



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Press Release**

**On the Outcomes of the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting on COVID-19  
via Video Conference  
9 April 2020, Phnom Penh**

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1. On 9 April 2020, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting via video conference, in which he discussed and exchanged views with the Foreign Ministers of other ASEAN Member States on regional collective response to the rapid outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
  2. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed strong commitment to further advance joint actions to tackle COVID-19 and the social and economic impacts that the pandemic has brought about to the region, particularly the ASEAN Community building process, through promoting policy coordination, sharing experiences and best practices, and exploring the possibility to provide mutual assistance among ASEAN Member States.
  3. The Ministers agreed to establish the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund with the objective of mobilizing financial resources to address the shortage of medical supplies, support the research and development of medicines and vaccines for COVID-19, and prepare for emergency responses in the future. They also expressed their commitment to ensure the regional supply chains and open markets as well as work closely together to mitigate the impacts of the regional and global economic recession, restore the confidence of consumers and business community, and maintain socio-economic stability.
  4. The Ministers recognized the need to engage constructively with external partners, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners and international institutions in order to broaden collective efforts in the global fight against the pandemic.
  5. During the video conference, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn briefed the ACC Meeting of Cambodia's efforts to contain COVID-19 and mitigate the



economic and social challenges and reiterated Cambodia's firm determination to work closely with ASEAN to be part of the global endeavor against the pandemic. His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister also proposed the priorities that ASEAN should focus, as follows:

- Forging regional collaboration to enhance readiness and responsive measures to mitigate and eliminate the impacts of COVID-19 through enhancing policy coordination among ASEAN Member States;
- Working together to strengthen our capacities to address the pandemic through exchanging technical expertise and experiences, sharing diagnostic and treatment good practices, and exploring joint research and development on medicines and vaccines;
- Continuing providing necessary assistance and support to ASEAN citizens, in particular those who are facing difficulties due to travel restrictions, temporary factory shutdown, and border closure as well as ASEAN citizens who cannot get access to the consular support and assistance from their diplomatic missions in third countries;
- Enhancing close consultation to minimize disruptions to regional trade and supply chains as well as mitigate social and economic impacts by keeping the ASEAN markets open and ensuring the flow of essential goods and supplies, especially food and medical supplies; and
- Working swiftly and decisively with ASEAN dialogue partners and international organizations, as well as other multilateral and regional development banks to address not only this public health challenge but also deploy a robust, coherent, coordinated, and rapid financial package to tackle social and economic impacts.

6. The ACC Meeting was concluded with words of solidarity from all ASEAN Foreign Ministers who spoke in their respective languages: “[We] stand united with our ASEAN Member States in the fight against COVID-19.”

7. The Meeting looked forward to the fruitful outcomes of the ASEAN Special Summit on COVID-19 and the ASEAN Plus Three Special Summit on COVID-19 via video conference to be held on 14 April 2020.

Phnom Penh, 09 April 2020

