

# 2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS

*Adopted on 21 October 2020*

1. POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION.....	2
1.1. PEACE AND SECURITY .....	2
1.2. PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY .....	6
1.3. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN .....	7
2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION.....	7
2.1. ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION .....	7
2.2. MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME) .....	8
2.3. COMPETITION, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ...	9
2.4. FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY .....	9
2.5. ENERGY .....	10
2.6. TOURISM.....	10
2.7. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION.....	10
3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION.....	11
3.1. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT .....	11
3.2. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION .....	12
3.3. CULTURE, EDUCATION AND SPORTS .....	13
3.4. SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT .....	13
3.5. PUBLIC HEALTH.....	15
3.6. GENDER MAINSTREAMING .....	15
4. CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION .....	15
4.1. ASEAN CONNECTIVITY .....	15
4.2. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP ...	16
4.3. COOPERATION FOR ACCELERATED ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....	16
4.4. STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY AND SAFE ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS .....	17
5. SECRETARIAT-TO-SECRETARIAT COOPERATION .....	18
6. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS.....	18

# **2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS**

*Adopted on 21 October 2020*

This Plan of Action is aimed at implementing the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN, which was adopted by the Leaders of ASEAN and the UN Secretary-General at the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-UN Summit on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. It will continue to pursue the goals and objectives set forth in the Declaration in the next five years (2021-2025) within the framework of the Comprehensive Partnership, building upon the achievements in the implementation of the first ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2016-2020);

This Plan of Action identifies strategic priorities, activities and measures to be undertaken by both sides to further enhance their political-security, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation, including expanded areas of cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as Secretariat-to-Secretariat collaboration. It will also serve as the guidepost for further planning, including the possible development of frameworks and work plans as initiated by the respective ASEAN sectoral bodies and their UN counterparts. Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, both sides will continue to work together to advance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of the Decade of Action for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to explore further collaboration as envisaged in the ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society and the UN Secretary General's Vision on Prevention;

This Plan of Action between ASEAN and the United Nations is initiated in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic. ASEAN and the United Nations stand in solidarity in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, including tackling the health crisis and ensuring that socio-economic recovery is inclusive, resilient and sustainable. The global pandemic will have significant and cross-sectoral impacts on our technical cooperation under this Plan of Action, which may necessitate adapting our joint activities in support of comprehensive and multisectoral recovery in the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and the successful delivery of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

ASEAN and the UN hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with the respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies of ASEAN Member States;

## **1. POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **1.1. PEACE AND SECURITY**

- 1.1.1. Continue to uphold ASEAN's Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, as well as to further promote shared values and norms of conduct and principles of international law governing friendly relations among States, including those enshrined in the UN Charter, the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), and the East Asia Summit (EAS) Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), to contribute towards maintaining and promoting sustainable and inclusive peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.2. Enhance dialogue on global security issues of common concern and developments in the wider Asia-Pacific region and other regions that have an impact on international peace and security;

- 1.1.3. Develop effective partnerships and promote closer cooperation for sustaining peace, in confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, humanitarian affairs, peacekeeping and peace-building through capacity building activities and exchange of information, best practices, lessons learned, experiences and expertise in these areas on a flexible, voluntary and non-binding basis, with relevant ASEAN mechanisms and ASEAN-led arrangements such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), regular dialogues and specialised trainings, and collaborate with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN-led fora, including;
  - 1.1.3.1 The continued convening of regular ASEAN-UN Track 1.5 workshops and regional dialogues on political-security cooperation that bring together ASEAN government officials, UN officials, ASEAN Track 2 representatives, and regional experts on preventive diplomacy, including peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict management, and conflict resolution and other related areas such as advancing the youth, peace and security agenda in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2250, the intersection with humanitarian action in disaster and conflict settings, and discussion on the potential linkages between climate change and conflict;
  - 1.1.3.2 Capacity-building activities to support ASEAN in (i) utilizing effectively the ASEAN-IPR, including the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry in accordance with their terms of reference, including undertaking studies to promote gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding, peace processes, conflict resolution and in line with the implementation of the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN as well as promoting collaboration and networks between the ASEAN-IPR and relevant institutes; (ii) conducting regional and international seminars, workshops and trainings on confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, peace-making, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding; and (iii) strengthening the capacity of and cooperation among research and academic institutes, particularly the ASEAN Institutes for Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) Network and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, in addressing issues of conflict management and resolution;
- 1.1.4. Explore possible collaboration between ASEAN and the UN in the context of the Action for Peacekeeping Initiative to ensure its effective implementation and that UN peace operations are fit for purpose, including, enhancing contributions of peacekeepers as well as the participation of women peacekeepers in line with the UN's uniformed gender parity strategy on a flexible, voluntary and non-binding basis;
- 1.1.5. Explore further cooperation with the UN to provide continued training assistance in peacekeeping to ASEAN, including training in humanitarian affairs and civil-military coordination, gender issues, health, safety and security arrangements and child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network, including through the sharing of lessons learned, such as from UN cooperation with regional organisations, best practices, and capacity building;
- 1.1.6. Promote cooperation on the UN Triangular Partnership Project among participating ASEAN Member States, the UN, and the supporting member states to build peacekeeping capacity, as appropriate, based on the readiness of respective ASEAN Member States;

