

# 2011 ASEAN ROADMAP FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*Adopted in Bali, Indonesia on 17 November 2011*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is to contribute to realising an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and socially responsible with a view to building an inclusive and cohesive society where the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples are enhanced. The ASCC is also focusing on the social dimension of narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States. ASEAN, through its sectoral bodies, is working towards achieving this goal by implementing the ASCC Blueprint (2009-2015) adopted at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand. The ASCC Blueprint envisages the following characteristics: human development; social welfare and protection; social justice and rights; ensuring environmental sustainability; building the ASEAN identity; and narrowing the development gap.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) mirror ASEAN's commitment to building a caring and sharing Community by 2015. The MDGs also present a set of goals and targets for improving wellbeing and reducing poverty in its broadest sense that are in line with the purposes of ASEAN. As stated in Article 1 of the ASEAN Charter, the purposes of ASEAN include: (a) to alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation; (b) to promote sustainable development so as to ensure, among others, the high quality of life of its peoples; (c) to develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning; and (d) to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice.

ASEAN's commitment to assist ASEAN Member States in accelerating the achievement of the MDGs has been reflected in a number of Statements/Declarations and major ASEAN documents issued by the Leaders and Ministers. Embedded in the Vientiane Action Programme 2004-2010, the ASEAN Leaders set the goal of accelerating the goal of poverty reduction within the framework of the MDGs. At the 12th ASEAN Summit in January 2007, the ASEAN Leaders agreed to strengthen efforts to achieve common goals of eradicating poverty and hunger in ASEAN.

Subsequently, the ASEAN Leaders called for, among others, the development and implementation of a Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs as a framework for collective actions among ASEAN Member States to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs. This will focus on five key factors, namely advocacy and linkages, knowledge, resources, expertise, and regional cooperation and regional public goods. This commitment is expressed on the Joint Declaration on the Attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN adopted at the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand (see ANNEX 1).

The ASCC Blueprint also recognises the need to develop and implement an ASEAN Roadmap towards realising the MDGs in consultation among concerned sectoral bodies with a view to identify and extend technical assistance required in the field of poverty reduction.

Overall, ASEAN Member States have made remarkable progress towards the full achievement of the MDGs. Some ASEAN Member States have adopted additional goals and targets specific to their own particular circumstances. However, there are still significant challenges that need to be overcome in achieving the MDGs in a timely and integrative manner. A particular challenge is narrowing the

development gaps within the region. Issues of poverty are multidimensional and therefore will have to be addressed concertedly if ASEAN is to successfully narrow the development gaps.

A research initiative entitled “Poverty Reduction and Social Development in ASEAN: Towards an ASEAN Roadmap for the Implementation of the MDGs Plus” was undertaken by the ASEAN Secretariat in 2008 with the support of the Australian Government. The study identified the progress, common challenges, lessons learnt and good practices of ASEAN Member States in attaining the MDGs. The study also recommended a set of collective actions that ASEAN as a group could consider in supporting the development agenda of ASEAN Member States which partly are encapsulated in their national MDGs. The study findings were based on literature research and inputs from ASEAN Member States provided through the national consultations of the project consultants with relevant government officials. Consultations with the relevant ASEAN bodies on the study findings were also undertaken during and after the Regional Workshop held on 28-29 April 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The results and recommendations of this study were taken into consideration in the development of this Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs.

Acting on the ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on the Attainment of the MDGs in ASEAN, a Regional Workshop was convened on 24-25 January 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, to consider the format and content of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs. This Workshop has taken into account the recommendations of the abovementioned 2008 study and the existing sectoral work programmes which may have relevance to the Member States’ efforts in achieving the MDGs. The Roadmap was expected to facilitate closer intersectoral cooperation as the MDGs are multidimensional. The Regional Workshop was attended by the Representatives of SOMRDPE, SOM-ED, ACW, SOMSWD, SOMHD, AHSOM, ATFOA, ASOEN, SOMDP and SOM-AMAF.

## II. OBJECTIVES

This ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs aims at facilitating closer intra-and inter-sectoral collaboration in ASEAN and collectively helping each other in accelerating the MDGs attainment. Collective actions in five critical factors of advocacy, knowledge, resources, expertise, and regional cooperation and regional public goods are identified. These factors are broad and encompass sets of actions to be implemented by the ASEAN sectoral bodies corresponding to the MDGs. Those factors are not meant to be specific but rather a foundation upon which ASEAN can refine and transform into actions to support ASEAN Member States in accelerating their MDGs attainment. Since this Roadmap is a means for implementation, it allows the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies to choose the appropriate means to implement the MDGs.

