructive inter-state relations and promoting strategic trust.

The Leaders underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and prosperity in the region by taking into account the principles as laid out in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. They recognised the positive progress of the EAS cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiatives (2018-2022), and looked forward to the development of a successor Plan of Action.

The Leaders reiterated the need to prioritise cooperation in the distribution of effective, safe, quality assured and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, and to make joint efforts to fight against COVID-19 pandemic without political agenda and ideology. They emphasised the essential role of trade and investment in mitigating the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and in enabling a robust and inclusive economic recovery. In this regard, the Leaders underscored the importance of working together to facilitate the flow of goods and services, especially those that are most essential in supporting health, wellbeing and livelihoods.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization WHO, and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, also briefed the meeting about public health and trade aspects of the COVID-19 measures that are being undertaken by these two global institutions.



In addressing the huge vaccine gap, Director-General of WHO called for a legal binding treaty to connect pandemic preparedness, while the Director-General of the WTO called for efforts to reduce trade barriers, enhance vaccine manufacturing and unhindered distribution, enhance specialized supply chain, and support intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** called on four key priorities to be incorporated into the successor EAS PoA for 2023-2027, including: (1) strengthening public health security; (2) enhancing MSMEs and empowering women and youth entrepreneurship; (3) recovering and boosting economic growth through strengthening cooperation on improvement of logistic connectivity, digital economy and e-commerce, by stimulating digitalization and industrial transformation; and (4) sustainable energy.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister supported the adoption of the “EAS Leaders’ Statement on Economic Growth through Tourism Recovery” and “EAS Leaders’ Statement on Sustainable Recovery” as part of the efforts to expedite socio-economic recovery through the reopening of cross-border travels, among others.

**Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining Southeast Asia as a region of peace and stability that is free from nuclear weapons, and reiterated that all initiatives, including military alliances, should respect ASEAN Centrality, complement existing mechanisms and abide by the principles of mutual respect and interest to preserve stability, security, peace and prosperity in the region. Q.



Phnom Penh, 27 October 2021