(Unofficial translation)

Joint declaration between France and Cambodia on the occasion of President Emmanuel Macron's State Visit to Cambodia

14-16 November 2026

1. At the invitation of Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, paid a state visit to Cambodia from 15 to 16 November 2026 and participated in the 20th Francophonie Summit in Phnom Penh. This visit highlights the privileged relationship between the two countries, inherited from a shared history and the role played by France in promoting peace and reconstruction in the context of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords. Thirty-five years after the signing of these Accords and sixty years after General de Gaulle's Phnom Penh speech, the two leaders jointly reaffirmed the objective of a peaceful Cambodia, their shared commitment to the principles of sovereignty and the defense of the values that both countries hold in common, within a framework that respects human rights and the rule of law.

2. On this occasion, the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of Cambodia committed France and Cambodia to a renewed partnership that will serve as the framework for bilateral cooperation for decades to come. This partnership reflects their shared commitment to advancing Franco-Cambodian relations in the areas of people-to-people exchanges, economic development, security, and global issues, serving their people and the common good, and working together for peace in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

Building a strong political partnership

3. The leaders recalled the solid political framework underpinning the bilateral relationship, whose historical depth has fostered exceptional cultural, institutional, and linguistic ties between France and Cambodia. Since Cambodia's independence, respect for sovereignty has been its guiding principle, which continues to be embodied on the international stage by a commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, support for peacekeeping, and the demand for effective multilateralism, as illustrated by Cambodia's participation in the Franco-Mexican initiative to limit the veto power in the Security Council. The leaders welcomed the spirit of the "Coalition of Independents," called for by the President of the French Republic at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2025, which aims to strengthen the resilience and sovereignty of European and Asian countries committed to multilateralism, in a context marked by the resurgence of power politics and attacks on international law. They pledged to deepen their cooperation in

international forums and through dedicated bilateral mechanisms, starting with the annual political consultations between the two foreign ministries.

To deepen bilateral economic relations

4. Taking into account the rapid evolution of the Cambodian economy, the upcoming end of its transitional period of exit from LDC status and the links forged with French economic and financial actors, the two leaders affirmed their wish to continue supporting Cambodia on the path to sustainable development by limiting its external dependencies, fighting against climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution; and serving the essential needs of its population.

5. In this regard, the two Heads of State and Government welcomed the third edition of the France-Cambodia Business Forum and presided over the signing of several contracts and commitments for sustainable and quality infrastructure, particularly in the fields of energy, health, transport and agri-food.

6. To improve the framework for bilateral economic relations, letters of intent were signed between French and Cambodian Customs, between the French National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) and the Ministry of Commerce, and between the civil aviation authorities of both countries. An intergovernmental agreement for the elimination of double taxation with respect to income taxes and for the prevention of tax fraud and evasion was also concluded.

7. France has renewed its commitment to support Cambodia in the implementation of its structural development policies through the granting of new loans from the French Development Agency (AFD) Group and the mobilization of French expertise to support, in Cambodia, the development of the energy sector, a National Research Centre in artificial intelligence as well as the management of drinking water in Siem Reap and wastewater in Phnom Penh.

Strengthening legal and archival cooperation

8. The two leaders welcomed the cooperation established to contribute to the development and promotion of human resources in the legal field, as well as to strengthening the modernization, transparency, and accessibility of legal information for the benefit of citizens, businesses, and public administrations. They welcomed the signing of a declaration of intent on archival cooperation during the state visit.

Supporting transformations in defence and security

9. As 2026 marks the 80th anniversary of Franco-Cambodian military cooperation, the two leaders wished to deepen this partnership and put it at the service of the adaptation needs

of the armed forces, through the signing of three complementary documents: the renewal and modernization of the intergovernmental agreement relating to cooperation in defense matters and the status of the forces; the three-year administrative arrangement (2027-2030) relating to support for the modernization of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the training of officers and preparation for peacekeeping operations which sets out the modalities of French cooperation in support of the restructuring of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces; and a framework technical arrangement between the Ministries of Defense relating to the exchange of military personnel for academic training relating to the twinning between the Thmat Paung School for Active Officers and the Saint-Cyr Military Academy. The two leaders also stressed the imperative of a coordinated response to contemporary transnational threats.

Focusing on the long-term anchoring of human exchanges

10. Convinced that relations between states can only be lastingly rooted in peace and prosperity if they are centered on the bonds between peoples, the President of the French Republic and Prime Minister Hun Manet commended the essential role of the Franco-Cambodian community, a true bridge between the two cultures, and the involvement of the Cambodian diaspora in France in Cambodia's transformation. They also welcomed the strength of international volunteer exchanges, another embodiment of the unwavering bond of solidarity that unites the French and Cambodian peoples.

11. Regarding the French language, the President of the French Republic congratulated Prime Minister Hun Manet on the success of the 20th Francophonie Summit in Phnom Penh, which confirms the strength of the Francophonie in the Asia-Pacific region. On this occasion, France and Cambodia reaffirmed their commitment to the values and missions of the Francophonie, particularly the promotion of French as a language of opportunity and employability, mobility, cooperation, and access to knowledge. France and Cambodia intend to contribute to the structuring and development of the economic Francophonie, in accordance with the Summit's guidelines, and to jointly pursue this ambition within the OIF (International Organisation of the Francophonie). In this regard, they jointly inaugurated the second edition of FrancoTech, the French-language innovation fair. The two leaders welcomed the fact that the Summit provided an opportunity to highlight the added value of the French language in strengthening peace, stability, and prosperity, particularly through Cambodia's contribution to peacekeeping in Francophone environments. France and Cambodia also reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality and the promotion of women's rights, in line with the declaration adopted at the 19th Francophonie Summit and the Kigali Appeal "To accelerate progress towards gender equality in the Francophone world," adopted at the 46th Ministerial Conference of the Francophonie.