- 1.1.7. Promote regional dialogues, training and technical advice to support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the Joint Statement on Promoting Women Peace and Security in ASEAN in line with relevant provisions of the UN Security Resolution 1325 and related UN Resolutions on Women Peace and Security;
- 1.1.8. Promote collaboration between the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and the UN, including sharing of expertise and best practices in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war;
- 1.1.9. Undertake technical cooperation to exchange expertise, best practices, lessons learned and experiences in countering terrorism and radicalisation as well as preventing violent extremism, taking note of the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism, including through research, workshops, seminars, training, and other relevant capacity building activities for ASEAN as well as strengthening an interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach, with relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, to prevent and counter violent extremism, in particular through supporting the implementation of the 2019-2025 Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism;
- 1.1.10. Strengthen cooperation to combat international terrorism, including through support for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and related instruments and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism;
- 1.1.11. Strengthen cooperation on combating transnational crimes and terrorism, foreign terrorist fighters, recruitment, and the financing of terrorism, as well as illicit trade of fire arms and the supply of weapons to terrorists;
- 1.1.12. Support cooperation on capacity building and sharing of best practices for prevention, investigation, evidence-gathering including preservation of media and prosecution of the use of information and communication technologies by terrorists and their supporters, in particular the internet, including social media platforms, for terrorist purposes;
- 1.1.13. Support the implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, its relevant Protocols as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children, and the ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia through research, workshops, seminars, training, and other relevant capacity building activities for ASEAN;
- 1.1.14. Strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and people smuggling while recognising the need to uphold human rights principles, including through joint awareness raising efforts and evidence-based approaches to prevention, where appropriate, law enforcement cooperation, sharing of information, and expertise, exchange of intelligence and capacity building, to explore solutions to collectively deal with the issues in the region;

- 1.1.15. Further explore cooperation in combating the cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking of illicit drugs and its precursors and essential chemicals used for illicit drug production by organising surveys, research, workshops, seminars, training, and other relevant capacity-building activities for ASEAN, and to enhance monitoring and evaluation efforts in measuring the effectiveness and impact of activities implemented to combat illicit drug use;
- 1.1.16. Increase cross-border coordination to address transnational crime and related challenges through measures including inter alia the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Border Liaison Office (BLO) network to enhance cooperation on border management, through relevant ASEAN mechanisms in accordance with domestic laws, regulations and policies and taking into account relevant international standards and practices, and support ASEAN's efforts to promote ASEAN border management cooperation as appropriate;
- 1.1.17. Enhance cooperation and continue the sharing of information with the existing ASEAN-led mechanisms to address other regional traditional and non-traditional security issues such as maritime security including search and rescue, cybersecurity, cybercrime, people smuggling and trafficking in persons especially women and children, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, arms smuggling, money laundering and international economic crimes through the organisation of surveys and data development, research, workshops, seminars, training, and other capacity building activities for ASEAN;
- 1.1.18. Support cooperation on law enforcement, including through further engagement with ASEANAPOL and on the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing;
- 1.1.19. Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free from all other weapons of mass destruction, including through concrete activities to implement the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and its Plan of Action;
- 1.1.20. Support the ongoing efforts of the States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and Nuclear Weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty;
- 1.1.21. Enhance dialogue to support global efforts at promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy;
- 1.1.22. Support regional efforts and initiatives by enhancing cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in matters related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, including through regional consultations, regional symposiums, and other activities, to promote the effective implementation of global and regional treaties and other instruments;
- 1.1.23. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, exercise of self-restraint, non-use of force or the threat to use force, and 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 Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 1.1.24. Build capacity through legal and technical training on the law of the sea, especially the 1982 UNCLOS;

