



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Prior to the 37th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits**

10 November 2020



On 10 November 2020, on behalf of **His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, **Her Excellency Eat Sophea**, Secretary of State and ASEAN SOM Leader of Cambodia, attended the **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM)**, the **22nd ASEAN- Political Security Community Council (APSC) Meeting** and the **28th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting** via video conference, prior to the 37th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits to be held on 12-15 November 2020. Key outcomes of the three meetings are as follows:

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting:

The Ministers discussed on preparation for the 37th ASEAN Summit, and exchanged views on key regional developments, ASEAN's relations with external partners as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

The Meeting raised the importance of continued regional efforts to achieve ASEAN Community building, upholding multilateralism and ASEAN centrality amid geopolitical rivalries and the promotion of rule-based regional order with ASEAN-centred regional architecture. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed the common view that the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Summit is a testimony of the ASEAN's strong commitment on the promotion of multilateralism and collective approach. ASEAN's response to COVID-19 and disaster management was also discussed. The support and commitment to various initiatives in this regard, signify a "cohesive and responsive" ASEAN in the face of the current turbulence characterized by the pandemic and economic crisis as well as climate-related disasters.

On the Rakhine State, the Ministers reiterated the importance of enhancing ASEAN's role in supporting Myanmar with humanitarian assistance, in particular through the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) and the ASEAN Secretariat efforts to expedite the repatriation process and to ensure the safe resettlement and sustainable development in Rakhine State. The Meeting also took note of the active role played by the ASEAN Secretariat in promoting ASEAN's visible role in supporting Myanmar in this endeavor.



On the South China Sea, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity; and reaffirmed ASEAN's commitments to work with China towards the conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

The 22nd ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting:

The Meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Political and Security Community Blueprint which is one of the three main pillars in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The Ministers commended the momentum of cooperation under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Pillar, despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 since the beginning of the year. They acknowledged the importance of the implementation of regional activities to address security and transnational issues that have contributed to promoting of peace and stability in the ASEAN region. The Ministers endorsed the Report of the Mid-Term Review of the APSC Blueprint 2025.

The Meeting also agreed on the need to continue implementing activities that can promote confidence and trust in the area of maritime cooperation such as in the form of seminar or workshop on marine debris, and the recently conducted Workshop on Promoting Cooperation in Ensuring Just and Humane Treatment of Fishermen in the South China Sea.

In the Meeting, **Her Excellency Eat Sophea** also touched upon the important role of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) in the humanitarian security aspect in the region. As host of the Centre, she informed the Meeting on Cambodia's plan to organize a gathering of the Friends of ARMAC to raise profile of the Centre and galvanize further support to Center in its noble mission to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the region and beyond.

The 28th ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting:

The Meeting was conducted to prepare for the 37th ASEAN Summit and related Summits. The Ministers also exchanged views on the ASEAN Community building efforts, including review of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Community Blueprint 2025 and the on-going development of the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision as well as Initiatives on ASEAN COVID-19 Response. They agreed on the importance of promoting ASEAN visibility and awareness through the display of ASEAN Flag and ASEAN Anthem at ASEAN Member States' government institutions and ASEAN events.

The Ministers welcomed the accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Colombia, and a virtual signing ceremony of the Instruments of Extension and Instruments of Accession to the TAC was also held. This accession reflected the growing interest of non-regional countries to engage with ASEAN on the basis of respect for and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the TAC.

