

# 2015 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT STATEMENT FOR ASEAN-NZ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2016-2020

*Adopted on 22nd November 2015*

This Plan of Action (PoA) is to implement the shared ambition for a deeper, stronger, and mutually beneficial ASEAN - New Zealand relationship with a focus on areas where ASEAN and New Zealand have expertise and mutual interests.

Building on 40 years of Dialogue Partnership, and the achievements made under the Plan of Action 2010-2015, this Plan of Action will implement the ASEAN and New Zealand Strategic Partnership, and all parties are fully committed to:

- Support ASEAN integration as well as ASEAN's efforts in realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules- based ASEAN, including by narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity;
- Enhance New Zealand's engagement with ASEAN in various existing fora and mechanisms;
- Continue to build on the progress made under the four Flagships, and increase cooperation including through two key strategies: the People Strategy and the Prosperity Strategy:
  - a. The People Strategy will aim to build stronger connections between ASEAN's and New Zealand's people and communities. It will give opportunities for training, scholarships, exchanges and greater flows of people in both directions, with a focus on youth development and future leaders.
  - b. The Prosperity Strategy will support ASEAN's and the region's economic development, as well as regional economic integration, focusing on areas where New Zealand has specific skills to offer.

The vision for the relationship is set out in the Joint Statement for the ASEAN- New Zealand Strategic Partnership 2016-2020 adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 22 November 2015.

The PoA shall be implemented taking into account ASEAN's and New Zealand's obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

## **A. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **Political and Security Dialogue:**

1. Promote regular two-way Head of State, Head of Government, Ministerial, Parliamentary and officials' level visits to raise the profile of ASEAN-New Zealand relations, and to enhance political momentum for co-operation;

2. Strengthen existing mechanisms for dialogue and co-operation in areas of mutual interest between ASEAN and New Zealand, including the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with New Zealand (PMC+1), the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) as well as within regional ASEAN-led fora, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM- Plus). Dialogue could also include ASEAN-New Zealand Summits as appropriate and as mutually agreed;
3. Continue dialogue and practical defence cooperation to address global and regional challenges. Focus may include practical cooperation, mutual visits, training, and capacity-building through regional and global initiatives as appropriate and ASEAN-led frameworks including the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus);
4. Work closely to strengthen the East Asia Summit (EAS), with ASEAN as the driving force, as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern, with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in the region;
5. Strengthen collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations, on issues of mutual interest; and
6. Raise the profile and awareness of New Zealand and ASEAN relations through Track II dialogue.

**Strengthening Peace and Stability:**

7. Further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) to contribute to maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
8. Support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, and note the ongoing efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty;
9. Continue to support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism and deepen cooperation through the framework of the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, focusing on the areas of prevention, border control, law enforcement legislation, and policy;
10. Explore cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through regional institutions such as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC);
11. Promote cooperation in confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region, including through active engagement in the relevant regional mechanisms and institutions such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), and implementation of the ARF Work Plans;

12. Enhance cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crimes such as illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, people-smuggling, money laundering, arms smuggling, piracy, terrorism and financing of terrorism and cybercrime, including through utilising existing regional frameworks including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), where appropriate, as well as regional and international institutions such as the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement (JCLEC), the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), and the International Law Enforcement Agency (ILEA);
13. Further enhance cooperation between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) through the United Nations and ARF; and
14. Deepen cooperation on cyber security, including the promotion of cyber confidence building measures, through relevant regional mechanisms such as the ARF, and SOMTC. Explore further cooperation to combat cyber threats including cybercrime and terrorist use of the Internet and raise awareness of these threats.

#### **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS:**

15. Promote dialogue, consultations, and partnership among governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the society to foster and enable new ideas, concepts, and methods with a view to enhancing transparent, accountable, participatory and effective governance; and
16. Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of vulnerable groups, in the region in accordance with relevant international and regional human rights instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are parties, including the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the work plans of the relevant ASEAN bodies including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), through regional dialogues, seminars and workshops, education and awareness-raising activities, and other capacity-building initiatives, including with New Zealand bodies where applicable.

