



Opening Remarks
Samdech Techo HUN SEN,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

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- *Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and President of 43rd AIPA General Assembly;*
- *H.E Choun Leekpai, President of the National Assembly of Thailand,*
- *H.E. Martin Romualdez, Speaker of the House of Representatives,*
- *Your Majesty, Excellencies ASEAN Leaders;*
- *Leaders of AIPA;*
- *Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!*

At the outset, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to **Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, Your Majesty Sultan and Excellencies ASEAN Leaders and Representatives of AIPA Member Parliaments** who are present in this meeting. This physical gathering between the two bodies of ASEAN members is indeed important for sharing the development progress, challenges, and working together to identify solutions so as to further build our community with resiliency.

As the Chair of ASEAN in 2022 with the theme **"ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together"**, Cambodia has set priority on ensuring ASEAN's effectiveness in accelerating recovery and promoting economic growth in a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient manner. At present, ASEAN has been promoting the implementation of measures under the 5 strategies of the **ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**. In parallel, to restore and promote the building of the

ASEAN Community, Cambodia has set four strategic thrusts under ASEAN Economic Community Pillar, including: (1). Enhancing Digital Connectivity, Science and Technology, (2). Narrowing Development Gap for ASEAN's Competitiveness, (3). Promoting a More Integrated, Inclusive, Resilient and Competitive ASEAN, and (4). Global ASEAN for Growth and Development.

In addition, to accelerate the reduction of development gap between ASEAN members, ASEAN also has been promoting ASEAN Digital Transformation, which is a source of growth and new business models to enhance economic growth and resiliency of regional supply chains as well as to encourage micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt the use digital technologies by setting common governance and developing digital infrastructure. We have also provided plenty of supports through introducing initiatives and action plans aimed at fostering the development of entrepreneurship for women and youth. In addition, we have officially announced the launch of **Negotiations for the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Competition (AFAC), Negotiations to Upgrade the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)** and promoted the implementation of free trade agreements including the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP)** to boost regional trade flows, enhance resiliency to regional supply chains and foster socio-economic development.

With a proactive spirit, ASEAN is developing **ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision** that strategically focuses on major issues, including: the development of the digital economy and reduction of the digital gap in the region, the enhancement of green economic development, the protection of migrant workers, especially in getting well-prepared to move forward and respond to new trends and global crises in the future.

I am looking forward to actively and vigorously exchanging of views between the representatives of AIPA and ASEAN leaders.

Thank You!