



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**Press Release
On the Outcomes of the General Debate during 72nd Session of the
United Nations General Assembly and Other Meetings
19-25 September 2017, New York, USA**

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia led a Cambodian delegation to attend the General Debate of 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, under the theme: "Focusing on people: striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet" and other meetings from 19-25 September 2017 in New York, United States of America.

General Debate of 72nd Session of United Nations General Assembly

In his statement delivered on 22 September, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn raised various topics which included Cambodia's view in regard to the development of the multipolar world; vulnerability of Cambodia towards climate change; Cambodia's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Cambodia's contribution to peacekeeping operations; legitimate actions of the Royal Government of Cambodia against law-violating individual and institutions; unjust accusation against every actions of the Royal Government of Cambodia by describing as restriction to human rights and democracy in accordance to circumstances of superpowers.

Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Members of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (IOF), (18 September 2017):

The meeting focused on "Peace and Development", which is stipulated in the Charter of the International Organization of the Francophonie and Declaration of Saint Boniface in 2006 for consideration on collective actions, especially in the framework of United

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Nations. Moreover, it reminded the collective development formula that is stated in the United Nations Summit in 2005, "there is no development without peace, there is no peace without development". This meeting also set the theme for the 33rd Ministerial Meeting as "New economies: the blue economy and the green economy, new drive of growth, social inclusion and sustainable development", which will be held from 23-26 November 2017 in Togo.

Summit on a Global Pact for Environment (19 September 2017):

Led by France, this meeting officially launched the consultation on a Global Pact for the Environment in order to gather inputs related to challenges and opportunities that can be ascended from this Pact to determine the roles and responsibilities of the states and enterprises.

Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement-NAM (20 September 2017):

The theme of this meeting was the "Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measure, in violation of International Law and the Human Rights of the People subject to them". The Meeting adopted two documents, namely the Declaration of the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Palestine and the Political Declaration of New York, which denounced Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measure. Cambodia also raised about its experiences suffered from economic sanction and unilateral measures, which has never been solution for peace and prosperity.

Informal Ministerial Meeting of the Confidence on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) (20 September 2017)

Asia Security Concept and Strategy will continue to be an important issue for consideration by CICA. CICA shall continue to do more on Confidence Building Measures. The whole meetings considered wider areas of economic cooperation and development in relation to the UN 2030 Agenda. And, One Belt and One Road Initiative is recognized as a tool to boost economic cooperation and development. The Meeting also mentioned about the issue of transformation of CICA from a Security Forum to

International Organization and CICA agreed to make a publication of the 25th Anniversary of CICA Establishment and Preparation of CICA's Summit in 2018 in China.

Asia Cooperation Dialogue Foreign Ministers' Meeting (21 September 2017):

The meetings focused mainly on the 2016-2017 Activities Report and Progress of six pillars of ACD Cooperation, namely (1) Connectivity (2) Science, Technology and Innovation (3) Education and Human Resources Development (4) Interrelation of Food, Water, and Energy Security (5) Culture and Tourism (6) Promoting Approaches to Inclusiveness and Sustainable Development. Cambodia, who is the co-prime mover on the fifth pillar, reported to the meeting about the result of the High Level Meeting of Officials in charge of Tourism and the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting on Tourism and the 1st UNESCO and UNWTO International Conference on Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Cities from 11 to 16 June 2017 in Siem Reap.

41st Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China (22 September 2017):

In this meeting, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China has extensively discussed and deliberated in an interactive dialogue on issues of importance to the Group of 77 and China, namely (i) Financing for development and strengthening the framework for International Cooperation on Tax Matters; and (ii) The role of the Group of 77 in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda in the light of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the "Charter of Algiers" adopted by the First Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in 1967.

Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (22 September 2017)

LDCs welcomed the signing of agreement on the establishment of Technology Bank and the agreement on provision of fund in support of this Bank. The Meeting adopted the Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries, which serves as roadmap in accelerating development of LDCs and implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action. Cambodia briefed the meeting about its shift from low-income countries towards the lower middle-income countries. Cambodia also welcomed the operationalization of the Technology Bank in Turkey in the near future.

