



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcome of the Participation of H.E. Bundit Sapheacha Dr Sok Siphana, Senior Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, at the Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 on post-pandemic global recovery
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 01-03 March 2023**

Phnom Penh, 04 March 2023 - As the High Representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, H.E. **Bundit Sapheacha Dr Sok Siphana**, Senior Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, led a Cambodian delegation to attend the “**Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 on post-pandemic global recovery**”, held on 01-03 March 2023 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Summit was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of Republic of Azerbaijan and attended by Heads of State/Government and representatives of the NAM member states, Observer States, the President of the 77th Session United Nations General Assembly and Heads of International Organizations. The meeting discussed on global post-pandemic recovery issues and the role of NAM in the post-COVID-19 world.

The Summit concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic created a multidimensional global crisis, which had irreversible impacts on the health, social, economic, political, and cultural conditions of all countries. The vulnerabilities of developing nations were particularly highlighted during this crisis. The crucial role of multilateralism in tackling the pandemic was underscored and the crisis only reinforced the calls for a stronger multilateralism in pursuit of coordinated approaches

to common problems across the globe. The initiative of Azerbaijani chairmanship calling for the UN Secretary-General to establish the UN High-Level Panel for post-COVID-19 global recovery, which has obtained full support from NAM, is aimed at mobilizing the expertise of independent, impartial, and experienced eminent personalities to the process. Calls for international institutions to examine ways to provide sustainable debt relief for the Global South and for all states to remove unjustified obstacles restricting the export of COVID-19 vaccines were also made.

In his statement at the Plenary Session of the Summit, Dr Sok Siphana emphasized the need for NAM to remain strong and united in the face of global challenges, especially the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the importance of multilateralism and peaceful conflict resolution and highlighted Cambodia's proactive stance in tackling the pandemic, including a massive vaccination campaign, 10 rounds of economic relief measures, and cash support for vulnerable families. These measures have enabled Cambodia to bounce back to a positive economic rate of 3% in 2021, 5.2% in 2022 and expected to reach 5.6 % this year.

He also mentioned that NAM has a great opportunity to use the collective weight of its members to assert its role vis-à-vis all the relevant international and regional organizations, especially with the World Health Organization, to enhance our pandemic preparedness, resilience and response. NAM should redouble its efforts to urge developed countries into earnestly honoring their international ODA commitments and to respect their engagements made at the last WTO Ministerial Conference with regards to the intellectual property matters linked to vaccines, production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought havoc in many parts of the world, Cambodia has successfully hosted the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) virtually under the theme **'Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth'** in November 2021 as well as the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Meetings in a physical format last year in which over 100 documents have been adopted to advance ASEAN community.

On the margin of the Summit, Dr Sok Siphana held separate bilateral meetings with H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heads of Delegation of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE as well as the Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). These meetings focused on ways to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and investment between Cambodia and those countries as well as to promote cooperation between Cambodia and CICA.