



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**The Outcomes of the Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting
On 14 July 2021, via Video Conference.**

On 14 July 2021, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, participated in the Special ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting via videoconference. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, and H.E. Mr. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America. The Secretary-General of ASEAN also attended the meeting.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken exchanged views on the importance of revitalization of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations, cooperation to address economic recovery and to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, including other issues of common concern and interest in the region and beyond.

ASEAN appreciated the U.S.' commitment in revitalizing partnership and cooperation with ASEAN, in particular in the face of multi-faceted regional and global challenges. ASEAN welcomed the new U.S. administration's commitment to multilateralism as reflected by the renewed engagement with major international organizations and institutions in addressing pressing global issues such as Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and sustainable development. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers thanked Secretary of State Antony Blinken for reaffirming the United States' support for ASEAN centrality and ASEAN Community building efforts in line with the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

The Ministers agreed to strengthen ASEAN-U.S. cooperation in order to curb the Covid-19 pandemic, mitigating its impacts, engendering speedy socio-economic recovery, and building resilience against future health-related crisis. ASEAN welcomed the United States' contribution to ASEAN Covid-19 initiatives, including ASEAN Covid-19 Response Fund and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.



Secretary of State Anthony Blinken highlighted the United States' role as the largest single donor to COVAX Facility and support to the region in the fight against Covid-19 with contribution of \$112 million in emergency health and humanitarian assistance to ASEAN countries.

The Ministers expressed optimism that the agreed Plan of Action 2021-2025 to enhance ASEAN-US strategic partnership, and cooperation through sub-regional mechanisms, including the Mekong-U.S. initiative will bring about fruitful outcomes in many existing areas of collaboration, including in trade and investment, MSMEs, energy and infrastructure and narrowing the development gap, and transnational security issues.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers and U.S. Secretary of State also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues with a significant bearing on regional peace, stability and security.

During the Meeting, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn encouraged the U.S. to contribute to ASEAN's effort to end the COVID-19 pandemic and emerge stronger from its impact, while also stressing the importance of vaccine multilateralism and equal access to affordable and efficient vaccines. He expressed confidence that the enhanced ASEAN-U.S. partnership will significantly benefit ASEAN Community building.

Regarding political-security issues, he shared other Ministers' concern on increasing complexities of the challenges arising from geopolitical competition, trade and tech war, climate change and other threats. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts to promote and protect human rights and democracy, while pointing out the need to recognize that no one size fits all. On the South China Sea, he encouraged all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint to avoid further escalating the situation and to seek a peaceful solution to disputes in accordance with the international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. Efforts should be focused on expediting the conclusion of a substantive and effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and full implementation of the agreed measures to maintain peace, stability, and security in the region. He also touched on Myanmar crisis, in which he underscored the principle of non-interference and the indispensable role of peace, stability, and prosperity of Myanmar for the region's stability and ASEAN Community Building. He underlined ASEAN Leaders' five-point consensus reached on 24 April 2021, and ASEAN's political will in supporting a peaceful solution through dialogues.



Phnom Penh, 14 July 2021