- 1.1.25. Promote the exchange of best practices in implementing international law and expertise in the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, the UN Charter, and relevant Agreements and UN Resolutions;

## **1.2. PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**

- 1.2.1. Support all ASEAN Member States' efforts in promoting dialogue and partnership among governments and relevant stakeholders to enhance transparency, accountability, inclusivity, participatory and effective governance;
- 1.2.2. Support ASEAN's efforts in promoting the principles of good governance, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, including through sharing of experiences and best practices;
- 1.2.3. Explore cooperation between the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the UN, including through the exchange of information on global and regional issues of mutual interest, as well as undertake efforts towards increasing the role of women parliamentarians in the region;
- 1.2.4. Support all ASEAN Member States in the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Corruption, including through collaboration with the ASEAN Parties Against Corruption;
- 1.2.5. Support the work of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), in accordance with their respective mandates and workplans through capacity building initiatives, information exchanges, and the sharing of experiences and best practices;
- 1.2.6. Encourage engagement between ASEAN and UN human rights mechanisms relevant to all ASEAN Member States including on the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, as appropriate;
- 1.2.7. Support exchanges of best practices and expertise on issues related to ratification and implementation of regional and international conventions on human rights and their protocols and engagement with the relevant Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as mutually agreed;
- 1.2.8. Support the development of regional strategies and undertake initiatives to further integrate respect for the promotion and protection of human rights into the development of work programmes and work plans to implement the three community blueprints, where appropriate, in line with the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD and international human rights instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are parties;
- 1.2.9. Share best practices and expertise, as mutually agreed, with AICHR, in line with AICHR's mandate to support the development of ASEAN legal instruments on human rights undertaken by other ASEAN sectoral bodies;
- 1.2.10. Promote joint activities and programmes between AICHR and other regional and international human rights mechanisms to share best practices and lessons learned;

- 1.2.11. Support AICHR, ASEAN Committee on the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), ACWC and ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) in exchanging best practices on women's empowerment, including economic empowerment, through sharing best practices, lessons learned and fostering inter-sectoral dialogues;
- 1.2.12. Encourage engagement between the AICHR and the UN to exchange information and discuss potential areas for future cooperation on themes of mutual interest with a view to furthering collaboration;
- 1.2.13. Promote the sharing of best practices in voluntary electoral observation among ASEAN Member States, including through training and facilitating the exchange of comparative knowledge with other regional electoral observation organisations;
- 1.2.14. Share best practices and experiences in promoting democracy and democratic institutions, including through the Bali Democracy Forum;
- 1.2.15. Support ASEAN in achieving peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions through the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

### **1.3. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN**

- 1.3.1. Support ASEAN Centrality in reinforcing an open, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture as well as the UN's central role in the global multilateral system to contribute towards maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.3.2. Continue dialogue to enhance mutual understanding of regional and international issues of common interest and concern;

## **2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **2.1. ASEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**

- 2.1.1. Support ASEAN's continued efforts to pursue further economic integration both within the region and into the global economy to promote complementarities, sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and mutual benefits through capacity building and technical assistance, that is responsive to ASEAN's needs and priorities, in implementing the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025;
- 2.1.2. Strengthen cooperation and provide capacity building to ASEAN Member States in paperless trading including through collaboration with the UN Network of Experts on Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific (UNNEXT);
- 2.1.3. Strengthen cooperation to enhance transport infrastructure, networks, and operations as well as encourage sharing of knowledge and experiences on transport development to support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) which aims to contribute towards a highly cohesive ASEAN economy;

