



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Press Release

on Summary Outcomes of the Fourth Summit of the Mekong River Commission

Phnom Penh, 05 April 2023 - At the invitation of His Excellency **Sonexay SIPHANDONE**, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a High-Level Delegation of Cambodia to attend the Fourth Summit of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) under the theme "**Innovation and Cooperation for a Water Secure and Sustainable Mekong**" held on 5 April 2023 in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Summit was attended by His Excellency **Pham Minh Chinh**, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, High-level Representative of Government of the Kingdom of Thailand the Senior Representatives of MRC Dialogue Partners—China and Myanmar, as well as MRC Development Partners and other Partners.

Samdech Techo Prime Minister delivered the Statement at the Summit, highlighted the strategic importance of Mekong as a key supporting source for the sustainable development and growth in Mekong countries as well as for the well-being of the basin peoples. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** stressed that the enhanced cooperation and collective efforts among the Mekong countries and with other relevant partners and mechanisms is essential for resilient, sustainable and inclusive development of the Mekong River Basin as well as to ensure that the Mekong is a river with a brighter and more prosperous common future, benefiting all countries along the river and all the people living in the entire basin. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also reiterated the Cambodia's commitment for continued full cooperation to bring about more great successes under MRC cooperation framework.

Taking this opportunity, **Samdech Techo Prime Minister** also raised a new initiative in jointly resolving the underwater unexploded ordnance (UXO) left over in our Mekong River from wars in order to avoid possible danger to the lives of people living in Mekong River Basin.

At the Summit, the Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries adopted the Vientiane Declaration of the 4th MRC Summit in which:

- The Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries highly appreciated the significant progresses and achievements of the MRC made since the Third MRC Summit in 2018, having reflected the stronger cooperation and partnerships among the Member Countries and with the Dialogue Partners, Development Partners as well as other stakeholders in the joint efforts towards achieving the sustainable development goals in the Mekong River Basin under the slogan “One Mekong, One Spirit” jointly committed to by Member Countries.
- The Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries recognized the opportunities of Mekong having offered for the socio-economic development and growth and assured that sustainable water security is a key supporting foundation. At the same time, it is also recognized that the developments may have potential transboundary impacts requiring to be jointly addressed, including impacts from the emerging climate change.
- The Heads of Government of MRC Member Countries discussed the basin challenges, and called on MRC and all Partners to find innovative solutions to cope with emerging challenges, and to seize the opportunities and intensify cooperation for a water secure and sustainable Mekong River Basin, while abiding by the principles of openness, transparency, inclusiveness, mutual benefits, equality, consultation, coordination, cooperation, and respect for sovereignty, with a focus on:
 - Identifying, through more Proactive Regional Planning leading to an adaptive basin plan, new joint and national investment projects of basin-wide significance,

- Enabling basin countries to support communities to adapt to changing river conditions by ensuring a more effective and timely communications and notification system,
 - Supporting development and operational decisions through better use of technology,
 - Ensuring that consultations are conducted more effectively among stakeholders,
 - Strengthening the entire river basin management in accordance with the mandate of the MRC through innovation in policy, technology and mechanism for cooperation and partnership with other Mekong related regional cooperation frameworks,
 - Maintaining and exploring innovative financing,
 - Ensuring that the MRC is on a sustainable transition to self-financing by 2030.
- The Heads of Government of the MRC Member Countries reiterated their commitment to joint efforts to further strengthen the role of the MRC in helping to ensure a water, food and energy secure and economically, socially and environmentally sustainable Mekong River Basin. Meanwhile, the Heads of Government of the MRC Member Countries welcomed the strategic shift to proactive regional planning and coordinated operational management, and called on all basin countries, partners and stakeholders to continue to work with the MRC to uphold the 1995 Mekong Agreement and its Procedures, and to support the implementation of the BDS 2021-2030 in accordance with Vientiane Declaration and the One Mekong One Spirit.

Prior to the Summit, the Heads of Government of the MRC Member Countries met at the Retreat for discussion with a focus on the strengthening of the MRC's role and regional cooperation as well as the improvement of data and information sharing for the sustainable management and development of the Mekong River Basin. ENDS