



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

No. PR 82/2025 MFA.IC

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Third Session of Bilateral Political Consultations
between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of
Cambodia and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of French Republic**

On 18 December 2025, His Excellency SUN Sovanna, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE, Director for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, co-chaired the Third Cambodia–France Bilateral Consultations, held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The consultations took place in an atmosphere of mutual trust, close friendship, and cooperation.

On the occasion of this third session, His Excellency the Secretary of State and Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE highly appreciated the historic partnership, based on trust, mutual respect and the shared interests of the peoples of both countries. Both sides reviewed the progress of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, and discussed existing priority areas and explored new avenues of collaboration, with the shared aim of building a stronger, more dynamic, and sustainable partnership for mutual benefit. The two sides exchanged views on political relations, economy, trade and investment, security and defense, cultural heritage, health, education, as well as regional and international issues.

In the area of political relations, His Excellency the Secretary of State expressed satisfaction with the numerous high-level exchanges that have taken place in recent years. His Excellency the Secretary of State affirmed Cambodia's readiness to host upcoming visits by French dignitaries in order to give fresh momentum to Cambodia–France relations, with a view to achieving a strategic partnership in 2026. Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE shared a similar appreciation of the development of political relations and announced plans for forthcoming visits by high-level French delegations. His Excellency the Secretary of State also emphasized the importance of elevating bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, considered a central pillar for achieving shared future objectives and for strengthening relations and cooperation in various fields. Both sides also discussed a joint roadmap for cooperation, which will serve as a guiding framework for bilateral relations in the coming years.



With regard to defense and security cooperation, both sides shared the same view on the important of strengthening and expanding bilateral cooperation in this area **Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE** expressed support for Cambodia in the training and capacity-building of United Nations peacekeeping forces. In response, **His Excellency the Secretary of State** commended and appreciated the French government for its continued support for the technical, capacity-building, and linguistic development of Cambodian peacekeepers. **His Excellency the Secretary of State** also welcomed the continuation of demining cooperation in Cambodia, notably its essential contribution to the goal of achieving a “**Mine-Free Cambodia by 2030.**” The two sides also held constructive exchanges on cooperation in security and law enforcement, considered a shared priority, as well as on closer partnership in combating transnational crime and addressing misinformation and disinformation.

In the field of economic, trade, and investment cooperation, **His Excellency the Secretary of State** expressed his deep gratitude for the long-standing partnership of the French government, which has supported Cambodia’s economic and social development since 1993 through the French Development Agency (AFD). This support has focused particularly on projects related to drinking water, agriculture, green energy, the environment, and infrastructure. **Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE** commended Cambodia’s remarkable progress toward graduating from least developed country (LDC) status in the coming years. Both sides also highlighted the dynamism of trade and investment exchanges between the two countries, marked by the presence of major French companies and investors in Cambodia. Both sides emphasized the importance of promoting the modernization of infrastructure and procedures within the framework of customs cooperation, amid the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand.

The consultations also addressed the importance of cooperation in culture and heritage as part of a long-standing partnership for the preservation and conservation of World Heritage sites in Cambodia. **His Excellency the Secretary of State** commended and appreciated the restoration project of the National Museum of Phnom Penh, as well as cooperation projects with the École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO), among others. Furthermore, **His Excellency the Secretary of State** also expressed deep regret over the severe damage caused to Cambodian heritage, including the temples of Ta Krabey and Preah Vihear, as a result of the invasion by the Thai army, and requested the French side to continue support Cambodia’s efforts to protect this unique historical heritage, which has been and continues to be destroyed by the Thai military.

Mr. Benoît GUIDÉE confirmed the support and active participation in the Francophonie Summit in Cambodia, with the aim of strengthening and deepening



cooperation within the framework of the Francophonie, notably through the organization of various events, including the Francophonie Village and Francotech.

On the occasion of these consultations, the two co-chairs agreed on the need to strengthen human resources through higher education, vocational training, and the development of digital skills, as well as to continue cooperation in the fields of public health and engineering. They also reaffirmed their commitment to preserving cultural heritage and supporting peaceful dialogue and stability, which constitute essential foundations for sustainable development.

In addition to bilateral cooperation, both sides also discussed regional and global issues, as well as recent developments in the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand. Cambodia reiterated its unwavering commitment to respecting the ceasefire and the Joint Declaration on the Cambodia–Thailand Peace Agreement, signed in Kuala Lumpur on 26 October 2025, in a spirit of goodwill.

The third session of bilateral consultations between Cambodia and the French Republic was successfully concluded and produced remarkable results, reflecting strong mutual trust at the highest political level and close cooperative relations between the two countries.



Phnom Penh, 26 December 2025