- 2.1.4. Provide support to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives across relevant areas of work of the ASEAN Economic Community, as appropriate, to ensure sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as women's participation in economic activities in ASEAN;
- 2.1.5. Strengthen ASEAN's capacity to better respond to transnational organised crime and security challenges that arise as a result of increased regional trade and economic integration;
- 2.1.6. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan (ADMP) 2025 and its successor document in the areas of mutual interest, which will contribute to facilitating exchange of knowledge and best practices, technical cooperation, and capacity-building programmes for sustainable development;
- 2.1.7. Promote exchange of best practices and capacity building on effective, timely, and relevant monitoring and assessment of key macroeconomic developments to provide an early warning of potential risks and vulnerabilities;
- 2.1.8. Explore possibility of holding regional public and private economic policy dialogue, as a platform to exchange good regulatory practices, tools and approaches, to further support regional economic integration goals;
- 2.1.9. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its intra-trade and investment, to deepen its sustainable participation in regional and global value chains through promoting the free flow of goods and services, building a conducive environment for digital trade;
- 2.1.10. Support ASEAN in the implementation of the Digital Integration Framework Action Plan 2019 – 2025, which aims to overcome the barriers to digital integration in ASEAN;
- 2.1.11. Support ASEAN's efforts in developing an ASEAN Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) which would articulate ASEAN's agenda and direction;

## **2.2. MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME)**

- 2.2.1. Support ASEAN's continued efforts to empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and ensure their participation into the regional and global supply chain through enhanced cooperation to implement the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), focusing on promoting MSME productivity, technology, and innovation; increasing access to finance, enhancing market access competitiveness and internalisation; enhancing policy and regulation to improve the enabling environment for MSMEs development; strengthen capacity building through promoting entrepreneurship, and encouraging their participation in activities, among others, in trade fairs/expos conferences, seminars, joint business missions, business matching sessions, coaching clinic, training, business incubator, and other business-related events and human capital development; enhancing resilience to disaster and economic crisis and major external shocks, such as public health emergencies through promoting inclusive business, reforming and enhancing linkages of SMEs enhancing supply chain connectivity ecosystems for SMEs; enhancing the economic competitiveness of ASEAN region;
- 2.2.2. Support ASEAN in advancing women's and youth economic participation and empowerment, including private sector engagement to promote women entrepreneurship and financing for gender equality;

- 2.2.3. Support ASEAN to promote, develop, and adapt to digital economy to achieve inclusive growth in the region through maximising the use of digital technology for MSME operation, reducing barriers and providing technical assistance and capacity building for MSME digitalisation;

### **2.3. COMPETITION, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

- 2.3.1. Support ASEAN's continued effort to realise the overarching vision of a competitive, innovative, and dynamic region as envisioned in the ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2016-2025, particularly through its strategic goals, including enhancing the capacities of competition related agencies and establishing regional cooperation arrangements on competition policy and law;
- 2.3.2. Support ASEAN's efforts in advancing consumer protection rights and their access to information, pursuant to the strategic goals under the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for Consumer Protection 2016-2025;
- 2.3.3. Support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025) and Intellectual Property Rights initiatives, priorities, goals and objectives cited in the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan 2019-2025, and the ASEAN Innovation Roadmap 2019-2025 and its Implementation Plan, which focusing on enhancing the productivity, innovation and creativity of micro Small Medium Enterprises in the region;

### **2.4. FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

- 2.4.1. Support ASEAN in achieving food security through, among others, the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA- FS) (2021-2025), as well as the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2.4.2. Cooperate on key issues related to food systems and food safety, food security agriculture and forestry, including on sustainable food and agricultural production, forest management, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture management practices, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, health of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, including innovative technologies relating to this issue to minimise negative impacts on the environment and natural resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change in terms of food production and supply, and minimise risk of antimicrobial resistance and outbreak of food borne diseases as well as animal diseases including zoonotic diseases;
- 2.4.3. Promote responsible fishing practices and enhance cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, particularly in order to sustain fisheries resources, eradicate poverty and to optimise the benefit to the people and economies in the region, and to support the development of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (ANIUU) as well as other existing platforms such as the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA IUU);
- 2.4.4. Support the promotion of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food production as well as ASEAN's efforts to promote sustainable agricultural mechanisation for sustainable agricultural development and food security in the region;

- 2.4.5. Support ASEAN collaboration across sectors in implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (ASFP) through the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF) including harmonisation of food safety requirements with international standards - in particular, Codex standards - to ensure that food safety is implemented across the food chain, building upon existing commitments to provide a structure to realise the free flow of safe food in the region;

