

# 2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN-INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND SHARED PROSPERITY

*Adopted on 12 September 2016 in Viet Nam*

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# **2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN-INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND SHARED PROSPERITY**

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This Plan of Action (POA) guides the implementation of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership towards achieving the goals and objectives of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR; the Vision Statement of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on 20 December 2012 in New Delhi, India; and the Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to Mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi, India; as well as builds upon the achievements made under the previous POAs for 2010-2015 and 2016-2020 in all areas of common interest.

Through the implementation of this POA, ASEAN and India will also work towards supporting the ASEAN Community building and integration process, including the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN, narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity. Both sides will also further promote cooperation in addressing common and emerging challenges and enhance coordination in other international fora on issues of common concern to contribute to overall peace, stability and prosperity. The ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), adopted at the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, can serve as a guiding principle in promoting cooperation between ASEAN and India through the existing ASEAN-led mechanisms in the four key areas outlined in the Outlook, namely (i) maritime cooperation, (ii) connectivity, (iii) UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, and (iv) economic and other possible areas of cooperation to contribute to peace, prosperity and development in the region.

ASEAN and India hereby will endeavour to pursue all cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

## **1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **POLITICAL COOPERATION**

1. Strengthen the existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and India including the ASEAN-India Summit, the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with India (PMC+1), ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting;
2. Deepen dialogue and cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus);
3. Work closely to further strengthening the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as a premier 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 in the region;
4. Further promote and substantiate comprehensively the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership;

5. Continue regular engagement among EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta on the implementation of Leaders' decisions as well as exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives;
6. Underline the value of inter-Parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including two-way visits between Indian and ASEAN parliaments and engagement with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA);
7. Continue to support ASEAN Centrality in the regional architecture, as well as further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the EAS Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), towards the development of a more rules-based and norms-based regional architecture as well as to contribute towards maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
8. Continue to promote the Delhi Dialogue as a complementary platform to discuss ways to intensify and broaden India's engagement with ASEAN;
9. Promote collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN System, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), on issues of common interest and concern and to strengthen the multilateral system and, where appropriate, carry out consultations between ASEAN and India at the margins of these fora;

#### **SECURITY COOPERATION**

10. Continue India's active participation at and co-chairing of joint exercises and activities in the frameworks of the EAS, ARF, and the ADMM-Plus;
11. Promote dialogue and strengthen practical defence cooperation to address the challenges facing the region through the ADMM-Plus in the areas of maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity;
12. Strengthen cooperation through the ARF including in the areas of preventive diplomacy, disaster relief, maritime security, peacekeeping operations, defence dialogue, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, security of and in the use of ICTs as well as non-proliferation and disarmament, and support ASEAN's central and active role in the ARF processes;
13. Promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of land mines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), including technical and financial support where appropriate to the Centre;

#### **MARITIME COOPERATION**

14. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, mutual trust and confidence, exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or of the threat to use 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), the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

15. Explore cooperation, where appropriate, to promote common principles, objectives and elements between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) adopted at the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bangkok and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) announced by India at the 14<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit in Bangkok;
16. Promote maritime cooperation, including maritime security, counter piracy, maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR) cooperation, and information sharing, through appropriate mechanisms under the ASEAN-India framework and other appropriate ASEAN-led mechanisms, including EAS, ADMM-Plus, ARF, Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity building and development, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise;

### **TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND COUNTER-TERRORISM**

17. Enhance cooperation to support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025), continue to convene regular ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Consultation and explore the possibility of the development of an ASEAN-India work programme on transnational crime;
18. Enhance cooperation on mutually agreed areas of transnational crime, including through the implementation of relevant documents;
19. Explore possible cooperation between ASEAN and India in the area of cybercrime;
20. Deepen cooperation in combating international terrorism and addressing the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025), the 2003 ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, and other relevant EAS and ARF statements;
21. Convene the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) + India Consultations on a regular basis and support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025;

## **2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

22. Continue efforts to make the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses through initiating a review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and India as mutually agreed by ASEAN and India Economic Ministers;
23. Work towards the ratification by all parties of the ASEAN-India Investment Agreement to facilitate further economic integration between ASEAN and India;
24. Enhance economic cooperation through capacity building and technical assistance programmes, workshops and seminars as well as outreach activities that support the implementation, facilitation and utilisation of the ASEAN-India FTA;

