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Press Release

**Outcomes of His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn's participation in the
46th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie and Bilateral Meetings in Kigali,
Republic of Rwanda**

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Jean-Noël BARROT, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, and His Excellency Mr. Olivier J.P. NDUHUNGIREHE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the 46th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie (CMF), held in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, under the theme: « *Thirty years after the Beijing Conference: the contribution of women in French-speaking countries* » from 19 to 20 November 2025,

On the sidelines of the CMF, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister** also undertook an official visit to the Republic of Rwanda and held bilateral meetings with several foreign counterparts from OIF member states.

I. Official visit to the Republic of Rwanda

On 18 November 2025, **His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a delegation to pay an Official Visit to the Republic of Rwanda to further enhance bilateral ties between the two countries.

During the visit, **His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn** paid a courtesy call on **His Excellency Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda and held bilateral talks with **His Excellency Mr. Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda.

On the bilateral talks with **H.E. Mr. Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, both sides expressed satisfaction with the growing bilateral relations between the two countries since the



establishment of diplomatic relations in 2005, particularly cooperation in the financial sector, marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between their national banks, and the air transport sector, for which both sides have reached a conclusion slated for signing soon.

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister recalled the history of war and the experience of genocide that our nation had endured and stressed that peace and national reconciliation are indispensable foundations for the country's economic and social development.

His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda expressed gratitude to the Royal Government of Cambodia for its strong cooperation in combating human trafficking and online scamming. In response, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister highlighted that human trafficking and online scamming are global challenges that require international cooperation, adding that the Royal Government of Cambodia has established a committee to combat these transnational crimes.

Both sides then signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultations and an Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.

On the afternoon of the same day, **His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn** paid a courtesy call on **His Excellency Dr. Justin Nsengiyumva**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda. During the courtesy call, **His Excellency Prime Minister** praised the enhanced bilateral ties between the two countries. He emphasized that the signing of the two bilateral documents by the two Foreign Ministers will pave the way for further strengthening the existing cooperation and exploring other potential areas for mutual benefit of Cambodia and Rwanda.

In response to a question regarding the Cambodia–Thailand border dispute, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister provided clarification on the facts of the issue, which enabled **His Excellency Prime Minister** to better understand the situation. On that note, **His Excellency Prime Minister** expressed appreciation for the information.

II. Participating in the 46th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie

During the plenary session on 19 November, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Cambodia's determination to actively contribute to the implementation of the Declaration of the Villers-Cotterêts Summit, aiming to foster a dynamic, united, and committed Francophonie for peace, democracy, and sustainable development.



He reiterated Cambodia's sustained efforts to promote the French language, notably through the reintroduction of French in 50 public high schools, the training of more than 300 teachers, the development of French-speaking university programs, and the promotion of a multilingual Francophonie, particularly through exchanges among youth in Southeast Asia. He stressed that youth and culture are powerful drivers of development, and called for strengthened South–South cooperation, support for local artists, and enhanced digital education and entrepreneurship within the Francophonie framework.

On geopolitical issues, he reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes, while highlighting the potential mediation role of the OIF.

During the discussion dedicated to women's contributions in Francophone countries, he underscored Cambodia's key achievements in gender equality through:

- improved access to education for girls;
- support for women's employment and entrepreneurship;
- increased participation of women in public administration (34%);
- deployment of nearly 900 Cambodian women in UN peacekeeping operations since 2006.

The plenary session successfully adopted the **Kigali Appeal**, aimed at accelerating progress toward gender equality in Francophone countries.

During the retreat session on 20 November 2025, under the theme "*What ambitions for OIF in reshaping the international landscape ?*", His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the need to:

- position the Francophonie as a balanced and influential voice on global issues—such as climate, artificial intelligence, and digital governance—while promoting a more inclusive, fair, and human-centered multilateralism;
- invest in education, digital technology, and inclusive economic;
- strengthen the capacities for anticipation, alert, and mediation to prevent armed conflicts;

He also stressed the imperative of fully implementing the core values of the Francophonie Charter—peace, democracy, human rights, diversity, and sustainable development.

