

2021-2025 ASEAN-NORWAY SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP: PRACTICAL COOPERATION AREAS

Adopted on 24 March 2021

This document sets out potential Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) for the ASEAN–Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership for the period 2021 – 2025. The PCAs are aimed at enhancing the partnership by implementing strategic and effective cooperation in areas where ASEAN and Norway have relevant expertise and mutual interests.

A key priority for the partnership is to advance ASEAN's progress towards achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Deliverables in these PCAs can be in the form of projects approved under the Norway-ASEAN Regional Initiatives Programme (NARIP), other ASEAN-approved projects, participation in official ASEAN activities (capacity building, training, conferences or meetings), or other activities approved by both parties.

POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION

Peace, Reconciliation and Security

1. Enhance cooperation in the area of peace and reconciliation, including cooperation with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) as well as through support for activities and capacity building of the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR), in accordance with their Terms of Reference.
2. Explore opportunities for sharing experiences and best practices in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation, and in addressing the humanitarian impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region, including through dialogue with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).
3. Explore potential cooperative measures to promote responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, based on the application of relevant international law principles, voluntary and non-binding norms, confidence-building measures and capacity building.
4. Explore opportunities for cooperation to promote moderation, tolerance and understanding in order to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

Good Governance and Human Rights

5. Support ASEAN's efforts to promote good governance and the rule of law, including through exchange of experiences and best practices.
6. Support efforts to promote and protect human rights in ASEAN in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of AHRD, and relevant international human rights instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are parties.
7. Continue to support the work and mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), in accordance with its Terms of Reference, to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. Continue cooperation in the area of business and human rights through the exchange of experiences and best practices.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Trade, Investment and Private Sector Development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

9. Support efforts to promote trade and investment relations between ASEAN and Norway, including by enhancing private sector engagement and business-to-business relations between the parties. The cooperation should emphasise the importance of creating conducive and business-friendly environments that are stable, resilient and predictable, with a particular focus on inclusive businesses, MSMEs, startup entrepreneurs, digitalisation for MSMEs, and the participation of women and young people.
10. Continue dialogue with the aim of concluding a Joint Declaration on Cooperation between ASEAN and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with a view to providing a platform for strengthening economic relations between ASEAN and the EFTA states.

Energy

11. Support the development of ASEAN energy policy to reach the targets relating to renewable energy, energy intensity reduction and multilateral power trading set out in the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025.
12. Explore opportunities for cooperation to support the efforts of ASEAN Member States to strengthen their capacity in the areas of energy security and the safe, sustainable development of renewable and alternative energy sources, and their efforts to promote energy technologies energy efficiency and conservation practices.
13. Continue to support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to promote the use of renewable energy and link together energy use and climate change.

Science, Technology and Innovation

14. Promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) research and development, technology transfer, commercialization and management in areas of mutual interest and benefit.
15. Explore the establishment of innovative systems and smart partnerships to cultivate STI enterprises and support MSMEs, and foster knowledge creation and STI applications to enhance competitiveness.
16. Promote cooperation on research and development, management, capacity building and exchange of experience and best practices in the area of information and communication technology.

Food, Agriculture, and Forestry

17. Explore opportunities for cooperation on sustainable food system and forestry under the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025).
18. Explore ways of sharing experience in the areas of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and transnational organised crime in the global fishing industry.

19. Support initiatives to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG) including transboundary forest crime (illegal logging and the illegal wildlife trade). Explore opportunities for sharing knowledge about how to enhance resilience in the forestry sector, including knowledge on displacement of emissions in the Lower Mekong countries, implemented under the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN REDD Programme).

SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

Ocean Sustainability, Biodiversity, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

20. Collaborate on topics relating to ensuring sustainable use of the ocean.
21. Support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, through the exchange of experience and knowledge, capacity building, and by helping to establish integrated solutions for waste management, and cooperating to promote a circular economy.
22. Strengthen global collaboration to combat marine plastic litter and work together to advance the development of a global agreement on marine litter.
23. Continue cooperation within the area of green shipping.
24. Support ASEAN's efforts to address biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, promote environmental protection and conservation, and ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
25. Explore opportunities for regional cooperation to reduce climate risk with the aim of achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement.
26. Promote cooperation on preventing, mitigating and managing land and forest fires, and explore opportunities to address transboundary haze issues through cooperation with ASEAN Member States, recognising ASEAN's efforts to implement the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.
27. Explore opportunities for dialogue and cooperation on combating crime that affects the environment, and on addressing the links between climate change and security.

Public Health, Prevention and Control of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases

28. Explore opportunities for cooperation on collective and orchestrated measures to prevent, detect and respond to communicable and emerging infectious diseases, including pandemics such as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
29. Join forces to support multilateral efforts to provide equitable global access to safe, effective and affordable vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, as well as promote coordination to enhance the free, open, transparent and efficient exchange of information, data and knowledge on COVID-19.
30. Explore opportunities for cooperation on efforts to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

31. Promote cooperation on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including through reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, air pollution, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity, while promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring food safety.

People-to-People Exchanges, including in Education

32. Promote people-to-people contacts through strengthening public diplomacy with the aim of exchanging knowledge and fostering mutual understanding between ASEAN and Norway.
33. Share lessons learned and best practices relating to the use of information and communications technology in education, particularly for children and young people in remote areas, and pupils prevented from attending school due to disabilities or other reasons.
34. Explore opportunities for sharing experiences in technical and vocational education and training.

ASEAN SMART CITIES NETWORK AND CONNECTIVITY

35. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building communities that are resilient, innovative and well connected, and explore partnerships and collaboration with ASCN and ASCN cities on areas of mutual interest.
36. Enhance cooperation to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025.
37. Promote the exchange of experiences in areas related to electric vehicles and electric maritime transport.

NARROWING DEVELOPMENT GAP

Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)

38. Support ASEAN's efforts to narrow the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025), and to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development in order to strengthen the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and regional integration.

Sustainable Development

39. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in sustainable development to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

The implementation of the PCAs will be reviewed at the ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) Meeting. An annual progress report on the implementation of the PCAs is to be submitted to the AN-JSCC. ASEAN and Norway may agree to amend to the PCA as they find appropriate at any time.