

# 2018 ASEAN LEADERS' VISION FOR A RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE ASEAN

*Adopted in Singapore on 28 April 2018*

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## 2018 ASEAN LEADERS' VISION FOR A RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE ASEAN

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We, the Heads of State/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 Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

**Recognising** the increasing change and growing uncertainties in the global strategic landscape and the implications that evolving major power dynamics have on the region;

**Acknowledging** the increasing complexity of non-traditional and transnational security challenges such as terrorism, violent extremism, cyber threats, environmental degradation, climate change, and maritime issues;

**Cognisant** that trade and investment are important engines for sustainable economic growth and development, reduction of poverty and inequality within society, creation of jobs, and securing a better future for our people amidst growing protectionist and anti-globalisation sentiments; and

**Anticipating** both the challenges and opportunities that will arise from new technologies and innovation, and their associated economic, environmental, social and political disruptive effects;

**Commit** to building a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, which is able to navigate these challenges in a coordinated, integrated and effective manner. To this end, we hereby:

**Reaffirm** the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC);

**Reaffirm** our commitment to implement the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025; the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III; and the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity 2025, towards realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025; and

**Reiterate** the following Key Principles that will underscore our collective vision and commitment to build a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN in 2018 and beyond:

1. **[Unity and Centrality]** ASEAN shall remain united in promoting ASEAN's vital interests, ideals and aspirations, remain united vis-à-vis external divisive forces, reaffirm the principle of consensus for decision-making, strengthen ASEAN centrality within ASEAN-led mechanisms, and in building an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture to effectively engage key partners, in order to respond collectively and constructively to global developments and issues of common concern.
2. **[Rules-based Order]** ASEAN shall promote the rule of law and uphold a rules-based regional order, anchored in respect for international laws and norms.

3. **[Peace and Security]** ASEAN shall remain an area of peace, freedom and security, where differences and disputes are resolved by peaceful means; where states remain free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, including through the effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty and its Plan of Action; where ASEAN adheres to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States; and where maritime cooperation are enhanced in accordance with internationally-accepted treaties and principles, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which are binding upon its Member States.
4. **[Cooperation against Terrorism and Non-traditional Threats]** ASEAN shall cooperate effectively with partners within and beyond the region to build resilience against terrorism. To counter the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism of all forms, ASEAN shall continue to uphold moderation and tolerance, and promote social cohesion and respect for diversity. ASEAN shall also address emerging non-traditional threats such as climate change, cyber threats, pandemics, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
5. **[Economic Integration and Openness]** ASEAN shall keep our markets open and competitive, deepen economic integration towards targets such as the doubling of intra-ASEAN trade by 2025; forge high quality and mutually beneficial economic agreements with external partners that reflect modern business realities to strengthen resilience against rising protectionism and global volatilities; promote a favourable and conducive environment for continued growth, trade, investment and job creation; and reinforce our global standing as a model of how regional economic integration can benefit all its people and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
6. **[Embrace Technology]** ASEAN shall embrace the opportunities afforded by new technologies and innovation arising from the digital revolution, to implement smart and innovative solutions, as well as to improve digital connectivity that enhance the lives and livelihood of its people, while building resilience against potential disruptive effects.
7. **[Investment in Youth and the Elderly]** ASEAN shall nurture and invest in its youth, including young entrepreneurs, to fully realise the energy and potential of its youthful demographic, as well as provide social protection for the elderly and promote active ageing so that they can continue to contribute to our societies.
8. **[Strengthening ASEAN Identity]** ASEAN shall embrace its diversity through people-to-people exchanges and collaboration, and strengthen the ASEAN identity to build resilience amongst its people.
9. **[Sustainable and Inclusive Development]** ASEAN shall become a sustainable community that promotes economic and social development alongside environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet the current and future challenges of its people, while leaving no one behind. ASEAN also reaffirms its commitments towards the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related goals and targets, as well as the Paris Agreement.
10. **[Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms]** ASEAN reaffirms its commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, as well as international instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties.

Having regard to the above Key Principles and Vision of building a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, we hereby agree to:

#### Peace and Security

1. **[Extradition Treaty]** Complete the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty and commence the work on an ASEAN Extradition Treaty to strengthen ASEAN's resilience and capacity to combat transnational crimes, as well as to enhance cooperation amongst its Member States to ensure respect for the rule of law.
2. **[Air and Maritime Safety Guidelines]** Develop guidelines for air and maritime safety for ASEAN militaries, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of each ASEAN Member State, which will serve as practical confidence-building measures to strengthen regional safety and resilience.
3. **[Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats]** Strengthen ASEAN's capability and capacity to detect and respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, by facilitating the sharing of information and best practices.
4. **[Conflict Prevention and Resolution]** Strengthen ASEAN capacity in conflict prevention and conflict resolution.
5. **[Code of Conduct in the South China Sea]** Work actively towards the conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.
6. **[Regional Architecture]** Continue to work towards an open, transparent and inclusive regional architecture based on international law and the principles contained in the TAC and in line with the 2011 Declaration of the EAS on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).
7. **[ADMM-Plus]** Conduct the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) on an annual basis, which will enhance dialogue and cooperation on common security challenges between ASEAN and its Plus partners, in line with the 11<sup>th</sup> ADMM-adopted Concept Paper on the Annualisation of the ADMM-Plus.

#### Terrorism

8. **[Counterterrorism]** Enhance regional cooperation on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism by engaging relevant stakeholders, exchanging experiences, sharing lessons learned, best practices and information, and coordinating policies and responses among ASEAN Member States in accordance with the ASEAN Convention on Countering Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Countering Terrorism.
9. **[Countering Radicalism and Violent Extremism]** Pursue our commitment to the formulation and development of an ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism as stated in the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism.