The following ASEAN sectoral bodies are considered as directly corresponding to the eight thematic areas of the MDGs:

- Goal 1 (poverty) : SOMRDPE, SOM-AMAF
- Goal 2 (education) : SOM-ED
- Goal 3 (gender) : ACW
- Goal 4, 5, 6 (health) : SOMHD and its subsidiary bodies
- Goal 7 (environment) : ASOEN

- Goal 8 (global partnerships) : All sectoral bodies
- Other sectoral bodies that are considered as relevant across the Goals: SOMSWD (children-related Goals), AHSOM (statistics) SOMDP (development planning) and IAI Task Force (narrowing development gaps),

A stock-taking exercise was carried out to show the linkages between the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies' Actions in the ASCC Blueprint and their corresponding work programmes or activities/initiatives which may have relevance to the specific MDGs. The result is presented in a form of matrix that would need to be updated and reported by the concerned ASEAN sectoral bodies regularly. The Regional Workshop held on 24-25 January 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, recommended that the progress of implementation of this Roadmap be reported by ASEAN Member States regularly to the ASCC Council through the ASEA Senior Officials Committee for ASCC (SOCA). The matrix could be used as a reference document to keep track of the progress made towards the MDGs by the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

This Roadmap presents a foundation upon which ASEAN can plan a way forward for supporting poverty reduction in the region. The underlying purpose of this Roadmap is:

- To support ASEAN Member States to maximise development (partly encapsulated in their national MDGs);
- To narrow the development gaps within and between ASEAN Member States;
- To allow successful ASEAN's economic and socio-cultural integration; and
- To promote collaboration between ASEAN Member States

As the aim and process of the UNESCAP/ADB/UNDP-lead Asia Pacific MDG Roadmap closely resembles the purpose and process of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs, the collective actions in this Roadmap are categorised into five critical factors that correspond broadly with the five headings of the UNESCAP/ADB/UNDP-lead Asia Pacific MDG Roadmap. It is envisaged that by harmonising the broad headings of this Roadmap with those of the UNESCAP/ADB/UNDP-lead Asia Pacific MDG Roadmap, it could synergise the actions taken by ASEAN Member States on the two Roadmaps and promote closer partnerships between ASEAN and UNESCAP/ADB/UNDP in this regard.

### **III. KEY AREAS OF COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

#### **A. ADVOCACY AND LINKAGES**

The collective actions contained in this section aim at keeping regional and national stakeholders focused on the MDGs in ASEAN Member States. Stakeholders include the governments of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, regional and international organisations, civil society, private sector and the media. Engagement of civil society organisations at regional level shall be in accordance with Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter and the rules of procedure and criteria for engagement with entities associated with ASEAN as prescribed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR).

## A.1. Integration of the MDGs Regionally

### A.1.1. Determine and appoint appropriate MDGs focal points in each ASEAN Member State

Determination of appropriate focal points in each ASEAN Member State is very useful to the process of operationalising this Roadmap. The line ministries in ASEAN Member States that are responsible for coordinating development strategies and plans as well as for monitoring MDG progress act as the focal points. In most ASEAN Member States, this would be the Ministry of Planning. At the regional level, the Ministries of Planning are the focal points for the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning (SOMDP) which is under the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) pillar. Selection of the appropriate focal points of ASEAN Member States for the MDGs will be up to each ASEAN Member State. ASEAN Member States that do not have a Ministry of Planning could nominate an appropriate Ministry as the alternative focal point. Such focal points would allow this Roadmap to link directly with national development strategies for planning, achieving and monitoring the MDGs or national equivalents in each ASEAN Member State.

### A.1.2. Determine an appropriate forum for operationalising the MDG Roadmap and sharing MDG progress within ASEAN

The existing platforms, could facilitate communications among relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and foster the sharing of progress of MDGs amongst ASEAN Member States. Complementing this, other cross-sectoral fora, such as the Regional Workshop on the Attainment of the MDGs on 24-25 January 2011 in Bangkok, could be initiated as avenues to deliberate on the issues of MDGs.

Regional reporting on the progress of the MDGs in ASEAN Member States would involve AHSOM through its biennial ASEAN MDGs Statistics Report and SOMDP considering that the ministries of planning in most of ASEAN Member States are responsible for coordinating development strategies and plans as well as for monitoring MDG progress. The involvement of SOMDP would synergise the MDGs monitoring at national and regional levels.

A closer look at the mandates and tasks of various ASEAN sectoral bodies shows that the following ASEAN sectoral bodies could be identified to have direct relevance to the various MDGs: ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRPDE), ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) and its subsidiary bodies (i.e. ASEAN Task Force on HIV and AIDS (ATFOA), ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD)) and ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment (ASOEN). The other sectoral bodies which could contribute to the various Goals may include ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Development Planning (SOMDP), ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM), and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force. The majority of activities would be undertaken by these ASEAN sectoral bodies that are directly corresponding to the MDGs. These sectoral bodies should ensure that relevant recommendations in each of the five critical factors of collective actions are implemented. Responsibility for coordination and implementation of this Roadmap in each category would be decided by each sectoral body, and could be the existing subsidiary bodies or lead shepherd countries.