#### **MARITIME COOPERATION :**

17. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or the threat of force, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization;
18. Strengthen cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), including the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea and oil spill preparedness, such as through technical cooperation, training exercises, and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and New Zealand officials; and

19. Promote maritime cooperation, including cooperation on maritime security, combating piracy and armed robbery against ships through appropriate ASEAN mechanisms and ASEAN-led fora such as the EAS, ADMM-Plus, ARF, ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and its Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity-building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

#### **PROMOTION OF MODERATION:**

20. Support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony; and
21. Encourage cooperation on interfaith and inter-civilisation dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives including the Global Movement of Moderates (**GMM**) and the Regional Interfaith Dialogue, and promoting moderation as a core value to counter extremism and acts of violence in all aspects.

### **8. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

#### **Trade and Economic Development under the AANZFTA:**

22. Implement the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP), with financial support by Australia and New Zealand to enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States to implement AANZFTA and ensure commitments are fully met and the full benefits of the Agreement are realised for all parties to the agreement, especially in the areas as outlined in the Economic Cooperation Work Program (ECWP);
23. Continue the effective implementation of AANZFTA and support business utilisation of the Agreement, in recognition of the economic and wider benefits that will accrue from a stronger and more prosperous ASEAN and a more integrated regional economy;
24. Conclude AANZFTA's built-in agenda areas, including rules of origin, non-tariff measures (NTMs) and services and investment, to ensure the Agreement continues to deliver real commercial benefits for traders and investors; and
25. Enhance shared understanding of qualifications frameworks and systems, including through the AECSP-supported ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework.

#### **REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND RESILIENCE:**

26. Pursue and implement a modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property, competition, dispute settlement and other issues, and offers significant improvements on existing ASEAN+1 FTAs;
27. Support the Integration Partnership Forum (IPF) initiative to share experiences in economic integration between the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations (CER) and ASEAN;

28. Collaborate with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), on areas of mutual interest;
29. Support ASEAN and New Zealand towards attaining inclusive and sustainable growth in line with regional priorities such as the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development (AFEED);
30. Co-operate to advance the prosperity and capacity of ASEAN and New Zealand, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally, in areas of mutual interest including reducing the cost of doing business, improving the regulatory and legal environment, enhancing technical assistance, and enhancing qualifications frameworks;
31. Promote and raise awareness of the business opportunities created by AANZFTA and other trade agreements in the region including by promoting relevant business outreach activities; pursuing two-way trade and investment missions; and strengthening links between government and the private sector, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and interaction between the ASEAN-New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC) and ASEAN business communities; and
32. Promote commercial opportunities to facilitate economic development, including the transfer of New Zealand know-how and expertise to ASEAN under the New Zealand Government-to-Government programme, and through sharing best practices on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), where appropriate.

**Agriculture:**

33. Promote closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interest to encourage economic growth, sustainable agricultural productivity, food security and accessibility of ASEAN and New Zealand products to regional and global markets. The focus of cooperation and initiatives will include capacity-building, technology transfer, education and training, food safety and standards, agribusiness, and agriculture innovation; and
34. Promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fishery resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty, and to optimise benefits of the people and economies in the region.

**Energy:**

35. Encourage cooperation to develop ASEAN and New Zealand expertise in renewable energy for power generation such as geothermal energy, and electric energy as well as promote cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation, such as through exchange of experience and best practices, in line with relevant regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase 1: 2016-2020.