25. Enhance cooperation on capacity building and economic development to support ASEAN regional economic integration efforts;
26. Enhance private sector engagement and business-to-business relations, including through the ASEAN-India Business Council and the ASEAN-India Business Summit in order to further strengthen business networks and opportunities;
27. Promote and facilitate cross-border investment flows into ASEAN Member States and India through information sharing and exchange of best practices on relevant investment-related topics;
28. Promote MSME development through capacity building, technical cooperation mechanisms, and business matching activities in order to further integrate MSMEs in the global and regional value chains;

### **FINANCE**

29. Explore strengthening cooperation to improve on financial infrastructure development and capital market development with view to promoting sustainable growth;
30. Support regional financial development and integration through initiatives that promote greater financial inclusion and stronger financial stability;

### **ENERGY**

31. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025;
32. Explore cooperation, including through the private sector, to promote energy security through regional power integration and the development of renewable and alternative energy sources as well as promotion of clean energy technologies and energy efficiency and conservation practices;
33. Promote best practices on energy regulatory frameworks and technical standards, consistent with the APAEC, including technology transfer and capacity building support for the programme area to realize multilateral power trade in the ASEAN Power Grid and greater integration of renewables into the grid;

### **TRANSPORT**

34. Forge closer cooperation to enhance transportation infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road and rail to improve ASEAN-India trade and tourism-related transport connectivity, including through supporting the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025;
35. Deepen cooperation on technical, economic and regulatory matters of aviation, including the convening of ASEAN-India Working Group Meeting on Regional Air Services Arrangement;
36. Promote maritime transport cooperation between ASEAN and India, and encourage potential private sector participation in the development of seaports, maritime logistics network and maritime services in order to create greater efficient linkages;

### **FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

37. Promote networking and cooperation between government authorities concerned, together with agriculture and food experts, scientists and laboratories, and agriculture and food-related academic institutions, farmers including farmers' organisations and communities, and traders of ASEAN and India;
38. Promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fisheries resources and promote inland fisheries and aquaculture best practices to ensure food security, eradicate poverty and to optimise the benefit of to the people and economies in the region;
39. Promote investment, capacity building, research and development, technology and innovation, sustainable management, and sharing of information, experience and best practices in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors as well as in coastal management;
40. Support the implementation of the Multi-sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (MSFCC), including through deeper cooperation in capacity building and sharing of information, experience and best practices;

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

41. Promote further ICT cooperation through relevant mechanisms, including capacity building and knowledge sharing, in areas such as e-commerce, Artificial Intelligence, Fourth Industrial Revolution, Internet of Things (IoT) & 5G, ICT in Disaster Management, Creating smart societies through ICT, Cyber Forensics, Next Generation Transmission Technologies, Future Trends in Mobile Communication, Advanced Satellite Communication and Regulatory and Policy issues;
42. Strengthen cooperation, capacity building, and policy coordination on cybersecurity, including in personal data protection and support the implementation of the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy by engaging relevant ASEAN mechanisms and institutions;
43. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity through increasing digital trade, entrepreneurship, preparing MSMEs for digital transformation and developing a digital-ready workforce equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

### **TOURISM**

44. Enhance consultations between ASEAN and India to promote tourism cooperation, such as in the areas of joint marketing and promotion, sharing of best practices and expertise related to human resource development, practicing sustainable and responsible tourism, tourism information exchange, crisis communications, tourism investment, joint promotion in the areas of niche markets and promotion of tourism standards;
45. Enhance engagement between private sectors from ASEAN and India, through the participation in the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF), ASEAN TRAVEX, professional international travel marts held in ASEAN Member States and India, in order to create more opportunities for joint promotion of integrated tourism markets and joint investment;
46. Strengthen ASEAN-India capacity building programmes in the tourism sector through seminars, workshops, trainings and language courses for tourism professionals;

### **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

47. Strengthen cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in science and technology, including but not limited to joint research and development projects, and support implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025, such as in the areas of health, environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, agricultural technologies, alternative energy, biodiversity, food processing, advanced materials for development of value-added products, and space technology and applications;
48. Promote cooperation in biotechnology including through capacity building and joint research and development for mutual benefit;
49. Encourage more programmes and projects under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund;

