



ASEM13 - PHNOM PENH, 2020

ASEM SOM “Retreat” (SOM-R)

**05 – 06 March 2020, Borei Angkor Resort & Spa,
Siem Reap | Cambodia**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

(As of 03 February 2020)

I. Adoption of the Agenda

Delegations will have opportunities to request changes to the draft agenda if notified to the Cambodia Chair prior to the ASEM SOM Retreat.

II. Business Arrangements

The Chair will go through the handling of the meeting, including the programme.

III. The Role of ASEM in Promoting Multilateralism

ASEM's core principles (dialogue, informality, flexibility, equality and mutual respect, the spirit of consensus, and mutual benefit) in strengthening Asia-Europe relations have been upheld and reaffirmed at all high-levels of the cooperation process, particularly at the 12th ASEM Summit in 2018 in Brussels and the 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2019 in Madrid.

As multilateralism has been under pressure due to the growing tendency of unilateralism and protectionism, ASEM has become and shall continue to be an important building block of the rules-based international order and global governance in general. Since ASEM is moving into its second quarter of century of its existence, it needs to play a more robust role in promoting confidence-building, mutual respect, and connectivity between Asia and Europe in order to advance a stronger the Asia-Europe partnership for international peace, cooperation and prosperity. In this regard, ASEM SOM Leaders should take necessary measures to follow up ASEM Leaders' commitment at the last ASEM meetings and continue to discuss some fundamental but critical questions raised during previous meetings, including the previous two SOM retreats in Zurich and Sydney in 2018 and 2019 respectively. To this end, the following questions need to be further discussed:

- *As we are confronting with the mounting pressure from unilateralism and protectionism, how can we build a more robust and effective Asia-Europe partnership to be more responsive to a rapidly changing world?*
- *What should be done to promote multilateralism through ASEM mechanisms?*
- *How can we harness the tangible outcomes from the ASEM process and its visibility?*
- *What should be the mandatory roles of ASEM SOM Leaders to sustainably ensure ASEM's core principles and global visibility?*
- *What should be done to promote and enhance larger involvement of various partners and stakeholders?*

IV. Outcome document(s) of the ASEM13 Summit

Key elements to be incorporated into the outcome document(s) of the ASEM 13 Summit will be discussed.

This SOM Retreat will provide a good opportunity to reflect the previous SOM Retreats over the discussion of ASEM summit functionality and concise outcome documents (length, structure, substantive focus). In this regard, questions that should be paid high attention to include:

- What are the best practices and most practical ways of the functionality of ASEM Summits (its characteristics and reforms)?
- What should be the formal format of Summit Chairman's Statement? Should the format of outcome document be similar to that of the 12th ASEM Summit held in Brussels in 2018? (Chapeau, regional issues, security cluster, global issues cluster and sustainable connectivity cluster)?
- What should be the substantive issues to be included?
- What need to be done to ensure that ASEM leaders feel at ease when attending the upcoming summit?

V. Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity:

Following the discussion from the previous ASEM SOMs on the way forward of the Tangible Areas of Connectivity Cooperation (TACC) agreed at ASEM12 Summit in Brussels, the ASEM Senior Officials are invited to continue sharing their views on how they see it and what should be the goal for the ASEM13 Summit.

ASEAN's proposed paper on "The Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity: An Enhanced Roles of the ASEM Coordinators", adopted by the Asian Group as a working paper at the ASEM SOM back-to-back to the ASEM FMM14 in Madrid, will be further discussed.

VI. Preparations for the ASEM13 Summit

The state of play on the preparations for the ASEM13 Summit on 16-17 November 2020 in Phnom Penh and other related/side events will be briefed by the Chair.

VII. The ASEM – Ministerial Calendar 2020

(ASEF will provide the update-calendar)

VIII. Any other Business

- Next ASEM SOM: Prior to ASEM SOM in Berlin in September 2020, will be another ASEM SOM held in late June or early July?
- Delegations are kindly requested to inform the Chair in advance of any points they wish to raise.
