Unofficial Translation

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Statement of the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Cambodia Reaffirms Its Commitment to Peaceful Dialogue and Respect for International Law in Addressing the Cambodia–Thailand Border Situation

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia has taken note of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 16 November 2026 concerning Thailand's participation in the 48th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie (CMF) and the 20th Francophonie Summit, held in Phnom Penh from 14 to 16 November 2026. In this regard, Cambodia wishes to provide the following clarifications:

First, Cambodia firmly rejects the allegation that it used these meetings to vilify Thailand or promote a unilateral narrative. Its references to the Cambodia–Thailand border situation were intended to draw attention to developments on the ground and their humanitarian consequences, while emphasizing the importance of dialogue, de-escalation and peaceful settlement. These objectives are fully consistent with the principles of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) and the theme of the 20th Summit, "Reinvesting in Peace for Shared Prosperity and Lasting Stability."

Second, as host and President of the 20th Francophonie Summit, Cambodia fulfilled its responsibilities with impartiality, transparency and respect for the Organisation's rules and procedures. Cambodia, as a full member of the OIF, has the legitimate right to express its concerns on matters affecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and the well-being of its people. Such engagement should not be misconstrued as an attempt to undermine bilateral relations or ongoing efforts to resolve differences peacefully.

Third, Cambodia's concerns regarding the border situation are grounded in developments affecting its territory and population. These include the armed clashes between the two countries, the continued presence of Thai armed forces in areas Cambodia considers to be within its sovereign territory following the ceasefire of 27 December 2025, damage to Cambodian cultural heritage, and the continued displacement of approximately 20,000 Cambodian citizens who remain unable to return to their homes and livelihoods. These serious humanitarian and security concerns cannot be dismissed as unfounded allegations.

Fourth, regarding Thailand's references to the historical circumstances of Cambodian communities in the border areas, Cambodia maintains that differing territorial claims must be addressed through established bilateral mechanisms and in accordance with international law. Cambodia reiterates its call for the resumption, without further delay, of the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) to examine the situation on the ground and advance border demarcation in accordance with existing agreements.

Fifth, Cambodia takes note of Thailand's references to the confidence-building measures discussed in October 2026 and the understandings reached by the two Prime Ministers in Cebu in May 2026. Cambodia reaffirms its commitment to these efforts and to the full and effective implementation of the Joint Statement of the Special Meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC) of 27 December 2025. Restoring mutual trust requires concrete actions, respect for agreed commitments, and the creation of conditions conducive to the safe and dignified return of displaced civilians.

Sixth, Cambodia categorically rejects the allegation that the Cambodian Presidency deliberately denied Thailand the opportunity to speak during the 48th CMF. As the meeting was running more than two hours behind schedule, the Cambodian Presidency, in consultation with the OIF Secretariat, agreed to give speaking priority to Observers represented at the ministerial level. Others were invited to submit written statements for inclusion in the official records of the meeting. This arrangement applied equally to all concerned delegations and was in no way directed specifically at Thailand.

Finally, Cambodia remains firmly committed to resolving its differences with Thailand through dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful means, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the ASEAN Charter. Cambodia stands ready to work constructively with Thailand through established bilateral mechanisms to restore mutual trust, ensure respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and achieve lasting peace and stability along their shared border.

Cambodia firmly believes that genuine good-neighbourliness must be founded on mutual respect, the faithful implementation of agreed commitments, and the protection of the safety and well-being of people on both sides of the border.

Phnom Penh, 17 November 2026