

Press Release
On Outcomes of 50th AMM and Related Meetings
4-8 August 2017, Manila, Philippines

His Excellency Prak Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to attend the following meetings in the framework of the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings held under the theme "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World" from 04 to 08 August 2017 in Manila, Republic of the Philippines:

1. Meeting of Southeast Asian Region Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission:

The Meeting reviewed the progress in the implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty Plan of Action (2013-2017) and agreed to extend this current POA for another period of 2018-2022. The Meeting reiterated commitment to resolving all outstanding issues pertaining to the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS)' accession to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty.

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined that Cambodia strongly support to preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone with his observation of the slow pace of consultation between ASEAN and the NWS. He suggested the ASEAN Member States to reconcile common positions first on NWS' reservation prior to re-engaging discussion with them and affirmed that Cambodia can support China's intention and readiness to be the first NWS to sign and ratify the Protocol without reservation in order to send a strong positive signal to other NWS to reconsider their position regarding the removal of their reservation.

2. ASEAN FMs Interface with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Representatives:

The Meeting reviewed the AICHR's Work Progress and the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD. The Meeting noted the AICHR Annual Report 2017 and adopted priority programmes/activities of the AICHR 2018.

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn appreciated the achievements highlighted in the Statement made by the AICHR Chair, particularly those related to the implementation of the AHRD and stressed on the finalization of a regional action plan to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the ASEAN Community.

3. The 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (50th AMM):

Under the theme "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World", the discussion of the Foreign Ministers focussed on ASEAN Community building, regional architecture and ASEAN external relations, and exchanged views on regional and international issues, particularly on Korean Peninsula, South China Sea, countering violent extremism, radicalisation and terrorism, and situation in the Middle East.

The Ministers commended the work of all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs to fully and effectively implement ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the three Blueprints of the

ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) 2025, and Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the IAI Work Plan III.

In his intervention, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined the need to persevere ASEAN integration and Community building, among others through enhancing CLMV capacity building and mobilising additional resources to implement the IAI Work Plan III and MPAC 2025, in order to overcome the negative perception arising from the rise of populism, de-globalization, anti-trade liberalization and protectionism around the world. He also emphasised on the need for collective efforts and joint cooperation in addressing the rise of non-traditional threats ranging from human and drugs trafficking to cyber-crime, and terrorism in order to provide a safe and secured environment for ASEAN Community.

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn reaffirmed that Cambodia has joined ASEAN centrality, solidarity, and unity for the purpose of promoting our region to remain peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous. While facing the re-emergence of great power rivalries, ASEAN is trapped in a situation that major and middle powers are competing to set the regional agenda using ASEAN created platforms. This may disrupt ASEAN centrality, and may also divide ASEAN through polarization of interests.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers granted Turkey the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN. The Meeting also looked forward to the continued discussion on Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership and welcomed Timor-Leste's participation in relevant ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building.

The 50th AMM adopted the Joint Communiqué of the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and issued: i) ASEAN Leaders' Joint Declaration for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN; ii) ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Developments in the Korean Peninsula; and iii) ASEAN Foreign Ministers Statement on the Situation in Al-Haram Al-Sharif Compound.

4. Post Ministerial Conference (PMC)+1 Session:

The agenda of each PMC+1 Session with respective Dialogue Partner of ASEAN namely Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russia and the U.S. focused on review and future direction of each ASEAN-Dialogue Relations, and exchange of views on regional and international issues. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to preserving and enhancing peace, security and stability in the region; strengthening the mutually beneficial relations between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners; and supporting the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture.

The **ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministerial Meeting** that was co-chaired by H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn and ROK Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Kang Kyung-wha reaffirmed strong commitment to fully utilize the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Agreement as a mean to reach the two-way trade target of USD 200 billion by 2020; encouraged ROK's further support to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III; looked forward to launching ASEAN Culture House in Busan on 1st September 2017; and agreed to come up with various meaningful activities to celebrate this year as the ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange Year. The Meeting underscored the importance of according priority to trade and investment liberalization, including focusing on MSMEs and tourism.

