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DPM PRAK SOKHONN: PEACE IS CAMBODIA'S MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE

Peace is Cambodia's most precious treasure, as the country has endured decades of war and genocide that traumatised its people and devastated the nation.

The remarks were made by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn in his statement during the High-Level Week of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 27.

"This peace allowed us to rebuild from complete ruin. Before the pandemic, our economy achieved an average annual growth of around 7 percent, positioning Cambodia to graduate from Least Developed Country status by 2029. Through this development, millions

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CAMBODIA RAISES CONCERNS AT UN OVER FRAGILE CEASEFIRE WITH THAILAND

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Prak Sokhonn has expressed gratitude for the ceasefire brokered by U.S. President Donald J. Trump, but warned that the truce remains fragile.

Speaking at the High-Level Week of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 27, H.E. Prak Sokhonn underlined that despite commitments from both Cambodia and Thailand to strictly comply with the terms of the ceasefire, rebuild trust, and restore normalcy, the situation is still delicate.

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PRIME MINISTER: TOURISM KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IN LAST 30 YEARS



Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, has highlighted the vital role of tourism in driving Cambodia's socio-economic growth and advancing the Kingdom's long-term development vision.

In his congratulatory message on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2025 (September 27), celebrated under the theme "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation," Samdech Thipadei underscored that Cambodia's tourism sector is founded on peace and stability and serves as a key driver for achieving the country's goal of becoming a high-income economy by 2050.

In 2024, Cambodia welcomed 6.7 million international visitors, marking a 22.9 percent increase from the previous year, along with 22.52 million domestic tourists, up 20.1 percent. Tourism generated over US\$3.6 billion in revenue, contributing around 9.4 percent to the national GDP. In the first eight months of 2025, Cambodia recorded more than 4 million international arrivals, while

domestic tourism surged by 53 percent to 17.2 million, compared to the same period last year.

These figures reflect the resilience and robust recovery of the sector, the Premier said, affirming that tourism has become a backbone of the national economy and a source of sustainable livelihoods for Cambodians.

To ensure long-term benefits, Samdech Thipadei called for promotion of green investment in tourism through 4Ps (Public-Private-People Partnerships) aligned with the principle of "Conservation for Development, Development for Conservation"; continued digitalisation of the tourism sector and support for tourism MSMEs; and strengthening of human capital to keep pace with industry developments and ensure sustainability. The Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation to all stakeholders, both domestic and international, for their continued support and cooperation in advancing Cambodia's tourism industry and contributing to making the Kingdom a safe, attractive, and welcoming destination.

DPM PRAK SOKHONN: PEACE IS ...



have been lifted out of poverty in the past decades. We are grateful for our partners who are supporting Cambodia towards smooth graduation through, among others, open and inclusive trade,” he said.

Guided by our Pentagonal Strategy, he continued, Cambodia aligns its development agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Kingdom officially launched, last year, the Roadmap to achieve the Universal Health Coverage in Cambodia by 2035 and expanded access to quality education, ensuring that Cambodian youth are equipped for a changing world. Cambodian women now hold leadership positions in government and private enterprises at unprecedented levels, strengthening the fabric of society.

“We are firmly committed to protecting and expanding the civic space and strengthening democratic governance, knowing that development and human rights are inseparable pillars of lasting peace,” H.E. Prak Sokhonn underlined.

On climate action, he pointed out, one of humanity’s greatest collective tests, Cambodia has submitted its third Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC; last June, the country signed the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and already deposited

its ratification instrument earlier this month. These steps reflect its belief that environmental stewardship is a global duty and a moral imperative.

Cambodian top diplomat added that with the complete peace at home, Cambodia has been able to offer its humble contribution to peace building and peace keeping around the world. From a country once hosting UN peacekeeping mission, Cambodia has become a steadfast contributor to global security.

Since 2006, Cambodia has deployed over 10,000 peacekeepers—more than 800 of them women—to ten UN missions across the globe. They have protected civilians, cleared landmines, and support rebuilding war-torn communities. “We are currently an active member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, helping nations emerging from conflict to build institutions and foster reconciliation,” stressed H.E. Prak Sokhonn.