It is envisaged that the ASEAN Secretariat would provide secretarial support in terms of ensuring communications are going well, exploring funding opportunities and technical support from Dialogue Partners and other external parties.

In addition to sectoral bodies, the ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on MDGs (ARCMDG) could also be recognised as an important entity providing further support in the implementation of regional undertakings on MDGs. Similarly, the ASEAN Foundation could also play an important role in promoting relevant regional activities on MDGs across ASEAN.

#### A.1.3. Synergise the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint

The implementation of this Roadmap shall be in synergy with that of the ASCC Blueprint by the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. The implementation of MDGs-related programmes and its activities at the regional level is generally sector specific as it is guided by the relevant ASCC Blueprint and sectoral work plan. Clearly there are gaps found within each sector in implementing the Actions and sectoral work plan. The limited resources available within each sectoral body could easily be identified as one of the main obstacles in the implementation of programmes and activities. Faced with limited resources available within each sectoral body, it is recommended to seek appropriate support from Dialogue Partners or other organisations. However, an opportunity actually exists for intersectoral collaboration to address certain Goals allowing the sectoral bodies to synergise their efforts and resources ensuring that the implementation of programmes and activities could be more impactful. This would reduce the tendency to operate in “silos” and would promote a more cohesive approach to poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs, given that the MDGs are linked. This recommendation applies equally to ASEAN sectoral working groups and taskforces.

### A.2. Integration of the MDGs Nationally

#### A.2.1. Facilitate mainstreaming and localisation of the MDGs in ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that whenever possible, ASEAN Member States could facilitate and promote their respective line ministries, other than relevant planning / coordinating ministries, to align their strategies, plans and initiative with national development plans and strategies, including mainstreaming of MDG targets and indicators, into sectoral strategies, plans and monitoring frameworks. As line ministries play a major role in operationalizing plans and strategies it is essential that mainstreaming the MDGs occur.

In several ASEAN Member States, sectoral strategies were not well aligned with the national development strategy targets and time lines. In other cases, the MDGs or equivalent goals in nation development strategies were not clearly visible in sector strategies. Further, collaboration between ministries of planning or similar with responsibility for overarching development strategies was not strong or regular, further weakening the link between national development / poverty reduction strategies that encompass the MDGs and operational activities and service delivery of line ministries.

It is further recommended that as much as possible, ASEAN Member States could promote strategies to localise the MDGs to local government levels so that activities to achieve the MDGs are incorporated into local government planning, action and monitoring. Local ownership and leadership should be encouraged. Such localization might assist in overcoming some of the challenges apparent in ASEAN Member States as a result of decentralisation. Such strategies for localisation of MDGs should be incorporated into national development strategies.

It is recommended that ASEAN Member States could encourage the use of the MDG data for evidence-based planning and the implementation of activities at national level to create, modify or terminate activities in a timely fashion to more effectively achieve the MDGs at all levels.

Lastly, it is recommended that ASEAN Member States consider providing incentives to promote localisation of the MDGs. Examples include: disbursements of funds to local government units based in part on adequate local development plans that incorporate the MDGs and progress, in terms of outcomes, towards achievement at the local level.

#### A.2.2. Facilitate heightened mainstreaming of gender in ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that during the facilitation of the MDG mainstreaming, similar attention is paid to mainstreaming gender across the MDGs and national development strategies in ASEAN Member States. It is recommended that in most ASEAN Member States particular attention is paid to moving from a focus on the gender mainstreaming mechanisms to activities that most effectively lead to positive gender equality outcomes. As an example of a specific action, the Viet Nam Women's Union links the strategies, policies and the mainstreaming mechanisms with the men and women in villages, and has managed to improve well-being and enhance gender equality at local levels. To minimize duplication the Three-in-One approach could be promoted, as in the Philippines, in which one monitoring framework and one report system is used to track achievement of gender-related MDG targets, CEDAW targets and national targets.

#### A.3. Promote active involvement of relevant stakeholders

##### A.3.1. Increase the involvement of civil society in actions to achieve the MDGs

It is recommended that ASEAN increase involvement of civil society in activities related to the achievement of the MDGs in the region where appropriate; and that ASEAN Member States also, where appropriate, maximize their partnerships with civil society. Already, civil society plays an integral role in most ASEAN Member States in implementing activities and monitoring the achievement and government actions on the MDGs.