With **Australia**, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, expressed hope that more **scholarships could be prioritized to CLMV countries** in order to improve their human resource development so that they can fully contribute to the ASEAN Community building. **During ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting**, Australia briefed on the ongoing preparations of Australia as the host of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in March next year. The Ministers looked forwards to this important Special Summit between the

Leaders of ASEAN Member States and Australia to further strengthen ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership.

At the **ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting**, ASEAN Foreign Minister welcomed Canada's new flagship \$10 million ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) project to support Southeast Asian youth and mid-career professionals, particularly women and those from CLMV countries, to undertake short-term studies in Canada that will equip them to combat poverty in the ASEAN region.

With **China**, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn highly valued China's contribution to the integration process and ASEAN Community building, including through China's Belt and Road Initiative, and announced Cambodia's plans to host the 3rd ASEAN-China Youth Exchange Visit to further promote people-to-people mobility and to further strengthen friendship. The **ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting** adopted the **Framework of the Code of Conduct** in the South China Sea (COC), and tasked the Senior Officials to start consultations and negotiations for a substantive COC. The Foreign Ministers also endorsed ASEAN-China Leaders' Declaration for a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea (2017-2027); and signed the revised **MOU on Establishment of the ASEAN-China Centre**. The Meeting also agreed to work on a joint statement on tourism cooperation to be issued at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017.

The **ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting** adopted three documents: i) ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022); ii) ASEAN-EU Statement on the Paris Agreement: Reaffirming Commitment to Cooperation to Address the Shared Challenge to Climate Change; and iii) Joint Statement on the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations.

The **ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting** looked forward to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to be held in New Delhi on 25-26 January 2018 and noted List of Commemorative Activities on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2017.

The **ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting** adopted the Revised Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation: Shared Vision, Shared Identity and Shared Future. H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn underlined that next year will mark the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Relations and further stressed on the importance of promoting people-to-people connectivity, with strong emphasis on youth exchanges and entrepreneurship and Japan's continued strong support for human resource development in ASEAN, especially the CLMV countries.

The **ASEAN-Russia Ministerial Meeting** adopted three documents: i) Statement of ASEAN and Russia Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Joint Efforts to Combat International Terrorism; ii) the Implementation Roadmap of the ASEAN-Russia Eminent Persons Group (AREPG) Report; and iii) Concept Paper on the establishment of the Network of ASEAN-Russia Think-Tanks (NARTT).

At the **ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting**, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn expressed his view that ASEAN-U.S. cooperation should place stronger emphasis on private sector development, higher education, and sciences and technology and his wishes to see U.S. support to the **ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)**. The Meeting likewise welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's commitment to attend in November 2017 the 5th ASEAN-U.S. Summit and the 12th EAS in the Philippines and the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Viet Nam.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers also welcomed Canada and the EU to attend the upcoming 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) as guests of the Chair and noted their intention to join the EAS.

5. 18th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting (18thAPT FMM):

The Ministers had discussions on review and future direction of APT Cooperation and adopted APT Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022). Addressing the meeting on “future direction of APT cooperation”, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn focused on the importance role of the private sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in regional economic cooperation. In this context, the Senior Minister underlined Cambodia’s wishes to see more support from the Plus Three countries in strengthening SMEs, in the areas of productivity enhancement, better use of technology, and access to finance.

6. 7th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (7th EAS FMM):

The Meeting had discussions on review and future direction of EAS and had an extensive exchange of views on regional and international issues of common concerns namely South China Sea, Korean Peninsula and terrorism.-The Meeting reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthening the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. The Meeting reiterated the importance of ASEAN’s central role in the evolving regional architecture and welcomed the initiative to develop the Manila Action Plan for EAS Areas of Cooperation to replace the Plan of Action (POA) to implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the East Asia Summit Development Initiative (2015-2017).

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn shared view on regional and international issues as follows: “First, on the **South China Sea**, there have been progress, comparing to last year. I am glad many around this table recognised that positive development. Thanks to many achievements, the situation is better; tension have decreased. China and Philippines have kept this hatchet buried and, with wisdom, have chosen peaceful way to solve dispute. Yesterday, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and China adopted Framework of COC. The tone of our Joint Communiqué this year reflects well this trend. This is due to hard work of all parties and the upholding of Bali-Siem Reap Spirit. We welcome China’s “Three-steps Initiative” briefed by Minister Wang Yi yesterday at the ASEAN-China PMC. All the above mention are concrete facts that can only but enhance our confidence in our path to ensure peace, security and prosperity in our region.