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“But sincerity is only credible and trust can only flourishes when respect with both the letter and the spirit of the agreements matches with real action on the ground. Sadly, continued unilateral moves to impose territorial sovereignty from our neighbour, using forces instead of agreed mechanisms, unilateral maps instead internationally recognised ones that were produced in accordance with treaties that bind the two countries, and countless other actions undermine these trust building and peace efforts,” he said.

The Cambodian top diplomat underscored that of great concern is the forced eviction of Cambodian civilians and threats to use national laws against them and to evict hundreds more from the lands they have lived in for decades. Such way of territorial control on the segment of the border yet to be demarcated demonstrates a clear disregard not only for the terms of the ceasefire, but also for the mutual agreements on the settlement of border issues. In the process, Cambodia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity are violated and the rights and dignity of many Cambodians infringed.

“Cambodia has consistently and strictly observed the ceasefire, demonstrating good faith and full transparency in the implementation of its terms. We have exercised the utmost restraint, even in the face of repeated incidents and provocations. As recently as this morning, there was an unprovoked attack near a sensitive site, following an allegation that our forces had opened fire first. Our troops have not and even refrained from any retaliatory action, underscoring our commitment to peace,” he affirmed.

Guided by the same spirit that ended its internal conflict nearly three decades ago, he continued, Cambodia reaffirms its call for dialogue and the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues. Cambodia urges strict and sincere adherence to the agreed terms of the ceasefire, full respect for bilateral agreements, and observance of international law, including the Charters of both the United Nations and ASEAN.

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BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



On the afternoon of 26 September 2025, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, engaged in a bilateral Meeting with His Excellency His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the margins of the General Debate of the 80th

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TOURISM MINISTER URGES UK JOURNALIST TO PROMOTE CAMBODIA



H.E. Huot Hak, Minister of Tourism, asked Ms. Angela Rippon, a famous broadcast journalist from the United Kingdom, to help spread the actual political situation, security, safety, economy, and good social order of Cambodia, especially the development in all sectors that she has witnessed.

The proposal was made as H.E. Huot Hak grants Ms. Angela Rippon and her esteemed colleagues a courtesy call and work discussion at the ministry, as well as to share her impression while filming a documentary about Cambodia on a 5-star international cruise, Scenic Spirit.

According to the news statement of the MoT, the Minister stated that during the cordial meeting, she sincerely thanked her for choosing to film a documentary about Cambodia, especially for promoting the rich tourism

potential, including the world heritage site of Angkor Wat, and the warm hospitality of the Cambodian people.

At the same time, H.E. Huot Hak asked her to help spread out the actual political situation, security, safety, economy, and good social order of Cambodia, especially the development in all sectors that she has witnessed.

In response, Ms. Angela Rippon informed the Minister about her personal impressions, which she had really enjoyed during her recent trip to Cambodia, especially travelling everywhere from the countryside to the city, as well as riding or taking a Tuk-Tuk tour to see Phnom Penh at night.

Furthermore, she praised Cambodia for its fascinating history and heritage, along with the friendly smiles of its people, whom she praised as the “Kingdom of Smile” and “a Wonderful place for a holiday”.

She shared unforgettable memories and experiences from Cambodia with her family, colleagues, and the people in the United Kingdom, encouraging them to visit the country more often.

MINISTER OF WOMEN’S AFFAIRS: CAMBODIA SEES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY OVER PAST 3 DECADES

H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs of Cambodia, highlighted the country’s remarkable progress in women’s education, economic empowerment, health, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), and leadership over the past three decades.

H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi credited these achievements to strong political will, a whole-of-government approach, and inclusive partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and development partners. She emphasized that women and their families have benefited from sustained peace, poverty reduction, decent work, and high economic growth.

Gender equality has been central to Cambodia’s Rectangular Strategy and continues under the current Pentagonal Strategy, which prioritizes investment in

gender equality and the creation of a civilised, ethical, equitable, and inclusive society with women at its core. Key developments include:

- **Education:** Cambodia has nearly achieved gender parity at primary and secondary levels. Female students now represent 52.51% of tertiary students, while women account for 10.32% of PhD candidates.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Women have one of the highest workforce participation rates in ASEAN, supported by economic growth, entrepreneurship opportunities, and social protection programs.
- **Health:** Maternal mortality fell from 437 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 154 in 2022 due to improved maternal and reproductive healthcare.

