



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of
Europe, America, and Africa-Middle East

PRESS RELEASE

**"Outcomes of the First Bilateral Consultations between
the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Belgium"**

7 February 2024, Phnom Penh

The First Session of the Bilateral Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium took place on 7 February 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It was co-chaired on the Cambodian side by His Excellency Dr. CHEM Widhya, Secretary of State, and on the Belgian side by Ambassador François DELHAYE, Director of Asia and Oceania.

At the outset, His Excellency Dr. CHEM Widhya expressed his deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Belgium for the invaluable assistance to Cambodia over the years, which have significantly contributed to the socio-economic development of Cambodia, especially the assistance on Agriculture, Health, Education, Environmental Protection and Social Protection, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and Demining Activities. He highlighted the importance of the bilateral political relations between the two countries as evidenced by the attendance of Cambodian Leaders at high-Level meetings in Belgium as well as the interactions of the two countries' Foreign Ministers on the sideline of international fora. He also briefed on the latest political situation and economic development in Cambodia as well as the Six Priorities Programme and the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I of the new Royal Government of Cambodia.



In response, Ambassador François DELHAYE reiterated Belgian strong commitment to continue enhancing cooperation both at bilateral and multilateral levels with Cambodia. He also briefed on the political situation at a time when Belgium is gearing for the Federal Election in June this year and Belgium's 6 priorities as rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2024.

Both sides have expressed their commitments to further strengthen and expand potential areas for future cooperation in trade and investment, inter alia through the establishment of legal bases. They also discussed on the possibility of cooperation in the development of human capital. They shared views on the importance of continued mutual support in international fora and exchanged views on a number of regional and global issues of common concern.

In conclusion, His Excellency Dr. CHEM Widhya expressed the strong hope to the Belgium side to attend the Summit on a Mine-Free World for the Ottawa Convention held on 25 November 2024 in Siem Reap and sought Belgian support for Cambodian candidacy to host the 20th Summit of la Francophonie in 2026. Both Senior officials agreed that the Bilateral Consultations mechanism is essential to promote cooperation between the two countries. They looked forward to the holding of the Second Session of the Bilateral Consultations which will be held in Brussels at a date of mutual convenience.

Phnom Penh, 14 February 2024

