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PRESS RELEASE

State Visit of President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic,
to the Kingdom of Cambodia14-16 November 2026

At the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath **NORODOM SIHAMONI**, King of Cambodia, His Excellency **Emmanuel Macron**, President of the French Republic, accompanied by First Lady **Brigitte Macron**, paid a State Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 14 to 16 November 2026.

This historic visit marks the first State Visit by a French President to Cambodia in 60 years, following President Charles de Gaulle's visit to Phnom Penh in 1966, and more than three decades after President François Mitterrand's visit in 1993. It underscores the enduring bonds of friendship, mutual trust, and close cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the French Republic.

The visit takes place at a particularly significant moment, as Cambodia hosts the 20th Francophonie Summit and assumes the Presidency of the Francophonie Summit. It reflects the strength of the longstanding partnership between the two countries, founded on shared historical ties, mutual respect, and a common commitment to peace, multilateralism, respect for international law, and sustainable development.

Following the official welcome ceremony, His Excellency President **Emmanuel Macron** and the First Lady had an audience with His Majesty King **NORODOM SIHAMONI** at the Royal Palace. A state banquet was also hosted in their honour by His Majesty the King. President Macron met with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo **Hun Sen**, President of the Senate, and Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei **Hun Manet**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In addition, President Macron and the First Lady laid wreaths at the Independence Monument and the Royal Memorial of His Majesty NORODOM SIHANOUK Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh, and also paid homage to fallen Cambodian and French soldiers at the World War I Memorial.

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During his meeting with President Macron, Samdech Techo **Hun Sen** expressed his appreciation for the warmth and goodwill demonstrated by His Excellency the President and the First Lady, which has deeply touched the Cambodian people. President Macron recalled his fruitful meeting with Samdech Techo **Hun Sen** in France in 2022 and reaffirmed France commitment to the longstanding bonds of friendship, mutual trust, and respect between the two countries. Both sides exchanged views on ways to further deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of economy, trade, governance, education, and technology, as well as on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.

At the bilateral meeting held at the Peace Palace, Samdech Thipadei **Hun Manet** and President **Emmanuel Macron** engaged in substantive discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation across a wide range of priority areas. These included trade and investment, national defence and security, combating transnational crime, education and vocational training, healthcare, scientific research, energy, digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the conservation and restoration of Cambodia's cultural heritage.

Both leaders welcomed the progress achieved through existing cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing new projects and initiatives that would broaden the scope of collaboration and generate tangible benefits for the peoples of both countries. Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet highlighted Cambodian Government's ongoing efforts to enhance the investment climate and streamline business procedures to attract greater foreign investment, particularly from France. He also underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation in artificial intelligence, with a view to ensuring its responsible, safe, and beneficial application. Both sides agreed to pursue more concrete initiatives in areas of significant potential, contributing to Cambodia's sustainable development and further reinforcing the bilateral partnership.

A major outcome of the visit was the adoption of a Joint Political Declaration, elevating Cambodia-France relations to a renewed partnership. The Declaration reflects the shared political will of both countries to strengthen historical ties and set strategic direction for advancing future cooperation in the fields of political-security, trade and investment, culture, education, and technology. It also reaffirms shared commitment to upholding international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, strengthening effective multilateralism, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

Following these productive discussions, Samdech Thipadei **Hun Manet** and President **Macron** presided over the signing ceremony of 29 agreements and cooperation documents involving public and private sector institutions from both countries. These instruments cover a broad range of areas, including economy, trade and investment, energy, infrastructure, national defence, technology and artificial intelligence, education, healthcare, and culture and heritage. Their implementation is expected to strengthen institutional cooperation, facilitate knowledge and technology transfer, develop human resources, mobilise investment, and create new business opportunities, thereby contributing to economic growth and sustainable development in Cambodia.

Following the bilateral meeting, **Samdech Thipadei** Prime Minister and President **Emmanuel Macron** held a joint press conference to present the key outcomes of their discussions and reaffirm their shared vision for the future of Cambodia-France relations. In his concluding remarks, President Macron stressed his friendship and underscored that Cambodia can count on him today, just as it could yesterday and will tomorrow.

Another highlight of the State Visit was the Royal Ceremony marking the successful completion of the restoration project at West Mebon Temple in the Angkor region, held in Siem Reap on the afternoon of 16 November 2026. The ceremony was presided over by His Majesty King NORODOM SIHAMONI, together with His Excellency President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron. This remarkable achievement represents not only the restoration of an exceptional architectural legacy of the Khmer civilization but also a powerful symbol of the enduring friendship and longstanding cultural cooperation between Cambodia and France. It further demonstrates France's continued commitment to supporting Cambodia in the conservation, protection, and promotion of its invaluable cultural heritage.

President Emmanuel Macron's State Visit resulted in the signing of a record number of agreements and cooperation documents covering defence, taxation, energy, cultural heritage, infrastructure and trade, signed between Cambodia and France and exchanged in the presence of Samdech Thipadei Prime Minister Hun Manet and President Emmanuel Macron.

President Emmanuel Macron's State Visit opened a new chapter in Cambodia–France relations, fostering stronger ties and broader cooperation. This renewed partnership will not only benefit the peoples of both countries but also contribute to peace, stability, security, and prosperity beyond the two nations.

Phnom Penh, 19 November 2026