



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE
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**“Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting,
the 27th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting
and the 34th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting”**

Phnom Penh, 5 September 2023 - At the invitation of **Her Excellency Retno L.P. Marsudi**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM), the 27th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting and the 34th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting in Jakarta on 4 September 2023.

1. ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

The meeting focused on the advancement of ASEAN Community-building under the leadership of Indonesia as Chair of ASEAN 2023 under the theme: “**ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth**”, approaches to advance progress in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus (5PC), and ASEAN’s engagement with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other external partners.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the positive momentum of ASEAN Community-building processes. The burgeoning number of countries outside the region that have expressed their interest to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) reflects the recognition of the importance of ASEAN Centrality in maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

They encouraged further progress in the implementation of the 5PC and underlined that the consensus, including the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the 5PC, remains the key reference to help Myanmar return to normalcy. The meeting further stressed that the 5PC has served as the necessary instrument to create a conducive environment towards peaceful dialogue among all stakeholders for the benefit of all people of Myanmar. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** reaffirmed Cambodia's support for Indonesia's efforts in promoting dialogue among stakeholders concerned and reiterated the need to maintain ASEAN unity and perseverance to address the highly complex issue of Myanmar.

During the meeting, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** underlined that ASEAN has clearly displayed the spirit of unity in navigating multifaceted challenges and has become the beacon of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region. In this regard, he stated that ASEAN needs to continue to strengthen the effectiveness of its main institutions to address emerging complex geo-strategic challenges. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also encouraged other Member States to continue to further promote intra-ASEAN trade, explore new sources of growth, and ensure full and effective implementation of free-trade agreements, especially the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP).

Noting with satisfaction the growing prestige and capacity of ASEAN, which have attracted engagement by countries outside the region, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** stressed the importance for ASEAN to continually augment its institutional capacity to manage these partnerships for the interests of all ASEAN peoples through fostered fruitful collaboration in myriad areas with external partners.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also reaffirmed Cambodia's determination to contribute to a nuclear-weapon-free Southeast Asia and commended China's readiness to embrace the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty without reservation. This, if concluded, will encourage other Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to follow suit.

2. 27th Meeting of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council

The meeting welcomed the efforts by ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in the implementation of the action lines of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025 which has reached 99 percent completion, covering areas related to the ASEAN

Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the Green Economy, ASEAN's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, and the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister assessed that peace and stability are the bedrock of all development, and that ASEAN-led mechanisms need to continue to promote peace and stability within the region, especially in addressing both current and emerging challenges. At the same time, ASEAN Member States need to take concerted efforts to combat all forms and manifestations of transnational crime, which have been exacerbated by technology. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN Member States for their contribution to the operation of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) and urged them to provide necessary support to the Center.

3. 34th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC)

The Ministers reiterated that consultation and consensus remain vital for ASEAN decision-making in accordance with the ASEAN Charter. The meeting agreed to submit the "Rules of Procedure to Support the Decision-Making Process at the ASEAN Summit" and the "ASEAN Community Vision 2045" to the 43rd ASEAN Summit for notation and looked forward to the full realization of this vision.

The meeting noted the endorsement of the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework by the ASEAN Economic Community Council, to be submitted to the 43rd ASEAN Summit for adoption. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed to the request by the ASEAN Chair, Indonesia, to form a working group on the Blue Economy and tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to formulate the modality of the working group. ASEAN Foreign Ministers welcomed the progress in implementing the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and agreed on the draft "ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on **ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth**" to be submitted to the 43rd ASEAN Summit for adoption.

On the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN, the meeting exchanged views on progress in the implementation of the Roadmap and reaffirmed the commitments of ASEAN Member States to assist Timor-Leste in its preparation to become a full member of the community.

4. Signing Ceremony for the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Panama and the State of Kuwait

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and other ASEAN Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing ceremonies of the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Panama, and the State of Kuwait. The accessions by these three countries increase the number of the TAC High Contracting Parties to 54. The Ministers looked forward to the accession to the TAC by Spain, Mexico, Algeria, and Luxembourg in the near future.

5. Signing Ceremony for Memoranda of Understanding between ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

Concurrently, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** and other ASEAN Foreign Ministers also witnessed signing ceremonies for two separate Memoranda of Understanding: (1) Between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Rim Association; and (2) Between the Secretary-General of ASEAN and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum.

6. Bilateral Meetings

On the sidelines of the meetings, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** received a courtesy call by **His Excellency Dr. KAO Kim Hourn**, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and held bilateral meetings with (1) **His Excellency Vivian Balakrishnan**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, (2) **His Excellency Ivica Dačić**, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, and (3) **Her Excellency Ana Cecilia Díaz**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, to strengthen further bilateral relations and exchange views on matters of common interest. **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** signed an MoU with the Serbian counterpart for cooperation of their diplomatic institutes, and another MoU with the Peruvian counterpart to establish bilateral consultations between their foreign ministries." END

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