



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
the 24th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, and
the 30th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting**

4 October 2021, via videoconference



On 4 October 2021, at the invitation of the Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, 2nd Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 24th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting, and the 30th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting via videoconference.

24th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting

The Meeting exchanged views on the recent developments of the Sectoral Bodies under APSC and welcomed the significant progress made in implementing the APSC Blueprint 2025, despite the COVID-19 disruption. The Meeting endorsed the report of the 24th APSC Council Meeting to be submitted to the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits for notation. In moving forward, the Ministers underlined the importance of completing the remaining action lines under this Blueprint to ensure an effective ASEAN Community Building process.

The Ministers also touched on issues of common interest and concern with bearing on regional peace, security and stability. They reaffirmed ASEAN's strong commitment to upholding ASEAN Centrality and unity in ASEAN-led mechanisms and promoting confidence between ASEAN and external partners. The Meeting also agreed on encouraging greater participation of youth and women in building peace and security.

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister joined other ASEAN Member States in applauding the advancements made in implementing the APSC Blueprint. He expressed concern that the rise of geopolitical tension and major power rivalries may escalate arm races and



destabilize regional peace. In this regard, he stressed the importance of upholding ASEAN's principles in preserving the South East Asian region as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and the signing of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty by the 5 Nuclear-power nations. He informed the Meeting on the recent launch of the "Friends of ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre" in Phnom Penh to support the Centre's activities on humanitarian aspects of demining.

He expressed concerns on the job security and well-being of migrant workers in the region, and underlined Cambodia's support for the recommendations of the 14th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) on extending social protection to migrant workers, and mobilizing international support for their upskill and reskill programs.

30th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting

The Ministers exchanged views on ASEAN's key initiatives in response to COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (ARRMS), among others.

The Ministers agreed to channel more resources toward the full and effective implementation of these initiatives. They shared their views on the need to expedite priority tasks such as in re-opening safe and secure cross-border travels across the region, enhancing connectivity, digital economy, and innovation.

The Ministers recognized that the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework (ATCAF) and the ARRMS are crucial for gradually returning the region to the state of normalcy, and to boost ASEAN's preparedness for future regional health crises. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged early operationalization of these two initiatives.

At the Meeting, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** expressed satisfaction with the progress of the ACRF implementation, and reiterated the importance of the effective monitoring and evaluation framework, as well as guidelines for engaging various stakeholders and external partners who wish to support this Framework.

He urged for the early finalization of the host-country selection and establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), to contribute to enhancing regional health system which is the first among the five broad strategic areas of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF).



He also underlined the importance of the ATCAF’s implementation to allow travel and business activities across the region to gradually return to normalcy, without compromising on public health safety, and looked forward to the early establishment of a Permanent Task Force to start its operation.

On Timor-Leste’s bid for ASEAN membership, H.E. Deputy Prime Minister reiterated Cambodia’s support for Timor-Leste’s application, and encouraged the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community pillars to expedite their respective Fact-finding Missions so that ASEAN can come up with the roadmap and timelines for Timor-Leste’s accession to the grouping. He also expressed support on further engagement with Timor-Leste in various capacity building programmes within the ASEAN frameworks.

The Ministers also discussed preparations for the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and Its Related Summits scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 October 2021.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM)

The Meeting deliberated on key issues including the ASEAN Community building efforts, political and security aspects, matters concerning external relations, and other pressing regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

The Ministers welcomed the progress made in achieving ASEAN’s 2021 key deliverables and looked forward to the subsequent adoption of these deliverables by the ASEAN Leaders at the upcoming ASEAN Summits.

The Meeting exchanged views on strengthening and expanding constructive engagements with ASEAN external partners. The Meeting agreed on commencing ASEAN-UK cooperation framework and preparation of a five-year ASEAN-UK Action Plan. It was agreed that Brunei Darussalam serve as the first Country Coordinator for ASEAN-UK dialogue relations for 2021-2024. The Meeting also agreed with the proposals made by China and Russia to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China and ASEAN-Russia Relations this year.

The Meeting also exchanged views on regional and international issues and reaffirmed common desire to upholding the spirit of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), nuclear disarmament, in the context of the evolving regional architecture that is marred with major power rivaleries and tensions.



The Ministers discussed on how to expedite smooth delivery of ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and emphasized on the urgent need to achieve progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus, beyond the relief provision.

During the Meeting, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** congratulated Brunei Darussalam for the commendable chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 in realizing many important deliverables. On external relations, in Cambodia's capacity as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Russia relations, he briefed the meeting on the upcoming 4th ASEAN-Russia Summit and its outcome documents. He also reiterated Cambodia's support for the proposed establishment of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by both China and Australia.

On regional and international issues, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** expressed concerns on the increasing geopolitical tensions and major power rivalries that could jeopardize stability, peace and security in the region. He reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the objectives and principles outlined in the ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia, Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). On Myanmar and implementation of the five-point consensus, he also shared major lessons learnt from the long but successful process of peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

As the incoming chair of ASEAN in 2022, **H.E. Deputy Prime Minister** also briefed the Meeting on the initial schedules and arrangements for some key events next year.

Phnom Penh, 5 October 2021