“Second, on **Korean Peninsula**, we of course shared deep concerns over the escalation of tensions in the Korean Peninsula, particularly with regards to the series of missile launches as well as the test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) conducted by the DPRK in clear violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions. That’s why we join with other ASEAN Member States and the international community in calling DPRK to fully comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions. We also appeal to all parties concerned to further exercise their utmost self-restraint and avoid provocative activities that could aggravate the situation. In this spirit, we wish to lend support to the joint initiative of Russia and China, which is based on the Chinese proposed idea of “Double Freezing” and parallel advancement toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the Russia’s proposed “Stage by Stage Korean settlement plan” to jointly defuse tension and promote trust and confidence building in the region. H.E. Wang Yi briefed us on this proposal. At the same time, we welcome the proposal by the new ROK government to resume dialogue with DPRK to reduce tension and confrontation.”

7. 24th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF):

The Meeting issued the ARF Annual Security Outlook (ARF ASO) 2017 and adopted: i) List of Track 1 Activities for the Inter-Sessional Year 2017-2018; ii) ARF Statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem; iii) ARF Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF); and iv) Concept Paper For the Establishment of ASEAN

Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security).

8. The Mekong-Related Meetings:

On the sidelines of the 50th AMM, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn attended the following Mekong-related meetings:

The **10th Ministerial Meeting of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI)** adopted the Joint Statement, which lauded the progress of the implementation of the LMI Plan of Action 2016-2020 under the six pillars and welcomed the US' Water Data Initiative aims to develop a regional data-sharing platform to enable better decision-making on the development and management of the river. The Meeting also welcomed the continued commitment of the new US administration towards the LMI's cooperation.

The **10th Mekong Japan Foreign Minister Meeting** adopted the Chair's Statement, which reviewed the progress made under the cooperation based upon the "New Tokyo Strategy 2015" and welcomed the steady implementation of efforts under the "Mekong-Japan Connectivity Initiative".

H.E. Senior Minister raised the importance of linkage between soft and hard infrastructure and suggested an increase of Public-Private Partnership and consideration on concessional finance for the Mekong countries in order to promote quality infrastructure.

The **8th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting** adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement, which reviewed progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action 2016-2018 in the areas of tourism, culture, education, transport and communication and noted the progress made towards the formulation of a Master Plan for the Mekong-Ganga region.

Cambodia briefed the Meeting about Cambodia's efforts to ensure sustainability and operation of the Asian Textiles Museum in Siem Reap and requested member countries to provide new collections for display and to increase coordination mechanism to support the Museum's operation.

9. Bilateral Meetings:

While attending the 50th AMM, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, also had separate bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK. The discussions and exchange of views focussed on bilateral relations and some regional and international issues of common concern.

H.E. Senior Minister and Turkey FM discussed on the enhancement of bilateral cooperation, among them the invitations extended by Turkey PM to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, to visit Turkey this year and by Turkey FM to H.E. SM Prak Sokhonn to visit Turkey next year, the convening of the 2nd meeting of Joint Economic Commission and the 3rd meeting of Bilateral Consultations, the establishment of direct flight and the possible assistance by Turkey for mine clearance in Cambodia and ARMAC. Turkey FM thanked H.E. Senior Minister for support to Turkey's application for the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

Sri Lanka State Minister sought Cambodian support for the country's application for the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN and H.E. Senior Minister informed him about the procedure to be followed in order to receive this status.

The meeting with Chinese FM focussed on further strengthening the bilateral cooperation in which both Ministers talked about the upcoming visit to China by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and

the invitation extended by Samdech Tech to Chinese Prime Minister H.E. Li Keqiang to visit Cambodia next year as well as Chinese FM's invitation to H.E. Senior Minister to visit China that was accepted with pleasure by the latter. Both Ministers also discussed about the promotion of Mekong Countries-China and ASEAN-China cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues.

The meeting with ROK FM centered on the enhancement of bilateral cooperation and the coordination for ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting as both Ministers are co-chairs of this Meeting. The Ministers also had an exchange of views on the Korean Peninsular and on some regional and international issues of common concern.

Phnom Penh, 08 August 2017