## **2.5. ENERGY**

- 2.5.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts to achieve regional cooperation for energy sustainability through accelerating the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 and exchange, among others on best practices in energy regulatory frameworks, technology adoption and technical standards on alternative, clean, and renewable energy, energy efficiency regional energy connectivity and experiences in the implementation of SDG7 to ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all and energy-related NDCs, as appropriate under the Paris Agreement, including collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to strengthen data compatibility, policy information, enhance regional standards and the inter-governmental knowledge platform;

## **2.6. TOURISM**

- 2.6.1. Enhance cooperation between ASEAN and UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) to implement mutually beneficial activities such as sustainable and inclusive tourism, including cooperation on data sharing and exchange; product development; technical assistance; quality tourism development; standard, competency, and certification; crisis management, crisis communication, and mitigating the impact; as well as enhancing industry resiliency to disaster and economic crisis, in line with the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and the relevant SDGs and UNWTO document/recommendation/work plan;
- 2.6.2. Enhance ASEAN's capacity to embrace digital transformation and innovation in tourism industry and support tourism professionals through the implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP) by enhancing the quality and standards as well as the competency of the vocational tourism schools/institutes;
- 2.6.3. Promoting capacity building programmes in the tourism sector and collaboration on professional training in the field of tourism for, employees, and entrepreneurs especially the Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) tourism communities, relating to among others hospitality, services, health and safety and sanitation, home-stay, culture and heritage, eco-friendly souvenirs and language courses for tourism stakeholders from the ASEAN Member States;

## **2.7. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

- 2.7.1. Explore the development of an effective, comprehensive and inclusive, fair, Open Science movement in the region;
- 2.7.2. Promote further collaboration on the use of Science, Technology and Innovation to help accelerate the SDGs implementation in the region;
- 2.7.3. Promote scientific cooperation in terms of research and education in the areas of basic sciences as well as science technology and innovation, to strengthen the joint efforts towards evidence-based actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and environmental and socio-economic sustainability in the region including with the support of ASEAN institutions such as ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity;

- 2.7.4. Support the establishment of innovative system and smart partnership to nurture Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) enterprise to support MSMEs, nurture knowledge creation and STI applications to raise competitiveness;

### **3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

#### **3.1. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

- 3.1.1. Promote a culture of prevention by supporting and working together in responding to rapid- and slow-onset events and enhancing coordination on disaster reduction and management and, taking into account gender responsiveness, including under the framework of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (JSPADM) 2021-2025 in the support of the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response and ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management;
- 3.1.2. Promote and support risk-informed approaches, through participation of whole-of-government and relevant stakeholders, that strengthen the interlinkages among science-policy-practice. Advocate for the integration of disaster risk reduction into all humanitarian and development planning, training and implementation in the region in pursuit of long-term resilience to disasters and climate change while addressing the underlying drivers of risk;
- 3.1.3. Support ASEAN's vision for disaster and climate resilient communities, reducing disaster losses and collectively responding to disasters and climate change through the continuous implementation of the JSPADM 2021-2025, which is aligned with the new AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025;
- 3.1.4. Enhance ASEAN-UN cooperation in disaster risk reduction, emergency response, and management by continuing to strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) as the ASEAN coordinating body for humanitarian assistance during a disaster in the region and, where appropriate, work in partnership with national, regional and international agencies and centres, to support effective regional capacity building and disaster preparedness and response, including through ASEAN-led initiatives such as the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) and the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on HADR), the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM), as well as other relevant initiatives such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), and the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre;
- 3.1.5. Support ASEAN's efforts to fully operationalise the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP);
- 3.1.6. Align and coordinate ASEAN regional and DRRM efforts with the implementation, monitoring and reporting of relevant global frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the World Humanitarian Summit outcome, and the New Urban Agenda;

