



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of International Cooperation

United Nations Department

PRESS RELEASE

**His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM Sihamoni, King of
Cambodia, attended the Fourth Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor.
Paris, 15 November 2023**

At the invitation of Her Excellency Madame Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, took part in the Fourth Intergovernmental Conference on Angkor at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris on 15 November 2023.

During an audience granted to Her Excellency Azoulay prior to the Conference, His Majesty expressed his deep gratitude to UNESCO for its close cooperation in the past, highlighting its important role in Cambodia and the success of the intergovernmental mechanism for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC-Angkor), established in 1993 following an initiative and appeal by His Majesty the late King-Father NORODOM Sihanouk.

His Majesty outlined the main points of the policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia, focused on education and human resource development, particularly in ancestral crafts, the fight against trafficking in artifacts, the preparations for future inscriptions of Cambodia's tangible and intangible heritage, the establishment of a legal framework to preserve the value of Angkor and combatting climate change. He invited UNESCO to send its experts to Cambodia to provide support and cooperation in these activities.

In response, Her Excellency Azoulay welcomed the requests raised by His Majesty and committed to further strengthening cooperation in various fields which fall within the



competency and obligations of UNESCO to promote the values of the heritage of humanity, protect local communities, maintain a balance of tourist flows through rigorous management, and preserve the sacred values of the Angkor temples and other heritage sites.

In his keynote address in the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference, His Majesty recalled the endeavors of Samdech Techo Hun Sen for more than 30 years to safeguard and manage cultural and historical sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. He highlighted the commitment of the new Royal Government, under the leadership of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, to ensure the continuity of ongoing programs.

His Majesty expressed his gratitude to the French and Japanese co-chairs and to ICC-Angkor member countries, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of India, the Republic of Italy, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, which have set a model of effective multilateral cooperation. He welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the ICC in its current form for another ten years. He also thanked previous UNESCO leaders as well as its current Director-General for their leadership and love for Cambodia. He shared his satisfaction over the recent inscription of the Koh Ker site on the World Heritage List.

His Majesty lauded the decision by Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister to prioritize education and vocational training in the action plan of the Royal Government and called on UNESCO to contribute to the creation of new training programs.

Phnom Penh, 17 November 2023