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

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

50. Strengthen cooperation to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme for 2021-2025, and support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre);
51. Encourage cooperation with India on disaster management and humanitarian assistance under the ambit of the ASEAN-India framework, particularly on sharing of experiences and best practices in the areas of disaster prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;
52. Encourage regular consultations between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and India to facilitate synergy among multilateral cooperation mechanisms on disaster management;

### **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY**

53. Promote the exchange of knowledge and experience on environmental management, climate change and biodiversity through the exchange of experts, joint research activities, and the provision of training courses, and provide technical and financial assistance and capacity building for ASEAN Member States, as well as relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions and action plans, including, where applicable, through the ASEAN-India Green Fund;
54. Provide support for conservation and sustainable management of ASEAN's terrestrial and aquatic environment with focus on restoration of degraded and fragile ecosystems;
55. Promote strengthening of networking and cooperation between relevant stakeholders as well as exchange of knowledge and capacity building to build a clean and green ASEAN Community through sustainable use of natural resources, chemicals and waste management protection of the environment, development of environmentally sustainable cities which addresses issues including urban biodiversity;
56. Support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, and the 2018 EAS Leaders' Statement on Combatting Marine Plastic Debris;

57. Provide support for conservation and sustainable management of land and forests, including ASEAN's effort to implement relevant ASEAN agreements, such as the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, through initiatives and actions in strengthening national capability and regional cooperation;

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

58. Promote sharing of information in the field of public health, medicine, health education and health promotion relevant to the health priorities of the ASEAN Health Sector under the clusters of promoting healthy lifestyles; responding to all hazards and emerging threats; strengthening health systems and access to care; and ensuring food safety;

#### **EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGE**

59. Continue to enhance cooperation in educational exchanges and sharing of knowledge, focusing on women, children and youth to promote greater awareness and appreciation of ASEAN-India relations and people-to-people ties;
60. Strengthen the promotion of women and youth participation in programmes or projects that contribute to human development, digital skills development, education, social protection, and addressing gender issues in local governance as well as in natural and human-induced disasters;
61. Continue to support ASEAN capacity building through Indian scholarship programmes, the exchange of teachers and lecturers, joint research and university partnerships, in collaboration with ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other regional higher education networks;
62. Further increase the number of fellowships for ASEAN students, to pursue higher education in India and provide scholarships in areas of mutual interests, including the performing and visual arts;
63. Further promote understanding of cultures of ASEAN and India through continuing media exchange programmes and people-to-people initiatives;
64. Continue to promote the study, as well as the documentation and dissemination of knowledge, about the civilisational links between ASEAN and India;

### **4. CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION**

#### **INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION AND NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP**

65. 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;
66. Continue to support the CLMV Countries, in wider areas, among others, human resources development, rural household electrification programmes, information technology curriculum and IT teacher trainings, and further increase the number of fellowships and scholarships;



### **CONNECTIVITY**

67. Enhance cooperation to strengthen the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025;
68. Continue to undertake consultations and dialogue, as necessary, between ASEAN and India on connectivity issues through the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, as appropriate;
69. Work closely to promote physical connectivity in the region by completing the missing links between South and Southeast Asia, including, but not limited to, expediting the completion of relevant sections of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and supporting steps to build an economic corridor along it and its extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam; and encouraging private sector participation in the development of roads and railways and relevant logistics networks;
70. Promote quality, sustainable and transparent infrastructure development of robust standards to achieve a seamlessly connected and integrated ASEAN and to ensure sustainable socio-economic growth and development;
71. Increase the supply of investment-ready infrastructure projects in ASEAN Member States by supporting project planning and preparation facilities, enhancing investment and business environments and providing targeted technical assistance and capacity building;
72. Facilitate access towards sustainable and innovative financing as well as supporting sustainable urbanisation to contribute to the implementation of MPAC 2025;

### **SMART CITIES**

73. Support and collaborate with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building communities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected through technological advancement;

### **ASEAN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

74. Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacity in the ASEAN Secretariat;

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

75. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through information sharing, exchange of best practices and capacity building in areas of poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production and resilience;
76. Support ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including but not limited to the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) in Thailand and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy in Myanmar;

### **IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

77. This Plan of Action may be implemented under appropriate funding support through the governments of ASEAN Member States and India, including the ASEAN-India Fund, the ASEAN-India Green Fund and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund;
78. Regularly review the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations; and
79. Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 session with India.