12. In the cultural and heritage sector, the French President's state visit was marked by the closing ceremony of the restoration project on the West Mebon temple at Angkor, in the presence of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni. This 14-year, €7 million investment in the enhancement of Khmer heritage reflects France's commitment to Cambodia within the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor.

13. The French and Cambodian governments have simultaneously opened a new chapter in cultural and heritage cooperation through the signing of several agreements, one of which aims to support the promotion of Cambodian heritage both domestically and internationally through the development of a structuring partnership for a project to modernize the National Museum in Phnom Penh, following up on the feasibility study conducted by France in 2026. They also concluded a declaration of intent on the development of exchanges and the professionalization of the creative and cultural industries sector, particularly in the fields of film and audiovisual media, visual arts, books, performing arts, and artistic residencies and training.

14. Emphasizing the crucial role of university partnerships and student mobility in fostering knowledge and skills development, the two leaders commended the enduring presence of a Francophone academic community of excellence, particularly in the fields of law, health sciences, and science, technology, and engineering, thanks to a proactive policy implemented by leading Cambodian universities and their French counterparts. The President of the Republic also welcomed France's attractiveness in innovative and cutting-edge sectors such as space, digital technology, and artificial intelligence, and in this regard, commended the agreement concluded between the University of Grenoble Alpes and the Cambodian Academy of Digital Technology in these areas. He further highlighted France's commitment to supporting the development of Cambodian research through the establishment of doctoral schools in fields of shared interest. Both parties will also encourage partnerships between higher education institutions, research organizations and economic actors, in order to support applied research and the mobility of researchers and students.

15. The two leaders emphasized the long-standing, extensive, and dynamic nature of decentralized cooperation, which has contributed for several decades to the enduring strength of the bilateral relationship. They commended the commitment of French and Cambodian local authorities to implementing partnerships based on the exchange of expertise, the strengthening of local capacities, and the execution of concrete projects in areas of common interest, including access to essential services, health, education, urban management, the environment, and heritage preservation. They reaffirmed their

commitment to supporting the renewal and expansion of these partnerships in the service of sustainable, inclusive, and balanced territorial development.

Addressing global challenges together

16. The President of the French Republic and Prime Minister Hun Manet, recognizing the paramount importance of advancing scientific knowledge, research, and innovation in service of people, the public interest, the planet, and progress for all, welcomed the convergence of views between their two countries on the responsibilities to be assumed together in addressing global challenges. They emphasized the importance of strengthening scientific and technological cooperation in areas of shared interest, including sustainable agriculture, food security, energy, health, water management, and climate change adaptation, by promoting knowledge sharing and the development of solutions tailored to local contexts.

17. In this regard, the two leaders affirmed the need to accelerate collective action against the triple global crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. To limit warming to 1.5°C, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to fully achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through ambitious nationally determined contributions and to implementing the commitment to phase out fossil fuels by accelerating low-carbon electrification. France will continue to support Cambodia's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as well as its commitment not to develop new coal-fired power plants. They emphasized their determination to champion the role of science as the foundation of climate action and recognized the importance of the IPCC reports as a crucial contribution to the Second Global Assessment. The two leaders also expressed their desire to continue working together, particularly with a view to the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ Agreement, which will be crucial for ensuring better protection of biodiversity and the ocean. Both parties further reaffirmed their commitment to combating deforestation, promoting the circular economy, and concluding negotiations on a legally binding international instrument to end plastic pollution.

18. They also welcomed Cambodia's accession to the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). The President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of Cambodia declared their commitment to ethical, inclusive, safe, and trustworthy artificial intelligence, as well as to promoting democratic and transparent governance of the resources it provides, and to bridging the global AI divide. The National Research Center for Artificial Intelligence project, which France will co-finance through the French Development Agency, is part of this shared vision.

19. Recalling the commitments made at the One Health Summit (Lyon, 5-7 April 2026) to implement the "One Health" approach to combat infectious and non-communicable diseases, they also reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining their cooperation to benefit the excellence of French-language medical training in Cambodia (Specialized Medical Training Diplomas and Advanced Specialized Medical Training Diplomas, specialty courses). They also decided to deepen this partnership and broaden its scope through the operationalization of the "One Health" approach, particularly to combat epidemics, by supporting the development of Cambodian research capacities in two areas in particular: the creation of a Franco-Cambodian international global health research platform (PRISME), which will create a transdisciplinary dynamic in partnership with the National Academy of Medicine, five research institutes and Aix-Marseille University; and the strengthening of agricultural and environmental research, particularly in the areas of preventing and reducing environmental pollution. This cooperation will also foster research on the links between environmental pollution, ecosystem contamination, and human and animal health, as well as on innovative solutions for reducing plastic waste and promoting the circular economy. In this regard, they welcomed the conclusion of an agreement on agricultural and environmental cooperation covering technical, scientific, and commercial aspects.