It is also recommended that action plans, agreements and the like are shared where appropriate, more openly and proactively with major civil society organisations, such as NGO umbrella groups and private sector/business forums in ASEAN Member States, as well as international NGOs and regional business forums. There are several reasons:

- Keep all stakeholders focused on achieving the MDGs
- Fostering collaboration and minimizing duplication of efforts
- Accessing alternative funding sources
- Improving accountability and transparency (good governance) - NGOs in some countries during this study suggested that if they were aware of agreements committed to by their respective governments that they would be able to hold them accountable to take action on their commitments.

ASEAN might also consider, where appropriate, engaging directly with civil society and/or establishing a network or linkages with existing networks in the region. Good practice examples of engagement with civil society exist within ASEAN. Engagement of civil society at regional level shall be in accordance with Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter and the rules of procedure and criteria for engagement with entities associated with ASEAN as prescribed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR).

### A.3.2. Develop and implement an advocacy plan for the MDG achievement

There are many activities that could be developed to advocate widely for attention and action on the MDGs in addition to those outlined above. The following additional activities could be considered by ASEAN:

- Facilitating media campaigns within the region to increase public awareness;
- Engagement in existing international and regional forums on the MDGs.

It is recommended that such activities are incorporated into an advocacy plan, that is shared and accepted by all ASEAN Member States, and which is engendered.

## B. KNOWLEDGE

### B.1. Information Sharing on the MDGs

#### B.1.1. Share existing MDG knowledge and information amongst ASEAN Member States

Existing mechanisms by which the most up-to-date data on the MDGs and other key development variables from all ASEAN Member States is readily available electronically would need to be leveraged. Instead of ASEAN creating a separate data base or other repository of information, it is recommended that ASEAN manage knowledge about the MDGs, including processes, best practices, and up-to-date statistics, by merely facilitating the sharing of this information through the existing mechanisms, such as:

- Existing MDG databases;
- UNDP sources on MDGs;
- ASEAN MDGs Statistics Report to be issued biennially by AHSOM;
- Best practice manuals and case studies developed by ASEAN and on the ASEAN website or national websites;
- The regional knowledge management centre that might be established in future under the UNESCAP/ADB/UNDP Asia Pacific Regional MDG Initiative;
- Research and academic institutions to exchange research results and information on the MDGs.

It is recommended that ASEAN Member States make the data sets from development indicators, including the MDGs, widely available for utilisation by independent assessors in a timely manner after collection. While acknowledging the importance of making data sets related to MDGs among ASEAN Member States, some Member States still need capacity building in statistical system improvement through trainings and technical assistance. The open review of the MDGs is part of the commitment of the Millennium Declaration. In sharing and utilisation of the MDGs data, it is recommended that the data used by ASEAN could be made in line with the UN's data.



## B.2. Sharing of Best Practices

### B.2.1. Develop practical manuals on best practices for MDG achievement from within ASEAN

It is recommended that ASEAN facilitate practical manuals on best practices to achieve MDG-related outcomes. A standardised format would be useful. Such manuals should be practical, user friendly language, including step by step guidelines, easy to follow instructions, and linked with the implementing agency with the country, ministry or NGO responsible. CDs and DVDs would be valuable, as would facilitated bilateral tours rather than meetings, like “on-the-job” sharing of experience. It is recommended that sectoral bodies identify best practices in each MDG area. It is envisaged that ASEAN sectoral bodies, with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat, would be responsible for seeking funding from ASEAN Dialogue Partner for developing and producing best practice manuals. ASEAN Member States could share their respective best practice examples. It is also envisaged that these manuals would be available electronically rather than in hard copy where possible.

It is also recommended that in view of ASEAN’s focus on reducing disparities and vulnerabilities between and within ASEAN Member States, that existing information is collected and made accessible on this topic. This information would then be available for practical implementation, where applicable.

### B.2.2. Provide links to best practice examples outside ASEAN

It is also recommended that the ASEAN Secretariat collect and disseminate on its website, best practice examples that may have been compiled and consolidated by development partners and others. The ASEAN Centres of Excellence and the SEAMEO Centres could be engaged for dissemination of best practices.

## B.3. Promotion of Researches

### B.3.1. Facilitate research into the potential impact of economic integration on vulnerable communities in ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that ASEAN facilitate research on the potential impact of the economic integration on vulnerable communities in the region; and what ASEAN as a group and individual ASEAN Member States could do to mitigate or reduce the negative risks that do occur of economic integration. Such study shall not duplicate similar regional research studies that have been undertaken by ASEAN, such as the Study to Determine the Impact of Accelerating the ASEAN Economic Community From 2020 to 2015 on CLMV which was commenced under the IAI Framework. For easier cross-country comparison and dissemination of findings among Member States, research network and common research protocols and areas could be considered on a need basis. Furthermore, the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies that are interested to undertake such research should be identified. Other researches relevant to achieving the MDGs in ASEAN Member States are also to be encouraged.

