



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY

His Excellency OUCH BORITH

Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Standing Secretary of State of the  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the kingdom  
of Cambodia

Commemorative High-Level Meeting on the occasion of marking the  
60th anniversary of the first Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries

Belgrade, Serbia

11-12 October 2021

**Excellency Chair,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to express on behalf of *Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia*, my heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and His Excellency Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, President of the Republic of Serbia, for Co-Hosting this **High-Level Commemorative Meeting to Mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement**. My profound gratitude also goes to the people and government of the Republic of Serbia for the warm hospitality provided to our delegation.

It is a great moment that we all come together to reflect on the noble causes that we have been pursuing all these 60 years and cherish common achievements.

60 years ago, NAM was created and supported by many post-colonial and post-conflict countries who were in thirst for real independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination of development path according to each of their respective national contexts. NAM was created to provide an alternative against the fault line of geopolitical and ideological divide incurred from the Cold War, a phenomenon that NAM member states deemed as not constructive for their development as well as supportive of multilateralism that has the United Nations as its core.

**Excellency Chair,**

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**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am pleased to note that we have lived up to the Founding Fathers' expectation in lightening up the core principles and objectives of NAM in the pursuit of peace and sustainable development, and in the struggle against imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference and hegemony.

We have stood firm together against illegal, unilateral, extrajudicial, and extra-territorial sanctions imposed on NAM member states. Unfortunately, the challenges we faced 60 years ago are still relevant today as superpower rivalry is heating up and the bifurcation of world order is becoming a reality. Division of nations and alliance building from geopolitical agenda to technological and trade war, to cyberspace domain, has even reached all the way to discrimination of vaccines that has restricted people's mobility even if those vaccines are approved by the World Health Organization (WHO).

We have witnessed the selective application and interpretation of human rights and democracy to serve political agenda and domination purposes without due consideration to the sanctity of peace, stability and will of the local people.

Again, NAM needs to be resolute in denouncing politicization, discrimination and division of nations against our principles and objectives as outlined in the UN Charter.

**Excellency Chair,**

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-It is a fact that, despite the strong resolve and struggles of our brothers and sisters, some of our members have fallen victim to foreign interference, proxy wars, regime changes, civil and ethnic wars, beyond our **capacity to control our destiny and**

**defend ourselves. Unfortunately, peace is still an unachievable dream for many countries.** Peace can be successfully brokered, but it cannot be imposed by external actors; and state-building cannot be imported or exported.

-Like many NAM members, Cambodia has gone through a rocky path in our struggle for independence, peace-building and nation-building. Cambodia has come a long way in this journey. From our experience, we understand full well that peace, stability and security are most precious, and that we must fight against any attempts to deprive our right to determine our fate, such as through the so-called color revolution. Cambodia has been successful in ending decades of bloodshed and achieving peace and national reconciliation through the Win-Win policy initiated by our Prime Minister, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen in 1998.

-As a post-colonial and post-conflict state, with opportune and precious assistance from friendly countries, Cambodia has tried to build our peace and rehabilitate our country from scratch. At present, despite Cambodia's limited capacities, Cambodia has shared its humanitarian experiences in building and safeguarding world peace under the auspices of the United Nations. Some of our blue-helmet troops have sacrificed their lives. Some of these heroes have also succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic. But these have not reduced our commitment to international contribution to world peace, and our troops are still rotating regularly to support the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

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During this COVID-19 pandemic, fortunately, Cambodia is among the lucky few who have been able to vaccinate our people and foreigners residing in our country thank to the support from our friends around the world based on the true spirit of “vaccine multilateralism”. As of October 10, overall, 84 per cent of the Kingdom's total population of around 16 million have been vaccinated against the disease.

For that matter, NAM stands for multilateralism as we strive to find solutions to common challenges because we know that no single country can address those issues alone.

In our part of the world, Cambodia is proud to play a key role in supporting **multilateralism** as we are preparing to host the **13<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM13)** virtually this coming November, and to undertake our **ASEAN chairmanship in 2022**.

As the **incoming chair of ASEAN in 2022**, Cambodia will endeavour to promote an action-oriented approach to effectively address the common challenges facing our region. With support and strong solidarity of ASEAN Member States and its external partners, Cambodia will seek to ensure tangibility of benefits for the peoples across the whole region, without leaving anyone behind.

Let me conclude by reiterating Cambodia’s strong commitment to the Bandung principles enunciated in 1955, the unity in action based on multilateralism in our pursuit for peace and sustainable development for the world.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

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