

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS** AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

Outcome of Samdech Techo Hun Sen's Working Visit to the United States to participate in the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit, on12-13 May 2022, in Washington D.C.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, made a working visit to the United States of America to participate in the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit which was held from 12th to 13th May 2022, in Washington D.C. He was accompanied by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Senior Minister Sun Chanthol, Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Hang Choun Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, and other high-level delegates. The Summit was a milestone event to mark 45 years of dialogue relations between ASEAN and the U.S. and to chart the future direction of ASEAN-U.S. partnership.

As the ASEAN Chair, Samdech Techo Prime Minister co-chaired with The Honorable President Joe Biden the plenary session of the Summit, and along with other ASEAN leaders, attended other programs, including a state dinner, a bipartisan working lunch hosted by The Honorable House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a discussion hosted by Her Excellency Vice President Kamala Harris, and interaction with American business leaders.

The Leaders of ASEAN and the U.S. reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthen and build a more comprehensive ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations, which have long been indispensable to ASEAN and the U.S. as well as for the broader

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Email: mfaic@mf

region and the international community. These relations have been the cornerstone for promoting and maintaining peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region.

In celebrating the 45th anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations this year, both sides committed to establish an ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial at the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit to be held in November 2022, in Cambodia.

In the course of two days, the Leaders discussed and exchanged views on many areas of cooperation, ranging from fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, promoting stronger economic ties, promoting maritime cooperation, enhancing people-to-people connectivity, supporting sub-regional development, leveraging technologies and promoting innovation, addressing climate change, and preserving peace and building trust. They adopted the Joint Vision Statement reaffirming commitment to further enhance ASEAN-US partnership, particularly in these areas.

On maritime cooperation and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen emphasized that multilateralism and international cooperation are the two essential pillars for ensuring and maintaining security, stability, and regional and global development. He conveyed gratitude to the United States for assisting the fight against COVID-19 in the ASEAN region, which has enabled full re-opening of socio-economic activities in Cambodia, since early November 2021.

At the Capitol Hill, Samdech Techo Prime Minister focused his address on economic cooperation, trade, investment and democracy in Cambodia. He noted with satisfaction the sustained momentum of cooperation under the ASEAN-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Work Plan and the Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Work Plan. He spoke to American business leaders, later during the day, on the immediate priorities to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and to revitalize all sectors, aiming to further boost regional economic growth and promote ASEAN competitiveness, resilience, inclusiveness and sustainable development.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister encouraged the United States to provide stronger supports for the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, promotion of physical and digital infrastructure connectivity. He also called for an enhanced cooperation in the field of public health, and the strengthening of the global health architecture for future pandemics in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

During the discussion on Climate Action, Clean Energy Transformation and Sustainable Infrastructure, Samdech Techo Prime Minister welcomed the U.S.'s renewed commitment to the climate change agenda and its much-applauded return to the Paris Agreement. He underscored that Cambodia's desire to deepen cooperation in addressing climate change issues, biodiversity conservation, environment and transition to clean energy, green growth as well as to promote sustainable development in the region. He touched on the importance of the new ASEAN-U.S. Energy Cooperation Work Plan (2021-2025) and lauded the first ASEAN-U.S. Energy Ministerial Meeting held last September. He strongly emphasized that as a low carbon emitter, Cambodia is fully committed to contributing in this global effort.

On infrastructure, Samdech Techo underlined the need for reinvigorating regional and global value and supply chains in order to reboot economic recovery from the detrimental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Samdech Techo Prime Minister stressed the importance of synergizing the ASEAN Master Plan for Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), the ASEAN-U.S. Connect, the USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-Commerce (IGNITE) and the Blue Dot Network. Moreover, he expressed Cambodia's enthusiasm in exploring the possibility of an Electric Vehicle Strategy, which could support the development of urban smart transportation systems throughout the ASEAN Community.

During the Plenary Session of the Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister and other ASEAN leaders expressed support for the enhancement of ASEAN-US dialogue relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and committed to working closely with United States to ensure that the cooperation in all prorts fields identified during the two-day deliberations will bring tangible mutual benefits to the

peoples of ASEAN and the United States, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability and growing prosperity.

On regional and international issues, Samdech Techo Prime Minister reiterated Cambodia's position in relations to the Ukraine-Russia crisis and urged for the continuation of a comprehensive political dialogue to end hostilities and restore peace. Cambodia fully supports the UN Secretary-General's efforts to resolve the humanitarian crisis and to find a peaceful solution to end the conflict. On the situation in Myanmar, Samdech Techo Prime Minister stressed Cambodia's strong commitment to bring progress on three immediate priorities, namely to end violence, ensure the delivery humanitarian assistance to all the people in most need, and build a conducive environment to enable a political dialogue among all parties concerned. He also stated Cambodia's consistent position to maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and cooperation. Samdech Techo Prime Minister took the opportunity to reaffirm Cambodia's commitment to strictly abide by the provisions of the Constitution of Cambodia which does NOT permit any foreign military bases on Cambodia's territory.

In closing the Special Summit, Samdech Techo Prime Minister thanked The Honorable President Joe Biden for committing to support Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN and look forward to welcoming him to the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Cambodia in November this year.

While in Washington, Samdech Techo Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and a cordial interaction with around 2000 Cambodian-Americans who gathered in Washington to greet him.

Phnom Penh, 14 May 2022