



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Department of Information

PRESS RELEASE

**"Samdech Thipadei HUN Manet's attendance at the UNGA further solidifies
Cambodia's commitment to global peace and sustainable development
with a vision for the future"**

Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, led a high-level delegation to the General Debate of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 21 to 24 September 2023. Samdech Thipadei's attendance at the UNGA further solidified Cambodia's commitment to global peace and sustainable development with a vision for the future.

1. General Debate of the UNGA

- The theme of the debate was "Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all." More than 180 world leaders from six continents were scheduled to address critical global challenges during the week-long debate concluding on 26 September.
- In his statement, Samdech Thipadei underscored the prevailing concerns shared by Cambodia about growing global instability, geopolitical tensions, escalating conflicts, and gaps in funding to address the lingering effects of Covid-19 while achieving the 2030 Agenda and climate change goals. He stressed the importance of restoring trust in strategic security among nations, upholding the rules-based global system, and fully respecting international laws and norms, including the UN Charter.



- Samdech Thipadei highlighted Cambodia's achievements, including enduring peace and stability, significant poverty reduction, robust economic growth, and equitable distribution of benefits. He also highlighted steady progress in democratic building as shown by free, fair, credible, just and inclusive general elections held in July, with 18 parties contesting and a record turnout of 84.59 percent. This demonstrates greater political maturity and enthusiasm among Cambodians in exercising their democratic rights.
- The Prime Minister outlined Cambodia's strategic goals to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030, and a resilient, prosperous high-income nation by 2050. He reiterated Cambodia's commitment to the SDGs, including its own goal for a "Mine-Free Cambodia by 2025", and international peace and security through active contributions to UN peacekeeping missions.
- Finally, Samdech Thipadei emphasized the government's steadfast adherence to an independent and neutral foreign policy, based on the rule of law and the principles of the UN Charter. He firmly stated that CAMBODIA SHALL NOT AUTHORIZE ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASE ON ITS TERRITORY, AS CLEARLY STATED IN ITS CONSTITUTION and that CAMBODIA WILL NOT ALLOW ANY COUNTRY NOR ANY GROUP TO USE ITS TERRITORY AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY.

2. Productive bilateral meetings

On the sidelines of the UNGA, Samdech Thipadei engaged in fruitful meetings with foreign dignitaries and business leaders.

- His discussion with Acting US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland focused on bilateral cooperation, including a program to repatriate Cambodian nationals from the United States. According to Acting Deputy Secretary Nuland, the United States will resume USD 18 million in assistance to Cambodia through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The assistance was previously paused after the July elections.



- Addressing a USA-Cambodia Business Forum attended by some 80 American business leaders, Samdech Thipadei showcased the opportunities and economic potential of Cambodia, as well as government support for business in the Kingdom.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres commended Cambodia's socio-economic policies, particularly the alignment of the Pentagonal Strategy with the SDGs. He expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's active role in UN peacekeeping missions, and reiterated the UN's continued support for Cambodia's sustainable development. Samdech Thipadei reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to building a society based on the rule of law in accordance with the Constitution. Cambodia's renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia demonstrates the government's goodwill and determination to promote and foster human rights.
- Samdech Thipadei's meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong identified areas of cooperation to support Cambodia's socio-economic development, including education, training, trade and investment. Minister Wong assured the Prime Minister of continued support and collaboration from the Australian government.
- Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta requested Cambodia's continued experience-sharing and support in becoming the Eleventh Member of ASEAN. Both leaders discussed expanding bilateral cooperation in tourism, agriculture and people-to-people connectivity.
- In a meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Samdech Thipadei stressed the benefits of finalizing the bilateral investment treaty between Cambodia and India. They discussed partnerships and potential cooperation in security, defense, tourism, and culture with a focus on innovative conservation projects, leveraging the deep historical ties binding Cambodia and India.
- Samdech Thipadei also met Global President of Emerging Markets Nick Lagunowich at Pfizer Inc, who conveyed the pharmaceutical company's intention to bolster Cambodia's public health system. The Prime Minister welcomed the initiative, encouraging Pfizer to explore investment and



business opportunities in Cambodia and sustain dialogues with key stakeholders, especially the Ministry of Health.

3. Engagement with the Cambodian Community from the United States and Canada

Samdech Thipadei engaged with some 2,500 Cambodians from various US states and Canada, providing comprehensive updates on political, economic, and social development. He also shared the government's wide-ranging policies including:

- Six priority policy programs for immediate implementation in 2023, which are (a) Expanding healthcare services towards achieving universal health coverage; (b) Providing vocational and technical trainings for the youth from poor and vulnerable households nationwide; (c) Institutionalizing national social assistance program for the poor households, vulnerable people from the poor households, and at-risk households during economic crises and emergencies; (d) Formulating and accelerating the implementation of the strategic development of the informal economy to enable them to participate in the formal economy and grasp the benefits from formal social protection system; (e) Introducing coordinating mechanism and financing program to enhance production, explore market access, and maintain price stability for agricultural products at a reasonable level; and (f) Deploying agricultural technical officers to all communes/Sangkats with agricultural activities nationwide and formulating farmer associations in rural areas.
- Five key measures to address challenges, which are (a) strengthening public administration by enhancing the capacity, effectiveness and performance of institutions and officials; (b) improving the quality of education by strengthening public schools from kindergarten to high school; (c) improving the quality of health services by focusing on capacity building for the provision of primary services at local levels; (d) strengthening the implementation of the "safe village-commune-sangkat policy"; and (e) strengthening and enhancing the quality and efficiency of the judicial system.



In conclusion, Samdech Thipadei pointed out the political, diplomatic and economic aspects of his activities during his stay in New York. He reaffirmed the Royal Government's continued commitment to maintaining peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development for all. The Prime Minister also interacted with other world leaders and promoted Cambodia as a business and investment destination.

Phnom Penh, 25 September 2023