### Non-Traditional Threats

10. **[Border Management]** Strengthen cooperation on border management to jointly address matters of common concerns including combatting transnational crimes, particularly drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and smuggling of goods, people and weapons.
11. **[Cybersecurity]** Work towards an ASEAN Joint Statement which affirms the importance of rules-based order for cyberspace, and the need for basic, operational and voluntary cyber norms of behaviour in the region as a means of building a secure and resilient cyberspace, which will serve as an enabler for economic progress and improved living standards across ASEAN, and affirm key initiatives that help advance cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building in ASEAN including the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity hosted by Singapore, the ASEAN Cyber Capacity Programme and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre.
12. **[IUU Fishing]** Expand regional cooperation to address the issue of IUU fishing including through supporting the effective implementation of the relevant international law and instruments and implementing sustainable fisheries management and cooperation.

### Economic Integration

13. **[Trade Facilitation]** Implement measures to boost intra-ASEAN trade and enhance trade facilitation by fully rolling out the National Single Windows in all ASEAN Member States, widening the scope of the ASEAN Single Window and implementing the ASEAN-wide Self-Certification programme to ensure the expeditious movement of goods within the region.
14. **[Services]** Complete the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA) and create a more conducive regulatory environment for services trade including in areas such as financial services, telecommunication services and professional services, among others, with the aim to enhance competitiveness in services exports.
15. **[Investment]** Complete the built-in agenda of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), including reducing investment restrictions and impediments, to create a more conducive investment environment and further strengthen ASEAN as an investment destination.
16. **[E-Commerce]** Establish an ASEAN Agreement on E-commerce to advance trade rules in e-commerce to promote greater digital connectivity and facilitate the free movement of goods and services across ASEAN.
17. **[SME Development]** Enhance the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan on SME Development (2016-2025) by focusing on five key areas namely promoting innovation and e-commerce flows; improving trade facilitation; deepening services and investment integration; cultivating a conducive regulatory environment; and progressing ASEAN's external relations.
18. **[Narrowing the Development Gap]** Work towards accelerating the narrowing of the development gap within ASEAN through, among others, the effective implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III and subsequent work plans.

### Regional Connectivity

19. **[Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025]** Advance the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 to benefit all ASEAN Member States, through improved physical, institutional and people-people linkages, by promoting greater competitiveness, prosperity, inclusiveness and sense of community.
20. **[Cruise Tourism]** Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Cruise Tourism to further develop and strengthen cruise tourism to enhance ASEAN as a single tourism destination.
21. **[Seamless ASEAN Sky]** Work towards the establishment of a Seamless ASEAN Sky, with ASEAN airspace as a seamless block of airspaces with harmonised and interoperable procedures and operations, to increase air traffic management capacity and efficiency while enhancing safety.
22. **[Business Travel Card]** Study the feasibility of developing an ASEAN Business Travel Card in recognition of the importance to facilitate the movement of business people and investors

### Resilience and Safety

23. **[Disaster Response]** Work towards the operationalisation of mechanisms to enhance AMS' responses to natural disasters, such as the AMRG on HADR, based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, consensus-based decision making, participation on the basis of a flexible, voluntary and non-binding nature, assets remaining under national command and control and at a pace comfortable to all.
24. **[Civil-Military Coordination]** Undertake efforts to enhance civil-military coordination in ensuring ASEAN's collective and effective response to natural disasters and emergencies.
25. **[Search and Rescue]** Establish an ASEAN Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) Cooperation to develop and strengthen aeronautical and maritime SAR cooperation in the region.
26. **[Guidelines on Consular Assistance]** Develop the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States, to strengthen ASEAN's resilience and ability to serve its people.

### Smart and Sustainable Development

27. **[Smart Cities]** Establish an ASEAN Smart Cities Network to catalyse more opportunities for growth, innovation, capacity-building, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable development while promoting mutual cultural understanding.
28. **[Science, Technology and Innovation]** Work towards supporting the ASEAN Declaration on Innovation to embrace Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and promote the implementation of STI-based policies for people's empowerment, inclusive growth and strengthening of the ASEAN community.

29. **[Renewable Energy]** Work towards the regional targets of reducing ASEAN energy intensity and increasing the share of renewable energy in the ASEAN energy mix by developing regional energy efficiency guidelines for buildings and establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
30. **[Climate Change]** Strengthen ASEAN's capability and capacity to respond to the adverse effect of climate change, by facilitating the sharing of information and best practices to enhance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in order to build climate resilient communities in Southeast Asia.
31. **[Sustainable Development]** Enhance cooperation in sustainable development and climate change, including with Dialogue Partners and external parties, to promote complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through feasible projects that generate concrete benefits for the people of the region including exploring a platform for dialogue and studies on sustainable development within ASEAN.
32. **[Haze-Free ASEAN]** Look forward to a mid-term review of the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation to achieve the vision of a Haze-Free ASEAN by 2020.

#### People and Institutions

33. **[Youth Fund]** Renew the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund, complementing the ASEAN Youth Programme Fund, to develop young leaders, promote youth volunteerism and entrepreneurship as well as promote new approaches to youth engagement.
34. **[ASEAN Law Academy]** Establish an ASEAN Law Academy programme, which will be held in Singapore to promote and foster ASEAN legal integration and ASEAN legal education.
35. **[Migrant Workers]** Work towards an action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
36. **[Active Ageing]** Work towards the establishment of an ASEAN Centre to look into promoting healthy and active ageing for the well-being of all in the society.
37. **[ASEAN Secretariat]** Work towards strengthening and realising a professional ASEAN Secretariat with the necessary facilities and competent personnel, as well as completing a coherent plan to optimise the forthcoming new ASEAN Secretariat building in Jakarta, to fully support the ASEAN Community building process.

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