## **C. RESOURCES**

This section outlines suggested recommendations concerning financing the MDGs, human resources and cooperation.

## C.1. Funding

C.1.1. Ensure the implementation of this ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the MDGs is well resourced

ASEAN shall ensure that this Roadmap and the corresponding Action Plans of the ASCC Blueprint can realistically be funded. Otherwise, well developed plans will not lead to poverty reduction for poor people in the region. The following is suggested:

- Determine the reasons why the target is off-track, causality and link to the other MDG areas. Based on the evidence, determine what needs to be done to bring the MDG back on track. It is suggested to look from 2015 backwards instead of trying to look forward from where the off-track MDG is now. The latter method tends to just make incremental changes to existing programmes and budgets and a more radical shift may be required.
- In each ASEAN Member States, determine the realistic cost of bringing off-track MDGs back on track, as well as for maintaining current efforts for the MDGs that are on track for achievement by 2015. This exercise should broaden its focus to include groups and locations that are not on track or that are vulnerable.
- Determine how shortfalls can be overcome by responding to these questions, i.e. do ASEAN Member States have the human and institutional resources to undertake the activities required? What is required to meet MDGs? What is existing now? Is there a shortfall? How to make this up? Is external technical support and capacity building required? Can ASEAN facilitate from other ASEAN Member States or Dialogue Partners or elsewhere?

It is recommended that the CPR and IAI Taskforce recognise the multi-stakeholder dimension of aid and improve its role in coordinating and partnering with concerned agencies and stakeholders. There is a key role for the CPR and IAI Taskforce to play in facilitating funding links between ASEAN Member States and with other external parties to narrow the gap and reduce vulnerabilities between and within ASEAN Member States using the MDGs as a platform.

It is recommended that ASEAN pursues funding for this Roadmap from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other development partners. Funding would be required for those Member States that are off-track towards reaching specific targets of the MDGs.

As part of this process, existing linkages should be investigated and built-upon, and the partner sought would depend on the technical assistance and funds available from that partner.

It is also recommended that the existing mechanisms be maximised to facilitate support between ASEAN Member States and from Dialogue Partners and international organisations to ASEAN Member States in areas of most needed under the MDGs. Those existing mechanisms, such as the frameworks for cooperation between ASEAN and UN agencies or other international organisations, could be broadened to include the MDGs specifically.

C.1.2. Use MDG-8 as an entry point to foster development partnerships amongst ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that the MDG-8 is promoted in the ASEAN region to strengthen partnerships and to develop new partnerships between ASEAN Member States both for funding and technical support. In this way, ASEAN can act collectively to identify and take action on regional opportunities to achieve the MDGs and ensure benefits for development are distributed effectively. Many partnerships exist within ASEAN at a bilateral level which could also be tapped in.

It is recommended that this support focus on narrowing the development gaps between and within ASEAN Member States with regard to the MDGs and poverty, broadly speaking. One entry point to commence this MDG-8 could be the environment goals of MDG-7, as all ASEAN Member States are dealing with environmental issues, such as: climate change, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, forest cover. The environment is a shared public good.

It is also recommended that ASEAN Member States share information regarding their experiences in implementing strategies to act on the MDG-8. Mechanisms must be developed, including possible action plans.

## C.2. Human Resources

### C.2.1. Foster South-South cooperation, including strengthening databases of ASEAN technical expertise

It is recommended that ASEAN play a key role in fostering South-South cooperation between and among all ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries and/or the East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. Many of these countries have much to offer their less developed neighbours, including institutional knowledge on how to implement best practice examples and to manage scale-ups; well-established centres for learning and intellectual exchange; networks of experts that can be leveraged to support the development of MDG-based poverty reduction strategies; and in some instances, financial resources that can be allocated to assist low-income countries. The successful industrialised countries in Asia, for instance, have significant expertise based on their own successes and failures. Their civil servants and project managers could be usefully deployed to advise public sector managers in low development countries on how to implement projects and programmes at scale.

Such cooperation could involve institutional strengthening, mentoring and twinning of institutions, technical assistance and capacity building. It is suggested that the linkages fostered focus on building organizational capacity rather than individual capacity.

In a first step in this process, attempts should be made to identify the strengths of ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners, where similarities lie between them and best practices could be shared, and partnerships could be further strengthened.

It is also important to build on existing initiatives. Some of these include:

- Sub-regional arrangements such as those that Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines have within ASEAN; the East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA),
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand-Growth Triangle (IMT-GT),
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore-Growth Triangle (IMS-GT),
- ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC),
- Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) to reducing the development gap within the region.
- Greater Mekong Sub-Region disease surveillance system.