**Tourism:**

36. Strengthen cooperation on tourism, with a focus on enhancing two-way tourism flows between ASEAN and New Zealand.

## **C. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

### **Education and Leadership:**

37. Promote stronger people-to-people connections, and build greater awareness of ASEAN-New Zealand relations for current and future ASEAN and New Zealand leaders, including through:
  - 37.1 Developing and promoting the Young Business Leaders Initiative (YBLI) to enable two-way exchanges of young business leaders and entrepreneurs from ASEAN and New Zealand to foster better business and social links, including through structured study visits and organising of a youth entrepreneurs' network, to gain exposure and experience of business style, sectors, practices and procedures in ASEAN and New Zealand;
  - 37.2 Ensuring the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) programme continues to meet priorities of ASEAN Member States and New Zealand;
  - 37.3 Providing a Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme by inviting fellows from different ASEAN Member States to visit New Zealand each year as guests of the Prime Minister of New Zealand to undertake a programme of the familiarisation with New Zealand and the ASEAN-New Zealand relationship;
  - 37.4 Increasing and promoting the New Zealand-ASEAN Scholarships to tertiary students from ASEAN Member States and for ASEAN Member States to consider providing scholarships to New Zealand students;
  - 37.5 Supporting mutually beneficial Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand to help meet agriculture, public sector leadership, renewable energy and disaster risk management skills needs, to enhance productivity and contribute to socio- economic development; and
  - 37.6 Providing skills training on diplomatic and international engagement, including an annual study tour to New Zealand by young ASEAN diplomats.
38. Encourage cooperation and networking between relevant higher education institutions in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand, including through the ASEAN University Network, individual institutions, and other relevant higher education stakeholders;
39. Encourage student and academic mobility and exchange; and
40. Promote the learning of ASEAN Member States' languages as optional foreign language subjects in schools in New Zealand.

### **UNITED NATIONS POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

41. Strengthen cooperation to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN post-2015 development agenda, including supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

42. Further deepen cooperation on disaster management and disaster relief management through priority areas under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its work programmes and engagement with ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACOM) and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to strengthen our respective capabilities in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, prevention, preparedness and response, and disaster recovery.

### **Health:**

43. Encourage cooperation in the health sector including in pandemic preparedness and response, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

### **Environment and Climate Change:**

44. Promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest including global environmental issues, transboundary environmental pollution, environmental education, environmentally-sound technology, urban environmental governance, urban planning, green cities, coastal and marine environment, nature conservation, water resources management, fisheries management and sustainable production, consumption and development, through relevant regional and international mechanisms such as the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability;
45. Promote cooperation to further our common aspiration and work together for effective climate change action, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (MP-JRCC), and domestic policy action, where appropriate;
46. Explore cooperation to promote biodiversity conservation and management in the region, including with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);
47. Explore cooperation on the use of green technologies to maximise economic growth and promote environmental sustainability; and
48. Encourage cooperation to improve access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare, and other social services, so that people in the region may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.

### **Arts, Culture and Sports:**

49. Enhance cooperation in the areas of culture, arts and heritage, and sports including through cultural festivals, arts and crafts exhibitions, film cooperation, entertainment and media exchanges in both ASEAN Member States and New Zealand, to foster understanding, awareness, appreciation and appropriate preservation of cultural heritage, arts and sports between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand; and

50. Explore cooperation on preservation of cultural heritage in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand within the framework of UNESCO, including through promoting the protection of cultural properties against theft, illicit and illegal trade and trafficking, and transfer within and outside ASEAN and the region.

#### **SOCIAL WELFARE AND RIGHTS:**

51. Explore cooperation, including through dialogue and capacity-building, to promote social welfare and rights in the region through relevant multilateral and regional fora, frameworks and mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **D. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP (NDG)**

52. Develop and undertake cooperation in programmes/projects to implement IAI Work Plan II and its successor documents in supporting ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap between and within ASEAN Member States and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region in order to realise ASEAN integration;
53. Continue to support CLMV countries, in the implementation of the IAI; and
54. Continue to support the less developed countries of ASEAN, including CLMV countries, through areas such as human resource development by increasing the development scholarships, vocational education, and training programmes.

#### **E. CONNECTIVITY**

55. Cooperate on the regional connectivity priorities including through regional fora. Continue to support ASEAN in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), including the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity;
56. Promote cooperation between individual ASEAN Member States and New Zealand in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), to build a high quality international financial institution that supports infrastructure development in the region;
57. Support the development of an ASEAN Public Private Partnership (PPP) development agenda, such as through public sector capacity-building and the sharing of best practices, where appropriate, to support the development of commercially viable and bankable PPP projects; and
58. Enhance air services linkages between ASEAN and New Zealand, including through a possible New Zealand - ASEAN Air Services Agreement.



**F. STRENGTHENING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

59. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat by providing training and capacity-building.

**G. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM**

60. This PoA will be reviewed through existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN- New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting(s); and
61. Annual progress reports on the implementation of this PoA shall be submitted to the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 with New Zealand.