



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

Outcomes of the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit

25-26 November 2021, via Videoconference

* * * * *

Cambodia hosted the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13), under the theme of “**Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth**”, on 25-26 November 2021 via videoconference. The ASEM13 was chaired by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and attended by the Heads of State/Government or their high-level representatives of ASEM Partners, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the Summit, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** stressed that, over the past 25 years, ASEM has proven to be a vital platform, connecting Asia and Europe and promoting the partnership between the two continents. Moving forward to next 25 years, **Samdech** emphasized that ASEM Partners need to double down their commitment to an effective multilateralism, an inclusive and resilient post-COVID-19 recovery, and a more visible and robust ASEM in global governance.

To this end, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** called for a deepened inter-regional connectivity for sustainable development and shared growth; enhanced inter-regional partnership for global governance; more effective rules-based multilateral system; the need for further harnessing innovation, digital connectivity, and industrial revolution 4.0; the promotion of ASEM’s visibility and relevance; and collective efforts to address cross-cutting issues, including climate change, poverty, women empowerment, and other transnational challenges.



ASEM Leaders had an opportunity to listen to and take note of the recommendations from the outcome presentation of five Side Events, namely the 11th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP11), the 4th ASEF Young Leaders' Summit (ASEFYLS4), the Asia-Europe Economic and Business Forum, the Asia-Europe Forum on Women, Peace and Security, and the Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum. They also expressed their appreciation to Cambodia for organizing the ASEM Cultural Festival (ASEMFest) to showcase the richness of artistic creativity and diversity in Asia and Europe and for initiating the Forum on Women, Peace and Security.

During the two-day Summit, ASEM Leaders had a frank and candid exchange of views on a broad range of issues of common concern and interest, with the following key highlights:

- Re-emphasizing the commitment towards building a cohesive, competitive, resilient, and sustainable ASEM community for the peoples of Asia and Europe, based on ASEM's core principles of informality and flexibility and in the spirit of consensus and equal partnership;
- Underscoring the vital role of the UN system and other international and regional organizations in maintaining global peace and security, fostering inclusive and sustainable development, and upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Reiterating the importance of confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy as well as the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding, mutual interest and the renunciation of the use of force and the threat of using force in international relations;
- Reaffirming commitment to work together for peace and security, sustainable development and inclusive growth, based upon the respect for international law, including the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Committing to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Addis Ababa Action Agenda to eradicate poverty, end hunger, reduce




inequality and build an inclusive and sustainable future in order to ensure that no one is left behind;

- Expressing resolve, in line with COP26 outcomes, the willingness to tackle the growing global challenges associated with climate change, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss and pollution and stressing the importance of providing finance and technology to facilitate the transition and were committed to enhancing international cooperation for this purpose;
- Welcoming the adoption of ASEM Host and Regional Coordinators' Ministerial Statement on COVID-19 on 7 September 2020 and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Post-COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery, which reflect ASEM's commitment to effectively control the spread of the pandemic, ensuring availability, affordability, and equitable access, safe, quality and effective vaccines, and address its socio-economic fallouts;
- Stressing the need to maintain an open global economy and reaffirming their commitment to strengthening and upholding the open, fair, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core for long-term growth.
- Expressing ASEM Partners' shared interest in enhancing Asia-Europe connectivity, by not only political and economic aspects, but also on socio-cultural links and people-to-people contacts.
- Considering sustainable tourism and creative economy as a catalyst for people-to-people connectivity, economic cooperation, and quality-job creation; and stressing the need to strengthen cooperation on these sectors, which have been hit hard by the pandemic;
- Committing to ensure young people's meaningful participation in all spheres and levels of public and political life and encouraging the expansion of educational exchange and cooperation among ASEM Partners through an ASEM strategy for sharing good practices of ways to tackle common global issues.



At the end of the Summit, ASEM Leaders adopted the three significant ASEM13 outcome documents, namely: (1) the ASEM13 Chair's Statement; (2) the Phnom Penh Statement on the Post-COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery; and (3) the Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity”.

ASEM Leaders expressed high appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia for excellent arrangements and sincere congratulations to **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** on successfully chairing the Summit, which will contribute towards a strengthened multilateralism, more robust ASEM process and a resilient, inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 era. ASEM Leaders looked forward to attending the 14th ASEM Summit in Europe in 2023. 



Phnom Penh, 26 November 2021