On regional issues, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister noted the persistent tensions along the Cambodia–Thailand border, while the implementation of the Joint Declaration on peaceful settlement of disputes, signed in Kuala Lumpur on 26th October 2025 between the Prime Ministers of Cambodia and Thailand, has been suspended by Thailand.



His Excellency expressed sincere gratitude to the Secretary General for the OIF's constructive and unwavering support, reaffirming that peace, sovereignty, and respect for commitments are non-negotiable values.

III. Handover of the CMF presidency and the announcement of the 20th Summit

In the afternoon of 20 November, His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister formally assumed the presidency of the CMF, marking the handover of responsibility from France—the current president and host of the 19th Summit in Villers-Cotterêts—to Cambodia, the future host of the 20th Summit.

In his inaugural address, he conveyed heartfelt thanks to Rwanda for the successful organization of the 46th CMF, paid tribute to France for its two-year mandate, and expressed appreciation to the Secretary General for her steadfast dedication to a dynamic and value-driven Francophonie.

He reaffirmed Cambodia's firm commitment to ensuring the success of the **47th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie**, scheduled for 14 November 2026, and the **20th Francophonie Summit**, to be held on 15–16 November 2026 in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.

IV. Bilateral Meetings

In the margins of the CMF, His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with ministers and leaders of OIF member states to strengthen bilateral cooperation, namely:

1. Belgium – His Excellency Mr. Maxime PRÉVOT, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the close and trusting relationship between Cambodia and Belgium. Both sides welcomed the positive momentum in bilateral relations, illustrated through the Cooperation Program covering health, education, social protection, and demining. He expressed appreciation for Belgium's continued efforts to explore additional avenues of cooperation across all sectors;

His Excellency Mr. PRÉVOT reiterated Belgium's willingness to further intensify cooperation in priority sectors. Both sides highlighted the success of the first session of political consultations and agreed to hold the next session in Brussels in 2026. In relation to judicial cooperation, both ministers reaffirmed their commitment to finalizing the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. His Excellency Mr. PRÉVOT confirmed his intention to participate in the 20th Francophonie Summit in Siem Reap in 2026.



2. France – Her Excellency Mrs. Éléonore CAROIT, Delegate Minister for Francophonie and International Partnership

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister briefed Her Excellency Mrs. Caroit on preparations for the 20th Francophonie Summit to be held in 2026 in Siem Reap. Her Excellency conveyed her anticipation of the forthcoming political consultations between the two countries, emphasizing their role in further strengthening mutual trust, enhancing cooperation, and advancing shared priorities. She also expressed her intention to visit Cambodia in the near future to contribute to the preparations for the Summit.

3. Québec – His Excellency Mr. Christopher SKEETE, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to strengthening relations and cooperation with Québec, particularly within the Francophonie framework, and encouraged Québec's active support in mobilizing companies and stakeholders to participate in the Francophonie Village and FrancoTech events. Both sides expressed their readiness to explore additional avenues of cooperation across various fields, in the mutual interest of both parties.

4. Switzerland – His Excellency Mr. Ignazio CASSIS, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the steady growth in bilateral relations. Both ministers discussed ways to deepen cooperation. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister expressed gratitude for Switzerland's development assistance, particularly in the areas of health, demining, culture, and local governance. He highlighted the dedication of the late Dr. Beat RICHNER and Switzerland's continued commitment to supporting the Kantha Bopha hospitals. Switzerland expressed strong support for Cambodia's hosting of the 20th Francophonie Summit, particularly for the FrancoTech event. During the exchanges, several key topics were discussed, among them His Excellency **Deputy Prime Minister** briefed his counterparts on the current situation along the Cambodian–Thai border, reiterating Cambodia's commitment to peace, respect for bilateral agreements, and the peaceful settlement of disputes



Phnom Penh, 28 November 2025