## **ANNEX TO PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN-INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND SHARED PROSPERITY (2021-2025)**

*Adopted 12 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

At the 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations on 12 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ASEAN and India established the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) that is substantive, meaningful, and mutually beneficial.

To mark this historic development in ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, this annex identifies areas to further deepen practical cooperation between ASEAN and India as Comprehensive Strategic partners. Building on the priorities already outlined in the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025),

ASEAN and India agree:

### **POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION**

1. To continue strengthening ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific and deepen ASEAN-India engagement, especially through high-level dialogue, cooperation and coordination in the framework of existing ASEAN-led mechanisms including ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF);
2. To consider holding ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings as and when required, subject to approval by the ADMM;
3. To take steps towards the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027), adopted by the 10th SOMTC + India Consultation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 23 June 2023, in order to enhance cooperation in the priority areas of the Workplan;
4. To strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation on cybersecurity, including through the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence, ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC), and by establishing linkages between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) with ASEAN CERT as and when it is established;
5. To continue to promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful maritime commerce, mutual trust and confidence, exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or of the threat to use 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), the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

6. To explore activities to implement the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region through enhanced cooperation between the AOIP and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), with a focus on areas of cooperation, such as maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation;
7. To continue working together on regional and global issues of common concern while endeavouring to strengthen our partnership which shall contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and to explore greater cooperation and coordination between ASEAN and India on issues of common concern in other regional architectures and global fora;
8. To explore potential synergies with sub-regional frameworks, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Singapore-Johor-Riau (SIJORI) Growth Triangle, Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), and Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, including Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Ayeyawady Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), and to support ASEAN and India's efforts in promoting equitable development by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive, mutual growth and development of ASEAN and India;

#### **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

9. To expeditiously review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in order to make it more effective, user-friendly, simple, trade-facilitative for businesses and relevant to the current global trading practices;
10. To work together to make supply chains more inclusive and resilient and to mitigate the climate change and pandemic risks in supply chains;
11. To work together to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation on digital economy through the following:
  - a. A series of regional capacity-building activities in the areas of digital trade, digital skills, digital identity and innovation, including through Hackathons, to help develop and prepare MSMEs for digital transformation and enhance their participation in the global value chain;
  - b. Exploring possibility for fintech cooperation including unified and inter-operable digital financial systems between ASEAN and India, which would expand opportunities for businesses and e-commerce;
12. To promote the development of MSMEs and start-ups in ASEAN and India through business-matching events or other activities, that may involve various matters such as digital economy, sustainable development, resilient supply chain, healthcare development, and food security, with the facilitation by, among others, the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC);
13. To explore cooperation on the possibility of exchange of trade administration documents through ASEAN Single Window and India's Single Window System to promote paperless trade, cut down trade transaction cost, reduce time, and further maximize the utilization of the current AITIGA, as well as prepare for the upgrade of the agreement in the future;

