



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Sessions with Canada and New Zealand ,
and the Bilateral Meeting with the Foreign Minister of New Zealand**

5 August 2021, via Videoconference



On 5 August 2021, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, participated in the **ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) Sessions with Canada and New Zealand**. He had a bilateral meeting with **The Hon Nanaia Mahuta**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand via videoconference prior to the ASEAN PMC with New Zealand and attended the ceremony to confer ASEAN Dialogue Partnership status to the United Kingdom, on the same day.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Canada

The meeting applauded the growing significance of ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations and committed to achieving good outcomes from the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration of ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership 2021-2025. ASEAN Ministers welcomed Canada's interest in elevating relations with ASEAN to Strategic Partnership and looked forward to having joint activities across all three pillars to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations in 2022. They expressed optimism that a negotiation on ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement could be launched in 2021 to serve as a milestone at this juncture.

On fighting Covid-19 pandemic, ASEAN Foreign Ministers highly appreciated Canada's cooperation in the implementation of ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. They welcomed Canada's contribution of CAD 3.5 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and CAD 4.5 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPEs) to support ASEAN's regional response.

In charting the future direction of ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations, Canada reaffirmed support for ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture and committed to further strengthen partnership in political-security, economic and socio-cultural areas including those outline under the ASEAN Outlook on Indo Pacific (AOIP), namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The Meeting also stressed the importance of ASEAN-Canada cooperation



in various areas encompassing post-pandemic recovery efforts, public health and education, trade and investment with a focus on digital economy, climate change and disaster management, promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and migrant workers, and narrowing the development gap.

During this Meeting, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn** welcomed Canada's proposal to hold a Commemorative Summit in 2022 to mark the 45th Anniversary of the ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations. He encouraged further efforts towards early realisation of an ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement so as to effectively tap into the vast potentials of the two regions. He called for greater cooperation on women, peace and security agenda and peacekeeping through capacity building programs and further support to ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC). **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** highlighted Cambodia 10-year national climate change strategic plan (2014-2023) and expressed his appreciation for the Canada's support to ASEAN through the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia and Least Developed Countries Fund. Taking this opportunity, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** thanked Canada for supporting Cambodia in education and human resource development, as well as regional integration efforts.

ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with New Zealand

The Meeting was co-chaired by **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn**, in Cambodia's capacity as the Country-Coordinator for ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations and **Minister Hon Nanaia Mahuta**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.

The Meeting recalled the successful convening of the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit, held in November 2020 via videoconference, to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations. To sustain the positive momentum of ASEAN-New Zealand relations, the Meeting agreed to intensify the implementation of commitments outlined in the Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Vision Statement on the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: A Legacy of Partnership, A Future Together. The Meeting also expressed satisfaction on the progress in implementing the Plan of Action to enhance the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2021-2025, in line with the endorsed key themes of "Peace, Prosperity, People and Planet", with a view to contribute to the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

ASEAN expressed appreciation for New Zealand's commitment to strengthening people-to-people exchanges through scholarships, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and short-term specialized training programmes. In this context, ASEAN thanked New Zealand for continuing to support short-term training programmes on disaster management through the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme, as well as assistance for climate-smart agricultural development in ASEAN Member States over the next five years, through the Global Research Alliance on Greenhouse Gases.

The Meeting welcomed the commencement of the negotiations to upgrade the AANZFTA and looked forward to the successor of the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP) which has so far contributed significantly to the enhancement of trade and economic capacities of ASEAN Member States.



The Meeting expressed desire to see the early conclusion of a high-quality regional Air Services Agreement between the Governments of the ASEAN Member States and New Zealand to provide a more open environment for air linkages and to facilitate greater ease of movement of people and goods. ASEAN welcomed New Zealand's continued support for the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, Initiative on ASEAN Integration Work Plan IV and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), and commitment to encourage advancement of cooperation in the areas of the digital economy, e-commerce, climate-smart agriculture, business and supply chains facilitation and MSMEs.


The Meeting thanked Cambodia, as the outgoing Country Coordinator, for steering the ASEAN-New Zealand partnership to achieve fruitful outcomes over the last three years (2018-2021), and expressed confidence that ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations will further flourish under the stewardship of Brunei Darussalam, as the incoming Country Coordinator for next three years.

Bilateral Meeting with the Foreign Minister of New Zealand

Prior to the ASEAN PMC Session with New Zealand, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** had a bilateral meeting with the **Hon Nanaia Mahuta**, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, through videoconference. Both sides exchanged views and reached common ground on various areas of cooperation to further enhance ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations, and to address regional and international issues of common concern and interest.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta expressed appreciation for Cambodia's excellent Coordinatorship of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations since August 2018. She also applauded Cambodia's achievements and efforts in vaccine rollout and social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic. **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** thanked New Zealand for providing assistance to Cambodia, including language training programs to support Cambodia's upcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022, mine actions, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programme for women who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ceremony to Confer ASEAN Dialogue Partnership Status to the United Kingdom

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn attended the **Ceremony on the Conferment of ASEAN Dialogue Partnership Status to the United Kingdom**, where he, along with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers, witnessed the signing of letters to this effect by the ASEAN Secretary-General and the Right Honourable Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom. During this ceremony, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab affirmed that the United Kingdom, as the first country to be accorded the status of ASEAN Dialogue Partnership in 25 years, is fully committed to supporting ASEAN Community-building efforts based on shared principles and aspirations for peace, security and prosperity in the region. He also pledged to further strengthen cooperation with ASEAN in COVID-19 pandemic response and socio-economic recovery, enhancing multilateral trading system, education, science and technology, climate change and clean energy, addressing cybersecurity and other regional and global challenges of common concern. Dato Erywan bin Perin Yusof, the Foreign Minister Brunei Darussalam as the ASEAN Chair, welcomed the United Kingdom as the 11th ASEAN Dialogue Partner and its commitment to stronger and mutually beneficial partnership with ASEAN. 

Phnom Penh, 5 August 2021

