



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Meeting of the Commission of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-
Weapon-Free Zone and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Interface Meeting with ASEAN
Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives**

At the invitation of **His Excellency Saleumxay KOMMASITH**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Chair of ASEAN, **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the Meeting of the Commission of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Interface with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Representatives in Vientiane on 24 July 2024.

Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission

The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to preserve Southeast Asia as a region free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty, and emphasised on the importance of full and effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty through its Plan of Action (2023-2027).

The Meeting commended the collective efforts of the ASEAN Member States in having the biennial Resolution on the SEANWFZ Treaty adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2023 as it affirms the importance of the Treaty in contributing to international peace and security. Moreover, the Meeting also reiterated support for Timor-Leste to accede to the SEANWFZ Treaty and looked forwards to its accession in the near future.



During the Meeting, **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** underscored the need to redouble efforts to work with Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to enable the signing of the SEANWFZ Treaty Protocol, and welcomed any NWS who wishes to sign the Protocol without reservations to do soon a first-come-first-serve basis.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Interface with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Representatives

The Meeting commended the AICHR's ongoing efforts to implement its Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025 and looked forward to the development of its subsequent Five Year Work Plan 2026-2030, which will chart the future direction of the region's efforts to promote and protect human rights. Moreover, the Meeting noted the 2024 Annual Report (July 2023 to June 2024) of the AICHR.

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister encouraged the AICHR to work closely with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other relevant ASEAN organs on joint projects, activities and meetings in order to exchange views on best practices, share lessons learned and promote effective cooperation and coordination. He also welcomed AICHR's contributions to the development of the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 through its close engagement with the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Vision and the submission of important inputs related to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Vientiane, 24 July 2024

