



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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PRESS RELEASE

**The Courtesy Call on His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn,  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation by  
Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry for Europe and  
Foreign Affairs of the French Republic**

On the morning of 18 December 2025, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received a courtesy call from Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, who was in Cambodia as Co-Chair of the Third Session of Cambodia–France Bilateral Political Consultations.

During the meeting, His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister commended the fruitful discussions held earlier during the Consultations, reflecting the vitality of the Cambodia–France dialogue and the shared determination of both sides to elevate their historic partnership to new higher level.

Both sides welcomed the positive momentum in bilateral relations, reflected by regular and prospective high-level exchanges between the two countries, the hosting of the 20th Francophonie Summit in Siem Reap in November 2026, and the shared ambition to elevate bilateral relations toward a structured and sustainable Strategic Partnership, making 2026 a pivotal year for Cambodia–France relations.

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister reiterated Cambodia's strong commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations since 2006. He also expressed gratitude for France's pivotal role in the process leading to the Paris Peace Agreements of 1991, as well as France's consistent and balanced support, particularly in light of the ongoing Cambodia–Thailand border conflict. In a spirit of sincere solidarity with Cambodia, Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Cambodian civilians who lost their lives and to the refugees affected by the Cambodia–Thailand border conflict.



In the economic sphere, **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** expressed sincere gratitude for France's long-standing support, notably through the French Development Agency (AFD). He welcomed France's position as Cambodia's leading European source of tourists and a key European trading partner, while encouraging further French investment in Cambodia to support sustainable and inclusive growth.

On cultural cooperation, **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** conveyed special appreciation for France's longstanding contribution to the preservation of Cambodia's cultural heritage, which has currently been the target of deliberate destruction. In this connection, he urged France, as a leading nation in cultural preservation, to continue exercising its influence to support Cambodia's efforts to safeguard its unique and irreplaceable cultural heritage, particularly in the context of the Cambodia-Thailand border conflict.

To conclusion, **His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister** reaffirmed Cambodia's strong commitment to further strengthening friendship and expanding cooperation with France across bilateral, regional, and multilateral frameworks, reiterating the full readiness of the Royal Government of Cambodia to work closely with France in advancing their partnership.

Following the courtesy call, **His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, witnessed the signing ceremony of the Agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the French Republic regarding the International Volunteer Exchanges and Solidarity Program and the Action of France Volontaires in Cambodia. The Agreement was signed by **His Excellency Mr. SUN Sovanna**, Secretary of State, and **His Excellency Mr. Olivier RICHARD**, Ambassador of France to Cambodia.



Phnom Penh, 10 December 2025