### 3.2. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

- 3.2.1. Promote cooperation and collaborative efforts through implementation of initiatives and provisions underlined in the ASEAN-UN Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change (2016-2020) and its successor ASEAN-UN document towards the realisation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, ASEAN post-2015 strategic plan on environment and its sub-sectoral action plans; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change under UNFCCC as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 global biodiversity framework when adopted;
- 3.2.2. Within the framework of ASEAN post-2015 strategic plan of action on environmental and its sub-sectoral action plans, support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution as well as the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation, the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 global biodiversity framework when adopted, and the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris;
- 3.2.3. Promote cooperation to strengthen science-policy interface to enhance evidence-based and integrated management of natural resources and the environment;
- 3.2.4. Support ASEAN's efforts in promoting the integration of circular economy and sustainable consumption and production strategies and best practices into national and regional policies or as part of sustainable business practices or principles;
- 3.2.5. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen cooperation on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, integrated water resources management, environmentally sustainable cities, climate change, and sustainable management of natural resources through coordination among relevant sectors;
- 3.2.6. Promote ASEAN Member States' efforts to pursue ambitious climate actions, including updating, enhancing, and implementing their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, policies and plans under the Paris Agreement in accordance with the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities – Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty; and to strengthen the regional collaboration in response to climate change under the ASCC Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Joint Statements on Climate Change to UNFCCC as well as other relevant platforms, and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- 3.2.7. Strengthen collaboration relevant stakeholders to mitigate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, to analyse and address the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, including through, inter alia, enhancing capacity in technology transfer, exchanging experiences and good practices in climate change mitigation and adaptation, implementation of economic instruments such as voluntary usage of carbon pricing and market mechanisms, and transparency of climate action and support, in accordance with principles of CBDR-RC as well as mainstream climate change concerns into national planning and related policies;
- 3.2.8. Pursue regional and international cooperation to enhance access to climate finance to support the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions of the region;

### **3.3. CULTURE, EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

- 3.3.1. Continue to promote and harness culture, education and sports as an enabler of sustainable development by supporting ASEAN Member States to integrate these perspectives, into national education policies and programmes;
- 3.3.2. Enhance collaboration in the protection, preservation, and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage of ASEAN and promote awareness of mutual understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, including through the promotion of regional creative industries, people-to-people activities and traditional sports and games (TSG);
- 3.3.3. Support multicultural and peace education for the youth so as to advance the culture of prevention, promote a regional sense of belonging and to foster a shared identity;
- 3.3.4. Support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, the ASEAN Working Group on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth, and identified regional initiatives/projects, which aim to promote inclusive and equitable opportunities to quality education for all out-of-school children and youth and school safety against disasters, violence and conflicts and promote learner wellbeing, life-long learning, pathways, equivalencies and skills development and explore the use of information and communications technology (ICT) irrespective of gender and age groups;
- 3.3.5. Promote regional cooperation in the areas of education, including the increase of opportunities for cross-border Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) internship, apprenticeship, academic exchange, training and research and support ASEAN's enhanced role in regional and global research networks;
- 3.3.6. Support ASEAN's efforts in establishing a regional higher education space, particularly by encouraging student mobility through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other existing platforms and promote an innovative ASEAN approach to higher education, which incorporates academics, community, regional placement, and entrepreneurship incubation and support;
- 3.3.7. Support ASEAN's effort in enabling its youth to develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills through an integrated teaching and learning approach and innovation, participation in policy discourse, internships, volunteering programmes, and sports activities;
- 3.3.8. Promote regional cooperation in creative industry and pursuits through technical and vocational trainings, knowledge sharing and capacity building;

### **3.4. SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 3.4.1. Strengthen cooperation to reduce inequality and poverty by enhancing effective social protection coverage through sharing of best practices and new tools on the impact of expansion of social protection for effective implementation of the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection;
- 3.4.2. Enhance collaboration between the relevant UN agencies and the ACWC and ACW to advance their work on child online protection, women, peace and security, promotion of the legal identity of all women and children in the region, where applicable, as well as promotion of social work and social service workforce in ASEAN, and overall implementation of the ASEAN-UNICEF 2019-2024 and ASEAN-UN Women Joint Work Programme 2021-2025;

- 3.4.3. Strengthen cooperation with the ACWC to support the implementation of the Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC) in ASEAN and the Regional Plan of Action on EVAW and the Regional Plan of Action on EVAC, as well as the Declaration on the Protection of Children from all Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, Declaration on the Rights of Children in the context of Migration, and the Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing the Rights of the Child in ASEAN;
- 3.4.4. Promote the effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific with an emphasis on ASEAN’s priorities as contained in the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the ASCC Blueprints 2025;
- 3.4.5. Promote and nurture creative and inclusive social entrepreneurship for women, youths, older persons, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable and marginalised groups;
- 3.4.6. Support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) including through capacity building as well as sharing of best practices and experiences;
- 3.4.7. Promote decent work for all workers both women and men, including through supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Gender Mainstreaming into Labour and Employment Policies to Promote Decent Work for All; the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN and the ASEAN Guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility on Labour;
- 3.4.8. Support the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers through, among others, the implementation of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and its follow-up action plan (2018-2025) as well as the commitments of ASEAN Member States in other relevant global frameworks, subject to their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies;
- 3.4.9. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work and its Roadmap and the ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community through joint collaboration to promote future-ready workforce;
- 3.4.10. Support ASEAN’s continued efforts to foster safe and healthy working environments through the implementation of the ASEAN-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2025 and the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth;
- 3.4.11. Support the implementation of the Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community;
- 3.4.12. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters Work Plan 2021-2025 and the ASEAN Statement on Promotion of Good Governance and Acceleration of an Agile Civil Service in a Digital Economy through sharing of best practices and technical support for capacity building;