## D. EXPERTISE

This section presents recommendations in the areas of expert support in the form of capacity building, institutional strengthening, and technical assistance that allows practical solutions to problems in achieving the MDGs.

As recommended above, South-South cooperation within ASEAN and with the Plus Three countries and/or the EAS countries is considered to be important in supporting ASEAN Member States to accelerate the achievement of their MDGs. The recommendations below should utilise cooperation between ASEAN Member States where possible, followed by cooperation with development partners.

### D.1. Institutional Strengthening

#### D.1.1. Facilitate the strengthening of institutions involved in the MDG achievement in ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that ASEAN focus on facilitating the strengthening of key institutions rather than training or building the capacity of individuals, in ASEAN Member States that are struggling to achieve the MDGs as a result of system weaknesses. The statistical system would be one area that could benefit from this recommendation. Additionally, strengthening of key institutions could also be applied to other areas, such as in ensuring equitable access to medicines through improving the country pharmaceutical system. It is envisaged that institutional strengthening would be a long-term partnership amongst ASEAN Member States or with other neighboring countries.

### D.2. Provision of Expertise to Ensure Effective Monitoring of the MDGs

The collection, analysis and utilisation of data to effectively monitor the progress of the MDGs are critical to moving the MDGs achievement forward in the region. During the field work for this study, many anomalies were observed across most countries. Specific general recommendations are listed below:

#### D.2.1. Promote quality of data collection and analysis

The following recommendations are made in order to ensure valid and reliable data are available for MDG achievement:

- Central government supervises local data collection for the generation of national statistics.
- To identify the Member States with greater statistical and analytical capacity, and ultimately encouraging them to provide assistance to those Member States that are in need of capacity building in these areas.
- To facilitate in seeking expertise within ASEAN and from the Dialogue Partners to assist ASEAN Member States in enhancing quality of data and analysis.
- Development of adequate capacity at lower levels.
- Experiences are shared between ASEAN Member States in enhancing data quality.

#### D.2.2. Promote the disaggregation of data as widely as possible

It is recommended that ASEAN promote the disaggregation of data concerning the MDGs to local geographical level, by sex and age groups, by marginalised and vulnerable groups, by rural and urban areas, by slum and non-slum, etc. This would increase the utility of data for targeting and local planning, and allow interventions to be tailored for different localities, and be gender-responsive.

It also is recommended that the set of sex-disaggregated indicators outlined by ASEAN in the Third Report on the Advancement of Women in ASEAN which was issued in 2007 as a project of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) are promoted and utilised by ASEAN Member States where possible.

Well disaggregated data collected at lower levels was aggregated to higher levels for reporting purposes, which often lost the gender and location-specific dimensions.

#### D.2.3. Harmonise indicators for the MDGs

It is recommended that ASEAN facilitate the harmonisation of indicators used for tracking the MDGs across the region as much as possible. This would involve the development of a data dictionary, such as definitions of indicators, formulae, terminologies, etc. being used by different ASEAN Member States. However, it is acknowledged that standardisation of indicators and data collection and analysis is not practical as ASEAN Member States are in different situations and have different statistical systems.

Inconsistent use of indicators and the lack of understanding of the purpose and the definition of the indicators made the accurate assessment of the MDG progress more difficult. For example, in several ASEAN Member States, poverty incidence data are not comparable over time because the methodology for data collection changed between surveys, the calculation of the poverty line changed, the sampling frame changed, or the method of analysis changed. It is recommended that when changes of this kind are made, a data set is maintained in which the poverty line determination and the method of analysis are kept constant over time to allow comparison between data sets.

It is further recommended that technical notes, guidelines, methodologies are prepared and made available for data collection, analysis and reporting is made available that pertain to the different data systems used in ASEAN Member States. One of the concerns pertaining to the MDG targets and indicators is that baseline data may not be available, data on the new indicators may be weak, and expertise limited. While decision regarding data collection on these MDG targets and indicators is up to individual ASEAN Member States, ASEAN could facilitate technical notes and technical assistance on these new indicators.

#### D.2.4. Include a qualitative dimension in indicators for the MDG targets

It is recommended that the Action Lines of the ASCC Blueprint should include in the goals, expected outcomes, output targets and indicators, not only the quantity of change targeted but also the quality, where applicable. Indicators should specify, where possible and appropriate, both the quantity and quality of the desired change, the target population, the deadline for change, and the location.

One of the concerns is that the MDGs emphasised only the quantity of change and not the quality. This is particularly relevant to the following MDG goals and targets:

- MDG-2 on the quality of education

- MDG-5 on the achievement of universal access to reproductive health care, but the level, type and quality of care are not mentioned.
- MDG-7 on water quality.