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CAMBODIA RAISES CONCERNS AT UN ...



Cambodia earnestly seeks the continued support and good offices of the ASEAN Chair and member states, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and relevant UN bodies, as well as leaders around the world, to help de-escalate tensions, encourage a peaceful resolution, and prevent any further tragedy, H.E. Prak Sokhonn added.

“Cambodia is a small nation focused on rebuilding our economy and improving the well-being of our people. We pose no threat to the sovereignty of any country. While we will always safeguard our independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, the use of force remains a last resort,” he said. “Cambodia will continue every effort to restore trust and normalcy, to promote harmonious coexistence and good-neighbourly relations, and to transform border areas into zones of peace, friendship, cooperation, and shared prosperity.

BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY ...

Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, United States of America.

The Deputy Prime Minister briefed on the latest updates on the border’s disputes with Thailand. He reiterated Cambodia’s position to making every effort to de-escalate the tensions, rebuild trust and implement fully and sincerely the recent agreements towards normalization of Cambodia-Thailand bilateral relations.

“KHMER CAN DO” EXPO TO PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCTS



The Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) organised a three-day exhibition to promote Cambodian products under the theme “Khmer Can Do.”

The event took place from September 26 to 28, 2025, at the Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Centre in Phnom Penh.

In a video message released on September 23, UYFC President H.E. Hun Many said the exhibition represents solidarity and support for local products, while reflecting national pride. He underlined that public participation is essential, as it demonstrates Cambodian potential and contributes to strengthening future national activities.

This expo follows the successful Khmer Products Exhibition held from September 11 to 13, 2025, which featured hundreds of booths showcasing a wide range of local products and drew strong public support.

ADB FORECASTS CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AT 4.9 PERCENT THIS YEAR

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has revised its growth forecast for Cambodia from 6.1 to 4.9 percent for 2025 and from 6.2 to 5.0 percent for 2026, reflecting economic challenges related to geopolitical tensions with Thailand and uncertainty surrounding the United States (U.S.) export market.

According to an ADB's press release on September 30, solid growth is expected through 2026, driven by continued strength in the industrial sector and steady inflows of foreign direct investment.

“The economy has shown resilience in the first half of 2025,” said ADB Country Director for Cambodia Ms. Jyotsana Varma. “Lower-than-expected food price increases and declining fuel costs helped ease inflation, while industrial activity remained robust. Looking ahead, there is scope for continued recovery in the construction

and tourism sectors, alongside steady growth in agriculture, which together point to a more balanced and sustainable expansion.”

According to ADB's flagship economic report, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) September 2025, year-on-year inflation declined sharply from 6.0 percent in January to 1.6 percent in June. Inflation is expected to average around 2.0 percent in 2025 and 2026.

Industry continues to be the main growth engine. Garment exports surged 22.2 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2025, partly due to U.S. buyers stocking up in anticipation of higher tariffs on Cambodian imports.

Despite cautious sentiment among importers stemming from trade policy uncertainty, the garment and non-garment manufacturing

MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS: CAMBODIA ...

- **GBV Prevention:** Domestic violence prevalence decreased from 29% in 2014 to 21% in 2021, aided by multi-sectoral responses and victim-centred services.

- **Leadership:** Women comprise 42% of civil servants and hold 27% of decision-making roles.

H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi concluded, “Women are not just beneficiaries; they are drivers of change, innovation, and resilience.”

sectors are expected to remain strong, supported by a relatively favourable 19 percent U.S. tariff rate.

Growth in the services sector is projected to moderate to 2.8 percent in 2025 and 2.6 percent in 2026.

Tourism showed continued recovery in the first half of 2025 with increased arrivals from the People's Republic of China. However, ongoing border tensions with Thailand are expected to dampen tourism and weigh on broader service activities in the second half of the year and beyond.

The agriculture sector is forecast to expand by 1.1 percent in 2025 and 2026, supported by sustained export demand and the anticipated return of agricultural labourers from Thailand in the latter half of the year. Agricultural exports rose by 14.1 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2025, driven by robust shipments of cashew nuts and milled rice, which helped offset declines in cassava and rubber exports.

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