### **3.5. PUBLIC HEALTH**

- 3.5.1. Encourage coordination and collaboration between UN agencies and the ASEAN Health Sector relevant to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda, including cross-cutting and cross-sectoral health-led initiatives on the prevention, detection and response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases including public health emergencies and pandemics; and, timely exchanges of information, good practices, and technical cooperation in responding to all hazards and emerging health threats;
- 3.5.2. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen health systems through Universal Health Coverage (UHC), in particular primary health care and health workforce, including through the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on UHC;
- 3.5.3. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition and health-related activities in the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition (2018-2030), including initiatives on ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System and the relevant country-specific plan of action for nutrition;
- 3.5.4. Support ASEAN collaboration across sectors in implementing the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (ASFP) through the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (AFSRF), including ASEAN's efforts in the application of an integrated risk assessment mechanism to provide independent scientific input for development of evidence-based common food safety measures in ASEAN by pooling and utilising scientific expertise across ASEAN, including through the ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC);

### **3.6. GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

- 3.6.1. Support for the development and implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies and guidelines in ASEAN including the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals by mainstreaming gender into data and statistics for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs in the region;
- 3.6.2. Promote gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the SDGs in the region in key areas such as women's economic empowerment in the context of poverty eradication, gender-responsive climate action and the role of women in disaster risk management and humanitarian actions, women's resilience, and women's participation in the deployment of modern and sustainable energy;
- 3.6.3. Promote exchange of best practices, technical cooperation and capacity building in social development, gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination, including the care, protection of rights, awareness raising and access to services and opportunities of vulnerable groups;

## **4. CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION**

### **4.1. ASEAN CONNECTIVITY**

- 4.1.1. Support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community;

- 4.1.2. Promote exchange of best practices and capacity building in planning, structuring, procuring, managing and developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects, particularly public-private partnerships (PPP) infrastructure projects;
- 4.1.3. Support the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) including through promoting the implementation of relevant sustainable urbanisation projects, sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt, and expanding knowledge-base on sustainable urbanisation in ASEAN;
- 4.1.4. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) which aims to build communities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected through exploring partnership and collaboration with the ASCN and ASCN cities on mutual areas of interest, such as sustainable urbanisation;
- 4.1.5. Support communications and awareness-raising activities to further promote ASEAN Connectivity to relevant stakeholders;
- 4.1.6. Support ASEAN's efforts to promote links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and other relevant connectivity strategies in the region, including through the "Connecting the Connectivities Initiative";

#### **4.2. INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) AND NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP**

- 4.2.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) as well as alleviating poverty, and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;

#### **4.3. COOPERATION FOR ACCELERATED ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- 4.3.1. Strengthen coordination and implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ASEAN to complement one another and support the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) through joint activities and other relevant activities undertaken by ASEAN and the UN respectively, as well as other relevant mechanisms through close collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) including the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and the High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) and support for the National Evaluation Capacity Development of ASEAN Member States in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 69/237 and enhanced collaboration between the UN and its specialised agencies with various ASEAN mechanisms and institutions, including the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD), and ASEAN Resources Panel once established;
- 4.3.2. Continue joint efforts to advance SDGs, including mainstreaming gender equality principles as well as promoting and protecting human rights, where appropriate and mutually agreed;
- 4.3.3. Support countries in implementing accelerated actions and deepening partnerships for achieving the SDGs by 2030 and contributing to the realisation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and narrow development gaps within and among ASEAN Member States;