In developing quality indicators, it is suggested that the indicators should be in accordance with international guidelines on quality. For instance on water quality; there is a need to define the source of water and water quality which could be benchmarked against the World Health Organization (WHO) Drinking Water Guidelines (2004).

Possible actions that could be include: use of small area qualitative assessments, preparation of guiding technical notes; capacity building; and review of national targets.

### D.3. Reducing Disparities

#### D.3.1. Facilitate the provision of expertise to bring the MDGs back on track

It is recommended to identify and mobilise technical expertise to assist ASEAN Member States in exploring ways to realise MDGs. Further, it is recommended to determine reasons why the MDGs may be off track and to put together a package of expert support to assist ASEAN Member States to get back on track.

In this regard, trainings, capacity building, technical assistance and the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt among ASEAN Member States are important. It is important to pay attention to the MDGs that are off-track or stagnant in several ASEAN Member States. Some of these include: neonatal mortality, maternal mortality, mobile populations, urbanization, and the quality and inclusiveness of growth and economic integration. At the same time, assistance in specific areas is still required for some ASEAN Member States.

#### D.3.2. Facilitate provision of expertise to reduce disparities

Widening disparities and increasing vulnerabilities are of concern to ASEAN as the association moves towards economic and socio-cultural integration by 2015. Many of the problems relating to disparities and vulnerabilities are common in ASEAN Member States, such as the marginalization and poor social and economic outcomes of ethnic minorities, and the inability of people living in remote areas to access social services and income generating opportunities.

It is recommended that following the performance of recommended research mentioned earlier, ASEAN develop and integrate clear measures to overcome disparities and reduce vulnerabilities into the Blueprints and subsequent sectoral action plans. It is also recommended that ASEAN recommend similar action to ASEAN Member States for country-specific action at national level.

## **E. REGIONAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS**

This set of recommendations presents actions for enhanced cooperation in the region, as well as actions that affect and protect public goods that “belong” to several, or all, ASEAN Member States.

### E.1. Integration of ASEAN’s Agenda on the MDGs Regionally and Globally

#### E.1.1. Collaboration with Asia-Pacific regional and sub-regional initiatives

It is recommended that this Roadmap is aligned, harmonised, and/or at least, collaborates with and is aware of other Asia-Pacific regional and sub-regional initiatives on the MDGs and poverty reduction. Such harmonisation would reduce the duplication of effort, maximize the efficient use of resources, ensure sharing of information, and promote strong cooperation between countries, donors, international organisations and civil society. Regional events could be combined and the number of events decreased, reducing the burden on ASEAN Member States to attend and host such expensive exercises.

Regional initiatives include, but are not limited to, the following:

- UNESCAP/UNDP initiative of a knowledge management centre on the MDGs has established processes for information sharing, runs annual forums, provides MDG updates and tools, accesses resources for countries, and runs an MDG advocacy campaign.
- With many cooperative frameworks addressing the needs of the riparian countries of the Mekong River, there arises the need to minimize overlap. Examples include: Greater Mekong Sub-region Programme of ADB, Mekong River Commission's environmental and wildlife initiatives.
- The biannual UNGASS reports on HIV and AIDS status prepared by most ASEAN Member States has been used as a reporting mechanism also used by ASEAN instead of preparing separate reports. Signatory countries, which include all ASEAN Member States, are required to submit annual UNGASS reports on progress regarding treatment, control and care of PLWHAs. The UNGASS indicators are quite well aligned with the indicators in MDG-6.

ASEAN Sectoral Bodies are recommended to look into the possibility of streamlining the Roadmap with existing international mechanisms. It is also recommended for the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to continue cooperating with international/regional partner organisations towards implementing the Roadmap.

#### E.1.2. Lobby for support from global initiatives on climate change and other public goods for the ASEAN region

ASEAN as a group can benefit from global initiatives that aim to provide finance, technology and capacity building support; and to support actions in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. It is therefore recommended that ASEAN take on this role, collectively, on behalf of individual ASEAN Member States. More resources and opportunities globally are becoming available. Such action could raise awareness on climate change and the link between poverty and environment; and promote regional action on the environment. Other examples of regional public goods are water, forests and clean air. It is possible that food security, essential drugs and legal frameworks, such as national legal requirement and/or rules and regulation for labor migration, could also be included.

