



## **Resolution on the Importance of Multilateralism and the Rules-Based Trading System in the Post-Covid-19 Recovery**

Over the last 70 years, multilateralism and the rules-based trading system have been the backbone of globalisation and thus global security and prosperity. Unfortunately, the international multilateral system and globalisation have been recently weakened mainly due to rising populist politics, protectionism and unilateralism. In this context, the Centrist Democrat International (CDI-IDC), upon the request by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), calls for the promotion of effective multilateralism and the rules-based trading system that thrive on mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual interest.

The CDI-IDC recognises the progress that Cambodia has achieved so far since her adoption of the 1993 Constitution, recommending further improvement that adorns political pluralism, civil and political freedom, and religious harmony. The CDI-IDC also supports Cambodia's commitment to multilateralism and the rules-based trading system.

Since joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1999 and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2003, Cambodia has engaged extensively with the world in global trade and particularly has integrated herself prominently in the regional and global supply chains networks. The Kingdom has also been active in promoting regional and sub-regional economic integration and advancing trade liberation in the broader Asia-Pacific region, noticeably the establishment of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. More noticeably, as the Host of upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Cambodia has proposed the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth," reflecting the Kingdom's efforts and contribution to the enterprise that promotes ASEM as one of the cornerstones of global governance.

It is without any doubt that multilateralism and the rules-based trading system is even more crucially important for the international community to address systemic crisis that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about. Against this backdrop, the CDI-IDC calls for international



cooperation in post-pandemic economic recovery and social resilience building. Indeed, the effectiveness and swiftness of the post-pandemic economic recovery plan will depend on global cooperation and mutual support as well as commitment to ensure that markets remain opened and trade and global supply chains unimpeded.

The CDI-IDC takes stock of Cambodia's advantage of having a good position in the Mekong as a bridging state for the EU's engagement in the sub-region, and therefore calls for the leveraging of this advantage to promote the interest of CDI-IDC member parties, including the EU member parties, to jointly advance an open, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral system and an rules-based international order.

The CDI-IDC respectfully calls on the international community to forge productive partnership and cooperation in bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements with the lower-income developing countries such as those in the Mekong in a joint bid for inclusive growth and prosperity of the CDI global family.

The CDI-IDC also urges that the international community avoid the use of economic sanction as a form of coercion or pressure on any small, weak states and instead help create conducive environment for them to realise the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, through investment promotion, technological transfer and above all trade liberalisation.

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