



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of ASEAN

PRESS RELEASE

**“Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers (AMM)’ Retreat
29 January 2024, Luang Prabang, Lao People’s Democratic Republic”**

On 29 January 2024, at the invitation of **His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR), **His Excellency SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ (AMM) Retreat in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

The Ministers expressed their support for the Lao PDR’s priorities under its 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme “**ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience**”. Under “Enhancing Connectivity”, the four priorities are Integrating and Connecting Economies; Forging an Inclusive and Sustainable Future; Transforming for the Digital Future; and Promoting the Role of ASEAN Culture and the Arts for Inclusion and Sustainability. Under “Enhancing Resilience”, the five priorities are Developing Strategic Plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045; Enhancing ASEAN Centrality; Promoting Environmental Cooperation; Promoting the Role of Women and Children Towards the Transformation of Behaviourism in ASEAN; and Transforming ASEAN Health Development Resilience in a New Context.

The Ministers discussed ways forward to further advance ASEAN Community Building and commended the good progress towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 with 99% of actions lines addressed under the APSC



Blueprint 2025 whereas 92% of actions under the AEC Blueprint 2025 and 97% of strategic measures of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 are completed or in progress.

On the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, the Ministers emphasised the importance of taking an inclusive and holistic approach with all relevant stakeholders in developing the Strategic Plans of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 under Lao PDR's Co-Chairmanship of the High-Level Task Force with the permanent shepherd Malaysia with an aim to have them adopted as a package next year.

The Ministers underscored the important role of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in strengthening ASEAN Centrality and unity in engagements in the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, and encouraged external partners to contribute to the implementation of the four priority areas of the AOIP. They also welcomed continued interest by countries from outside the region to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and establish formal partnerships with ASEAN to promote practical and concrete cooperation based on mutual respect, understanding and interest.

During the Retreat, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** commended the efforts by ASEAN Member States to finalize the Biennial Resolution on the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone leading to its adoption by the First Committee of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, reaffirming the importance that ASEAN attaches to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Moreover, he welcomed the positive progress in implementing the objective-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN, and expressed Cambodia's commitment to further assist Timor-Leste in capacity building and its participation in all ASEAN meetings and activities.

On regional and international issues, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** highlighted that growing geopolitical and geoeconomic competition among great powers on top of many persistent and overlapping challenges has caused concern and anxiety for many countries around the world. In this context, he reiterated the importance of further strengthening ASEAN Centrality, and making use of ASEAN-led mechanisms to build strategic trust and deepen cooperation between ASEAN and its



partners in order to maintain and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

On the situation in Myanmar, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** welcomed the appointment of **His Excellency Alounkeo KITTIKHOUN** as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar for 2024 and Lao PDR's key initiatives to facilitate the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, which would constructively contribute to a peace process that is led and owned by Myanmar. In this regard, he welcomed the initiative by Thailand and Myanmar to scale up humanitarian assistance to those who have been affected in the border areas with the AHA Centre as part of the monitoring process.

On the sidelines of the AMM Retreat, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also had bilateral meetings with **His Excellency Saleumxay Kommasith**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, **His Excellency Bui Thanh Son**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, and **His Excellency Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, to strengthen bilateral relations and exchange view on issues of common interest and concern.

Phnom Penh, 30 January 2024

