



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

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**General Department of ASEAN**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting,  
ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the United States of America, and  
the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum**

Phnom Penh, 14 July 2023, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the 13<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) with the United States of America (U.S.), and the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 14 July 2023.

**13<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

The Meeting expressed appreciation for the substantive progress of EAS cooperation under the Manila Plan of Action (POA) to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative 2018-2023 and adopted the EAS POA 2024-2028. The new POA was streamlined and structured to focus on the implementation of the Statements and Declarations by EAS Leaders to increase the relevance, coherence, and effectiveness of the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region.

**His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** reiterated that Cambodia can support any initiatives that are not used against another state, contribute to regional peace and stability, and are in line with the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He urged ASEAN external partners to expand support for the four priority areas of the AOIP through practical and high-quality projects and programmes. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** further pointed out the

importance of strengthening the effectiveness of the EAS to ensure that it synergizes and complements with other ASEAN-led mechanisms without duplication. He stressed that the EAS can be further enhanced by becoming more issue-based and solution-oriented.

### **ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the United States of America (U.S.)**

The Meeting recalled the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership at the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Summit in November 2022 in Phnom Penh and adopted the Annex to the ASEAN-U.S. Plan of Action 2021-2025. The Meeting welcomed the progress of new engagements by ASEAN and the U.S. in the areas of public health, transportation, gender equality and women's empowerment, energy, and environment and climate change. The Meeting also endorsed in principle for the establishment of the ASEAN-U.S. Centre.

**His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** encouraged ASEAN and the U.S. to accelerate the implementation of the Work Plans of the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the Expanded Economic Engagement. He underscored that stable and healthy relations between major powers is the foundation of regional peace, stability, and prosperity, and the lack thereof will make advancing global agenda extremely difficult, if not impossible.

### **30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

The Meeting commended the work of the ARF over the past 30 years and highlighted its significant contributions to regional peace, security, and stability through the promotion of confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy as well as consultations on regional political and security issues of common interest and concern. To carry forward this positive momentum, the Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to further advance and reinvigorate the ARF process so that it continues to function as the leading regional forum in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing emerging and future regional security challenges with action-oriented practical cooperation through the effective implementation of the ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II 2020-2025.

The Meeting welcomed the publication of the 2023 ARF Annual Security Outlook (ASO) and reiterated the importance of this document as a platform for ARF participants to publicly share their views on issues related to peace and security. The Meeting also adopted two documents, (1) ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on the Commemoration of 30 Years of the ASEAN Regional Forum; and (2) Concept Note for the "Collection of Documents Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASEAN Regional Forum".

**His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** reaffirmed the ARF's unique position in building mutual trust and promoting practical cooperation among its members. He encouraged the ARF to enhance its work and activities with the goal of promoting stable and healthy relations between major powers so that peace and stability can be maintained in the region and beyond. In addition, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** reiterated Cambodia's firm support for the principles enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter and universally recognized norms concerning the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of the UN member states. He underscored that dialogue and diplomacy are the best tools to end conflicts, and engagement is key to building trust, promoting convergence, and balancing the interests and security concerns of all countries.

#### **Bilateral Meetings on the Sidelines of the Meetings**

**His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also took the opportunity to engage in bilateral meetings with **His Excellency Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, M.P**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, and **Her Excellency Anniken Huitfeldt**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, to further strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on matters of common interest and concern. END