- 4.3.4. Promote exchange of best practices, and technical cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as capacity building in monitoring and reporting on SDGs, addressing knowledge and data gaps, as well as tapping into inter-and intra-regional synergies;
- 4.3.5. Support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen development financing policy and to improve financing for implementing the SDGs including efforts to improve the policy environment that helps foster alternative and nontraditional financing to enhance access, inclusion and liquidity for MSMEs' and women entrepreneurs';
- 4.3.6. Enhance statistical cooperation with the UN to support regional progress and accountability in implementing the SDGs, including through knowledge sharing and capacity building in adopting new data sources and achieving open disaggregated data consistent with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- 4.3.7. Support ASEAN Member States' efforts to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 4.3.8. Strengthen collaboration and continued efforts towards implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan (FAP) on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication including at the local, national and regional level;

#### **4.4. STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY AND SAFE ONLINE ENVIRONMENTS**

- 4.4.1. Enhance training and technical support in cyber-related cooperation to ensure preparedness, resilience, mitigation of and response to cyber related threats in ways that respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, including in the implementation of relevant ASEAN cybersecurity and cybercrime strategies as well as in strengthening ASEAN Member States' capacity for CERT-CERT cooperation, including law enforcement officers and promoting women law enforcement officers' engagement in online policing;
- 4.4.2. Promote regular exchanges between ASEAN and the UN to promote the peaceful use of ICTs and increase stability and security in the use of ICTs, including best practices and lessons learned;
- 4.4.3. Enhance cooperation on capacity building and sharing of best practices on cybersecurity, including through the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) to support the implementation of the voluntary, non-binding norms for responsible State behaviour outlined in the 2015 report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security;
- 4.4.4. Promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment consistent with applicable international and domestic laws, recognising that the same rights people have offline are also being protected online including through capacity building as well as exchange of best practices and expertise; and support the development of people-centred programmes to enhance the capacity of all people to use online services in a safe, secure and trusted manner;
- 4.4.5. Explore cooperation on promoting best practices to counter online misinformation and disinformation as well as online attacks or 'hate-speech', prevent all forms of violence, harassment, especially toward women, children, and other vulnerable groups through sharing of information and comparative experiences and activities at the regional level to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- 4.4.6. Support campaigns and workshops to promote cyber wellness and digital literacy among the general public in a way that supports equal participation of men and women, including the promotion of the Core Values on Digital Literacy for ASEAN, adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information, so as to develop digitally responsible citizens who are able to navigate the digital media landscape safely, knowledgeably and respectfully;

## **5. SECRETARIAT-TO-SECRETARIAT COOPERATION**

- 5.1.1. Encourage frequent exchange of information between sectoral desk officers of the two Secretariats on programmes, activities and projects to explore potential partnerships in areas of mutual interest;
- 5.1.2. Explore possible research collaboration between the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN sectoral bodies, and the UN on issues of common interest;
- 5.1.3. Fully utilise the UN liaison presence in Jakarta to enhance coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and other External Partners in ensuring the effective implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership;
- 5.1.4. Explore cooperation to support the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat, including through capacity building for ASEAN Secretariat staff and sharing of knowledge and experiences in technical, administrative and operational matters, such as training and knowledge-sharing related to physical security systems;

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS**

- 6.1.1. This Plan of Action will be taken forward with resources available or mobilised by ASEAN and/or the UN System;
- 6.1.2. Encourage ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and the UN system to pursue technical cooperation through this Plan of Action in order to help both sides maximise their respective strengths, where appropriate, while also providing the flexibility to make adjustments as required during implementation;
- 6.1.3. The parties may agree to establish appropriate instruments or exchange a “letter of agreement” (LOA) to realise the priorities, actions and strategic measures in this Plan of Action, with resources available or mobilised by ASEAN and/or the UN System, in accordance with the financial rules and regulations of the concerned ASEAN or UN body by mutual agreement;
- 6.1.4. Continue regular ASEAN-UN Secretariat-to-Secretariat Dialogues, ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meetings (AUMM), ASEAN-UN Summits, and where appropriate, convene informal ASEAN-UN Senior Officials’ Meetings to prepare for the AUMM and the ASEAN-UN Summit;
- 6.1.5. Produce joint reports of the two Secretariats to the AUMM and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit, including on the progress of the implementation of this Plan of Action;
- 6.1.6. Enhance interaction between ASEAN and the UN system, including through holding senior-level dialogue meetings, where appropriate, between the UN and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.