



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

On the Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat)

16-17 January 2020, Nha Trang, Viet Nam

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, led a Cambodian delegation to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat) held on 16-17 January 2020 in Nha Trang, Viet Nam.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed support for Viet Nam's theme "Cohesive and Responsive" and its five key priorities to promote the ASEAN Community building. The Ministers also took note of key deliverables as put forth by Viet Nam as the ASEAN Chair, which are in consistence with the efforts of previous ASEAN Chairs to realise the goal of building the ASEAN Community.

During the AMM Retreat, the Ministers discussed a number of important follow-up issues from the 34th and 35th ASEAN Summits under Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship, especially the ways to promote the ASEAN Community building process. They also exchanged views on ASEAN's external relations and key regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

On the ASEAN Community building, the Ministers had a fruitful discussion on the way forward to fully realizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Ministers looked forward to the outcomes of the Mid-term Review of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and ASEAN Community Blueprints in 2020. They also took a forward-looking approach by initiating discussion on ASEAN Community vision beyond 2025 as well as areas of great importance to the ASEAN integration, including the promotion of intra-regional trade and investment, sustainable development, ASEAN connectivity, digital economy



and the fast technological advance in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), smart cities, cybersecurity, women empowerment and gender equality, climate change, transboundary haze, and other non-traditional security issues.

H.E. **Deputy Prime Minister** took this opportunity to brief the Retreat of Cambodia's priorities in ASEAN in 2020. With regard to the ASEAN Political and Security Pillar, he highlighted that, as the initiating and host country of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), Cambodia has always been committed to the full and effective operationalization of the Center aimed at promoting the awareness on dangers posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and encouraged by the Centre's positive progress in its institutional capacity building and expanded operations in 2019.

H.E. **Deputy Prime Minister** stressed that ASEAN's engagement with ASEAN Dialogue Partners has been a cornerstone of the ASEAN Community building and ASEAN Centrality. In this connection, H.E. **Deputy Prime Minister** briefed the Meeting on the ongoing preparations for the ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Summit on 9 April 2020 after the conclusion of the 36th ASEAN Summit in Da Nang, Vietnam. The Ministers also discussed the US's proposal to convene the ASEAN-US Special Summit on 14 March 2020 in Las Vegas, the United States.

The Year 2020 emphasizes the importance of ASEAN-UN Cooperation and marks the 75th Anniversary of the UN. In this regard, the Ministers supported the proposal of Viet Nam, as the ASEAN Chair in 2020 and President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2020, to organise an ASEAN Briefing at the UNSC on the topic of "Cooperation between the UN and Regional and Sub-regional Organizations in Maintaining International Peace and Security: The Role of ASEAN", in January 2020 in New York.

The Ministers also exchanged their views on many pressing and outstanding regional and international issues with the emphasis on the following issues:

- The Ministers took note of the progress of the constructive dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the repatriation process of displaced people in the Rakhine State. They appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General of ASEAN in



leading the implementation of the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment and looked forward to the conduct of the ASEAN Comprehensive Needs Assessment. They expressed the readiness of ASEAN to support the repatriation process in a speedy, safe, and orderly manner.

- On the South China Sea issue, the Ministers highlighted the progress in cooperation and consultation between ASEAN and China, particularly the completion of the first reading and the commencement of the second reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text. They also underscored the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety.
- The Ministers looked forward to the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement this year, which will further contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the region.

On the sidelines of the AMM Retreat, H.E. **Deputy Prime Minister** held a bilateral meeting with H.E. **Don Pramudwinai**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, to discuss Cambodia-Thailand bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern.

Phnom Penh, 18 January 2020.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials.