



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting between H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, and
H.E. Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States
on 13 May 2022, in Washington D.C.

On the sideline of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit on 13 May 2022, in Washington D.C. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Anthony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America. The meeting aimed to promote Cambodia-U.S. relations, as well as cooperation on regional and international issues of common interest.

On bilateral relations, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn and His Excellency Blinken noted with satisfaction the good cooperation between Cambodia and the United States in many areas, such as increasing economic exchange, health, education, mine clearance, counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, cultural heritage protection, MIA/POW, repatriation program and people-to-people exchange. His Excellency Prak Sokhonn underlined that trade is the best example of the positive cooperation between our two countries and expressed hope that the GSP scheme will be soon renewed to further support the economic development and Cambodian workers in the GFT sectors, the majority of which are women. He also reiterated Cambodia's gratitude to the U.S. for its continued support to Cambodia's development in many sectors and most recently in the fight against COVID-19. H.E. Anthony Blinken expressed the U.S. readiness to further support Cambodia's development and to actively work with Cambodia to enhance political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.



On the issues of human rights and democracy, responding to the U.S. concern, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn reaffirmed the full commitment of the Cambodian Government to an inclusive political process and freedom of expression. He highlighted the multi-party elections held regularly since the early 1990s which have been assessed as free and fair by tens of thousands of local and international observers, the existence of hundreds of media establishments and wide social media penetration in Cambodia, the operation of trade unions for workers' rights protection and thousands of NGOs and civil societies to promote people's rights and welfare. His Excellency Prak Sokhonn sought the U.S. reconsideration on unjustly imposed visa restriction related to repatriation issue, while reassuring his American counterpart of Cambodia's full cooperation on the process.

On international cooperation, regional and international issues, His Excellency Anthony Blinens thanked Cambodia for contributing to the successful convening of the ASEAN-US Special Summit and for supporting the elevation of ASEAN-US relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two ministers exchanged views on the crisis in Myanmar, expressed appreciation for Cambodia's efforts, as the ASEAN Chair, and Special Envoy to expedite the progress on the implementation of the Five-point Consensus, in particular on three urgent priorities, namely ending violence, ensuring delivery of humanitarian assistance to all the people in most need and engendering an inclusive political dialogue among all parties concerned. The two ministers also touched on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, its security and economic implications and efforts to resolve the crisis. On the issue of Ream naval base, His Excellency Prak Sokhonn reiterated Cambodia's firm adherence to the Constitution of Cambodia which does not permit foreign military base or presence on Cambodian soil and underlined that the renovation of the base serves solely to strengthen the Cambodian naval capacities to protect its maritime integrity and combat crimes.

The two ministers expressed shared resolve to work closely together to further promote the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between Cambodia and the United States in all areas.



Phnom Penh, 16 May 2022