



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**



PRESS RELEASE

His Excellency **PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a working meeting with the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the Senate, on 9 February 2022.

Also Present at the meeting were the leaders of different commissions of the Senate and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn briefed the Commission on “ Cambodia’s foreign policy in the context of swift changing, uncertain and risky world situation”, in which he focused on the strategic challenges facing the regions and the world, including the Asia-Pacific region, the direction of Cambodia’s foreign policy and diplomacy, Cambodia’s ASEAN Chairmanship, and the reform process within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of diplomatic affairs.

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the main achievements registered in carrying out the 5 major works of the Ministry, namely: 1st, Safeguard Independence, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; 2nd, Carrying out foreign policy with flexibility, smartness according to the geopolitical pressure and competition between the main powers; 3rd, More active contribution in the cause of peace and stability and the fight against challenges of the world; 4th, Conducting economic and cultural diplomacy to contribute in national economy strengthening; and 5th, Internal reform in the Ministry to support and enhance the effectiveness of diplomatic affairs.

While touching on Cambodia’s ASEAN Chairmanship, **Deputy PM PRAK Sokhonn** underlined that “Cambodia assumes ASEAN’s rotating Chairmanship in 2022 in the context that our region is under pressure from various corners and in unprecedented



level since Cambodia has become the member of this regional organization for almost 23 years. In addition to the pressure and challenges posed by the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the tensest competition since the end of the Cold War between the major powers and with the above-mentioned deepest crises, ASEAN is facing its internal and difficult institutional issues as well.”

“All the above-described challenges have put pressure on ASEAN causing impact on the efforts in building ASEAN community, maintaining and strengthening ASEAN centrality, particularly in the ASEAN-led mechanisms. They have also affected ASEAN’s unity, solidarity, and resilience as well as endeavours in the process of integration and broadening of external dialogue partners,” he added.

“As ASEAN Chair in 2022, Cambodia has chosen the theme “ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together”. The main idea is to highlight the importance of ASEAN’s spirit as a united family of 10 member countries with a strong sense of togetherness in jointly acting to achieve common goals. In “Togetherness”, we want to emphasize ASEAN centrality, unity and solidarity in addressing regional challenges and enhancing ASEAN’s contribution to regional and global peace, stability, security and sustainable development,” continued the **Deputy PM**.

“I also would like to emphasize that we always support unity for cooperation and mutual benefits, but we do not support unity for confrontation. We will strive to focus on the issues that unite us all, rather than on the issues that promote division,” he stressed.

After briefing the Commission on the priorities in the three pillars of ASEAN Community, the Deputy PM touched on the Myanmar crisis and briefed the Commission on the working visit to Myanmar by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, highlighting the main goal and fruitful results of this “ice breaking” mission.

Phnom Penh, 9 February 2022

