



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

**PRESS RELEASE**

**On the Outcomes of the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International  
Cooperation: Combating COVID-19 with Solidarity**

**18 June 2020, Phnom Penh**

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On 18 June 2020, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation: Combating COVID-19 with Solidarity. The Meeting was initiated by the People's Republic of China and chaired by His Excellency State Councilor WANG Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China and participated by ministers from 26 partner countries of the Belt and Road Cooperation.

The meeting acknowledged the need for stronger international solidarity, mutual support and multilateral cooperation in order to effectively address the COVID-19 pandemic and its grave socio-economic impact worldwide, without discrimination, stigmatization, racism and xenophobia. Sincere condolence was offered for the many lives lost to COVID-19 and gratitude was expressed to those who made sacrifices in dealing with the pandemic.

The Meeting recognized the central role of the United Nations system in catalyzing and coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19, particularly the key leadership role of the World Health Organization.

The Meeting reaffirmed commitment to further promote international cooperation in line with the spirit and the principle concurred at the Leaders' Roundtable of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, in pursuit of high-standard, people-centered and sustainable development. To build a health Silk Road, the Meeting underscored the importance of timely sharing of information and best practices, and enhancement of equitable and affordable access to health product, including vaccines which should be recognized as global public goods.


The meeting also discussed ways and means to boost connectivity and promote economic recovery through deepening practical cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

-1-



During the video conference, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn informed the meeting on successful campaign of the Royal Government of Cambodia in controlling the COVID-19 outbreak and Cambodia's contribution to the global effort. He highly commended the leading role and contribution of China to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. His Excellency Deputy Prime joined others in expressing appreciation to the People's Republic of China for convening this important meeting that would forge international resolve to overcome the present pandemic and promote post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery. His Excellency Prak Sokhonn underlined Cambodia's support for the effort to build the "Health Silk Road" and emphasized the following points:

- Without international cooperation and solidarity, we cannot win the fight against this pandemic. Any politicization of the outbreak or resorting to a blame game will only diminish the benefits of the international anti-pandemic efforts.
- We need to focus on strengthening collective capacities to address this public health crisis through exchanging technical expertise and experiences, good practices, and exploring joint research and development of medicines and vaccines. In this regard, Cambodia supports the creation of a "Health Silk Road" initiative.
- In the current context of a multilateralism of health under attack, we should reaffirm our commitment to support the role of the WHO. The WHO must be given the means to better fulfil its normative mission.
- While the Covid-19 curve has been flattened in some parts of the world, it is now time to start exploring ways, and securing the means, to create a conducive environment for a post-pandemic economic recovery.
- Emerging markets and developing countries are critical both as suppliers and markets. Ensuring unfettered connectivity amongst us will strengthen our economies.
- As a firm believer in multilateralism, and as an active actor in the **Belt and Road Cooperation** framework, Cambodia calls for deeper engagement of all State and non-State actors in various Belt and Road Cooperation Programs, building especially on its complementarities with the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Meeting adopted the Joint Statement of the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation: Combatting COVID-19 with Solidarity, which well reflects the common spirit of solidarity of the participants and the affirmation of their commitment to multilateral cooperation, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative in combatting COVID-19 pandemic, promote socio-economic recovery and furthering effort to build a community of shared future. 

Phnom Penh, 19 June 2020.

