



Briefing Note
Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Press Conference on the Outcomes of the 40th and 41st
ASEAN Summits and Related Summits
13 November 2022, 15:00 – 15:30, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



- *Members of the media,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I want to start by warmly welcoming everyone to today's press conference. Our journalists have already been provided with the updates about the meetings in daily media briefing, and detailed information about the outcomes can also be found in the Chairman's Statements of the 11 Summits. Therefore, I will only focus on issues of greatest importance, and then open the floor for questions.

What Cambodia has done over the past few days is a testimony to the country's leading role, as the ASEAN Chair, in regional and global affairs, and growing capacity and capability in hosting the world's premier events such as the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits. Under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together," Cambodia as the incumbent ASEAN Chair has brought together Leaders from **29** countries and international institutions, and adopted and noted **101** outcome documents on a wide range of priorities across the three community pillars, among which I would like to underscore three major documents, namely (1) ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together, (2) ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN, and (3) ASEAN Leaders' Statement on ASEAN Connectivity Post-2025 Agenda.

In the last four days, ASEAN and External Partners had extensive and constructive discussions on many of the most critical issues facing our region and the world at the moment such as worrying security situation, economic slowdown, pandemic, climate change, foods and energy crisis, just to name a few, and potential and practical areas of cooperation that we can forge ahead together.

ASEAN Leaders are also satisfied with the progress of the three ASEAN Community Pillars in advancing their respective blueprints and sectoral plans of action against the backdrop of multiple and overlapping challenges, most notably the devastating impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the life and livelihood of our people. In addition, ASEAN Leaders also had separate interfaces with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, and ASEAN Youth to hear their views and concerns, and understand how they can contribute to regional agenda.

On the Timor-Leste's application for ASEAN membership, ASEAN Leaders agreed in principle to admit Timor-Leste to be the 11th member of ASEAN, and grant an observer status that allows Timor-Leste's participation in all ASEAN Meetings including at the plenary sessions of the summits. ASEAN Leaders also tasked the ASEAN Coordinating Council to formulate the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's full membership and report it to the 42nd ASEAN Summit for adoption.

With regard to our external relations, one more country, which is Ukraine, just acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), bringing the total number of High Contracting Parties to 50. It was unprecedented that 7 external partners acceded to the TAC in a single year. This clearly shows that ASEAN has become a centre of gravity, drawing partners from across the world to collaborate with member states to advance mutual interests.

The 2nd ASEAN-Australia Summit welcomed new areas of practical cooperation, and looks forward to the commencement of Australia for ASEAN Future Initiatives. Moreover, ASEAN and Canada held the Commemorative Summit to mark the 45th Anniversary of

ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, and committed to elevating the relations to Strategic Partnership. The 25th ASEAN-China Summit also expressed strong commitment and determination to actualize our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and further enhance our economic relationship through possible upgrading of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement. The Joint Statement of the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was also adopted at this Summit.

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and the ASEAN-India Friendship Year, we announced the establishment of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We also look forward to the early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement review. The 25th ASEAN-Japan Summit commended good progress in our relations, and look forward to the commemoration of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation next year. In addition, ASEAN Leaders welcomed Japan's intention to elevate our relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The 23rd ASEAN-ROK Summit was pleased with good progress in the implementation of our joint vision, and welcomed the ROK's intention to pursue an ASEAN-ROK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Also, the 10th ASEAN-US Summit agreed to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which will lead to the increase in scope and depth of our cooperation covering a wide range of areas of mutual interest. Cognisant of the good progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, the 12th ASEAN-UN Summit underlined the significance of the Comprehensive Partnership to enhance complementarity between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) 2030.

We welcomed the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) and commended the framework's contribution to regional priorities. The 17th East Asia Summit (EAS) noted with satisfaction the substantive progress made under the Manila Plan of Action to advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development

Initiative (2018-2022). Moreover, Cambodia hosted the 2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue under the theme of “Post-COVID-19 Comprehensive Recovery” with the participation of ASEAN Leaders, external partners, and heads of international institutions. Finally, we also took the opportunity to announce the substantial conclusion of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) Upgrade Negotiations.

Now, let me address some of the most outstanding regional issues discussed at the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits as follows:

On Myanmar’s political crisis, the Meetings commended the utmost efforts of Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair and the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair in implementing the ASEAN’s Five-Point Consensus with a view to help Myanmar restore peace and stability, and return to normalcy. In this sense, ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Leaders’ Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, which will serve as a very important document in guiding ASEAN’s collective efforts going forward to address the complexity and difficulty of this political crisis.

On the South China Sea (SCS), we continue to underscore the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the SCS, and the need for full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the SCS (DOC). Further, we have been encouraged by the positive momentum in the ongoing negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the SCS (COC), particularly the recent resumption of in-person negotiations in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh this year, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. We look forward to the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

On the situation in Ukraine, which I can say is the hottest stone, we could see different positions, especially during the East Asia Summit. I am glad that Cambodia could host this Meeting where

parties with divergent positions could exchange frank views on this topic. We reaffirmed our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the creation of an enabling environment for the peaceful resolution of conflict. We also called for facilitating rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine.

On the Korean Peninsula, we expressed our concern over the launch of a ballistic missile over Japan and considered such action a security threat to the region. We called on the DPRK to abide by all relevant UNSC resolutions and to refrain from further nuclear tests. We urged all parties concerned to avoid escalating the situation, exercise utmost self-restraint and create an environment conducive to peaceful dialogue. We expressed support for international efforts and diplomatic means to achieve a complete, verifiable and irreversible peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

ASEAN welcomed any initiatives from external partners that aim to contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity. Most importantly, they have to be in line with the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific, and they must not be used against another party or as a tool for major power rivalry. ASEAN Leaders also adopted (1) the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Mainstreaming Four Priority Areas of the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific and (2) the ASEAN Roadmap on Promoting ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific, which is the initiative of Cambodia.

These are key outcomes that I want to emphasize and share with everyone this afternoon. I wish to take this opportunity to thank ASEAN member states, our external partners and the international institutions for participating and supporting our Chairmanship this year. Further, my appreciation goes to the National Committee for the Preparation of the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, the

ASEAN Secretariat, and everyone for spending day and night to make all these meetings happen smoothly, safely and comfortably.

I want to conclude by conveying my appreciation to H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi on the successful completion of his tenure as the Secretary-General of ASEAN at the end of this year, and I wish him well in his future endeavor. It is indeed a great honor and pride for Cambodia and her people to have successfully hosted the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits.

Now, I open the floor for questions. Thank you.