Bilateral Meetings (21-22 September 2017)

H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn also held a number of fruitful bilateral meetings with Honorable María Angela Holguin Cuellar, Foreign Ministers of Colombia; Honorable Bruno Eduardo R. Parrilla, Foreign Minister of Cuba; Honorable Mark Field, Minister for Asia and the Pacific; Honorable Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Madam Susan A. Thornton, Acting Assistant Secretary of State of the U.S.

During the bilateral meeting with Honorable María Angela Holguin Cuellar, Foreign Minister of Colombia, H.E. Senior Minister Prak Sokhonn signed an agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of Colombia on the exemption of visa for holders of Diplomatic and Service/Official Passports.

The Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAMM) and Related Meetings (22 - 23 September 2017)

These were regular meetings among the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States with their counterparts at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Besides the IAMM, ASEAN Foreign Ministers met the Honorable **Antonio Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Honorable **Miroslav Lajčák**, President of the 72nd Session of the UNGA (AUMM). The ASEAN Foreign Ministers also had separate meetings with their counterparts from the Pacific Alliance and the MERCOSUR to discuss on how to foster ASEAN's external relations with these Regional Groupings.

At the **IAMM**, the Ministers noted the List of ASEAN Candidatures to the United Nations (UN) Bodies and other International Organizations, in which there were two Cambodia's candidatures for a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2019 and as Vice President of the 73rd session of the UNGA for September 2018 to September 2019. The ASEAN Ministers underscored the need to support each other on ASEAN candidature as so in order to make ASEAN remain relevant and proactive at all relevant UN bodies. The Ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues. The Ministers were briefed on recent developments in Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar

and issued ASEAN Chairman's Statement on the Humanitarian Situation in the Rakhine State. The Philippines also briefed the Meeting on the preparations for the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits to be held in November 2017.

As for the **AUMM**, the Meeting had candid discussions on how to further enhance ASEAN-UN cooperation and reviewed the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2016-2020). The Meeting took note of the Joint Report on the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership for the period of September 2016 to August 2017 and agreed to institutionalize the Secretariat-to-Secretariat Meetings twice a year in Jakarta and in New York on the sidelines of the AUMM. The Meeting had fruitful exchange of views on regional and international issues of common concerns such as counter terrorism, prevention of violent extremism, regional security and migration, and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Promoting Complementarities between ASEAN and the UN. The Meeting was briefed by the Philippines on the preparations for the 9th ASEAN-UN Summit to be held in November 2017.

In order to further enhance ASEAN's relations with the Pacific Alliance, **the 4th ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting** was convened and co-chaired by H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Social Republic of Viet Nam and H.E. María Angela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, the Pacific Alliance Pro-Tempore Presidency. The Meeting was briefed on the developments in ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance. The Ministers were pleased with the finalization of the ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Work Plan 2017-2018: Fulfillment of mandates and future directions, and looked forward to its full and timely implementation. The Work Plan clearly demonstrates a strong joint commitment of ASEAN Member States and the Pacific Alliance to foster cooperation in economic cooperation, education and people-to-people contacts, science, technology and innovation, and sustainable development.

In addition to the above, the 2nd ASEAN-MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting was held and co-chaired by H.E. Retno LP Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Honorable Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil. The

Ministers emphasized the importance of exploring ways to further strengthen economic relations between MERCOSUR and ASEAN Member States, including in sustainable development cooperation, tourism, connectivity, innovation and people-to-people links and looked forward to promoting regular exchanges of information on opportunities for trade and investment, in particular the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs) between the two regions. The Meeting shared the views on the need to revitalize the ASEAN-MERCOSUR cooperation and stressed the importance for regular meetings between the Ambassadors of the MERCOSUR and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in Jakarta to finalize the ASEAN-MERCOSUR Plan of Action as well as agreed to start the Secretariat-to-Secretariat cooperation. The Meeting issued the Press Statement as an outcome document of the Second ASEAN-MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 26 September 2017