#### E.1.3. Initiate programmes for a limited number of issues that cut across the MDGs and impact several ASEAN Member States

It is recommended that ASEAN focus its attention on longer-term actions that results in significant outcomes for people in the region, rather than focus on only one-off short term projects, discussion and information sharing. A focus on important cross / multi-country issues that affect development and undermine the overall achievement of the several MDGs in several ASEAN Member States is recommended. Various crosscutting areas related to the MDGs were identified during the Regional Workshop held on 24-25 January 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, including: gender issues, migration, social impact of climate change, energy and food crisis, disaster management, disability and health.

## IV. SUMMARY OF THE ROADMAP (TABLE 1)

Table 1 of this Roadmap highlights the above recommendations for supporting ASEAN Member States to accelerate their MDGs attainment by 2015. The recommendations described above and on Table 1 do not fall into sectoral groupings, but are presented in the same five key factors of advocacy and linkages; knowledge; resources; expertise; and regional cooperation and public goods.

Within each category, recommendations are prioritised by sub-category and then by recommendation as shown by the order of placement and the timing indicated. Responsibilities for each recommendation and timeframe are also indicated in Table 1. Responsibilities have been allocated from within the existing ASEAN structure, as it was agreed by the participants at the Regional Workshop held on 24-25 January 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, that existing ASEAN mechanisms would be utilised for implementing this Roadmap.

While the broad recommendations made above and presented in this Table 1 below may contribute to the acceleration of the achievement of the MDGs in ASEAN Member States, it is important to bear in mind that there are many other variables (e.g. petrol prices, rice prices, natural disasters etc.) that can have a considerable impact on the are largely outside the control of ASEAN and of ASEAN Member States.

As 2015 is not that far away, it is important to begin the implementation of actions as soon as possible.



## **ANNEX 1**

# **JOINT DECLARATION ON THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASEAN**

WE, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;

RECALLING the Bali Concord II establishing an ASEAN Community based on three pillars, namely ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community within 2020 and the decision of the ASEAN Leaders at the ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines to accelerate the realization of an ASEAN Community from 2020 to 2015;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Charter which aims to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples at the centre of the ASEAN Community building process;

REAFFIRMING that a stable, secure and prosperous ASEAN Community can be realized when our peoples are free from hunger and provided with primary education as well as adequate health care;

ACKNOWLEDGING the different levels of social and economic development among ASEAN Member States and the need to narrow the development gap within ASEAN;

NOTING that overall ASEAN Member States have made good progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) particularly in primary education, gender equality as well as combating some infectious diseases and in some ASEAN Member States additional goals and targets have been added specific to their own particular circumstances;

CONCERNED that there are still significant challenges that need to be overcome for some ASEAN Member States to fully achieve the MDGs and thereby narrow the development gap in ASEAN;

NOTING the efforts undertaken at the regional level to address the challenges faced by ASEAN Member States in achieving the MDGs and narrowing the development gap particularly through the implementation of the Framework Plan of Action on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, the projects/ programmes on poverty and quality of life in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan, the Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting, the Work Plan for primary education, gender equality as well as combating some infectious diseases for Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (2005-2010) and the Work Plan to operationalise the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (2006-2010), the ASEAN Work programme on HIV/AIDS and the measures on health development and sustainable development in the Vientiane Action Programme as well as the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability; and

RECOGNISING the contribution of sub-regional cooperation frameworks, namely Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), and CLMV Sub-regional Cooperation in narrowing the development gap among ASEAN Member States and building an ASEAN Community;

DO HEREBY ADOPT AND PROCLAIM THAT WE WILL:

1. Make ASEAN a more dynamic, gender responsive, resilient and cohesive regional organization for the well-being of its Member States and people;
2. Ensure a continuous effort towards a balance between economic growth and social development and environmental sustainability in order to reduce and not to create negative impacts to the attainment of the MDGs;
3. Further enhance coordination and cooperation within the IAI and sub-regional cooperation frameworks in order to narrow the development gap in ASEAN in particular through the establishment of a consultative mechanism between ASEAN and the sub-regional frameworks;
4. Continue to promote public awareness in ASEAN Member States on the attainment of MDGs and enhance public participation;
5. Share information, experiences and best practices in the attainment of the MDGs among ASEAN Member States through the relevant ASEAN bodies as well as through the ASEAN Centre of Excellence on MDGs set up in the Asian Institute of Technology and other regional institutions;
6. Develop and implement a Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as a framework for collective actions among ASEAN Member States to achieve the MDGs focusing on five key areas namely advocacy and linkages; knowledge; resources; expertise; and regional cooperation and regional public goods;
7. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system, including generation of gender statistics for the attainment of MDGs in ASEAN in collaboration with the UN specialized bodies; and
8. Encourage the close collaboration and create networks among the public and private sectors and civil society in addressing challenges and developing strategies on the MDGs.

ADOPTED at Cha-am, Thailand, this First Day of March in the Year Two Thousand and Nine, in a single original copy in the English Language.