14. To explore cooperation among Customs administrations with respect to Customs procedures related to Cross-Border E-Commerce, including sharing experiences and best practices in implementing strategies and development of legal and regulatory frameworks, monitoring, and capacity building, among others;
15. To utilise the ASEAN-India Green Fund and ASEAN India Science & Technology Development Fund to launch new projects including capacity-building programmes on Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE), green economy including clean and renewable energy, to utilise the ASEAN-India Green Fund to support the implementation of sustainable and circular projects on agriculture under the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, with a focus on food security and smart and sustainable agriculture, reduction of the use of harmful chemicals, and livestock farming, where both sides can exchange best practices in the use of new technologies and implement development projects in a future-ready, resilient, and sustainable manner;
  - a. Pursue opportunities for capacity building and pilot demonstration of clean energy and decarbonization technologies, such as on hydrogen and ammonia as well as carbon capture utilization and/or storage (CCU/S), including through collaboration under the MoU between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed in November 2022;
  - b. In order to ensure food security to jointly celebrate International Year of Millets;
16. To further explore cooperation on Science, Technology, and Innovation by utilizing the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund (AISTDF), including through) a) Start-up Festival; b) Grassroot Innovation Forum; c) Innotech Summit; and d) Women Scientists Conclave;
17. To strengthen the research and development capacity in Science and Technology, ASEAN-India Collaborative Research and Development (AICRD) programme and the ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF) programme to continue to be organised on an annual basis; as well as to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing in the transformation of digital government, e-service development and technology infrastructure;
18. Pursue cooperation on civilian nuclear energy by exploring collaboration between ACE and the Department of Atomic Energy, India, including through the framework of Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, and future opportunities to develop capacity for nuclear energy for power generation. Also, explore collaboration between ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board on the regulatory matters related to nuclear and radiation safety;
19. Explore opportunities to collaborate on energy security and power grid connectivity, including grid deployment of clean, renewable, and low-carbon energy and decarbonization technologies in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation and India's renewable energy priorities;
20. To explore cooperation on the blue economy, including the sustainable development of ocean resources, preventing and/or reducing marine debris, fisheries and aquaculture; tourism, renewable energy; blue science technology; blue conservation and management; as well as blue financing and blue infrastructure, in consultation with the relevant sectorals;
21. To strengthen cooperation in the field of digital economy, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and application of ICT and digital technologies through capacity building and knowledge sharing;

22. To further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in the space sector including through the establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception/ Data Processing Station in Viet Nam and Indonesia, encouraging cooperation between ASEAN and Indian space industry players such as SMEs and startups via industry networking events; training of ASEAN personnel in Space Science and Technology and in the application of satellite remote sensing in areas such as disaster management, earth observation, oceanography and meteorology;
23. To utilise the ASEAN-India Development Fund to support the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), including but not limited to existing projects such as the Centres of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT), and expand scholarships scheme under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Nalanda University;
24. To promote the revival of tourism industries which have been severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, through supporting the implementation of the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism in line with the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027 and the ASEAN Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for Professionals and Communities in the Tourism Industry, including the ASEAN Safe Travel Stamp "Safe and Warm.". Encourage the sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism development between ASEAN and India through supporting the implementation of the Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN in the post COVID-19 era. To further enhance the ASEAN-India travel facilitation and market intelligence exchange, including through exchange of tour operators;
25. To further strengthen partnership in physical, digital, and people-to-people connectivity, including via the timely completion and extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway, on the basis of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, its successor document, and other relevant connectivity initiatives in the maritime and air transport domains, to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated region. The ASEAN Member States are encouraged to utilize the Line of Credit offered by the Government of India for IMT and its extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam;
26. To enhance connectivity between ASEAN and India, explore cooperation to (i) improve operationalisation of dry ports/inland container depots (ICDs) in ASEAN Member States and India and (ii) exchange information on the operationalisation of multimodal transport in ASEAN and India;
27. Explore cooperation on the implementation of port digital transformation and on the private investments in the area of port development including green port;
28. To respond to emerging challenges and opportunities and in the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and shared benefit, explore synergies between the MPAC 2025 and India's connectivity strategies under India's Act East Policy in line with "Connecting the Connectivities" approach to achieve fair, inclusive, and sustainable regional economic growth;
29. Support ASEAN efforts to achieve net zero emissions to enable environmental, social and economic development goals to be achieved simultaneously in a mutually reinforcing way while noting India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) as complementary approach in combating climate change;

### **SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

30. To expand ASEAN-India cooperation in human capital development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), including through support for the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council;

31. To work together to support ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) through initiatives and action, including capacity building on land and / or forest fire mitigation, prevention, and preparedness;
32. To explore collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), particularly to support its role in responding to disasters during an emergency situation and encourage AHA Center and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to institutionalize their interaction through an MoI/MoU;
33. To extend Scholarship/Fellowship Programmes to students/researchers under various programmes including scholarship programme offered by Nalanda University (India), ASEAN-India Network of Universities, ASEAN-India Collaborative Research & Development (R&D), and explore new programmes under areas of mutual interest, in addition to the ongoing Doctoral fellowships in India for ASEAN (DIA) under which 1000 scholarships have been extended in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);
34. To organise youth-related events such as youth summits and hackathons;
35. To enhance ASEAN-India cultural exchanges, including by regularly organizing ASEAN-India Artists' camp and ASEAN-India Music Festival;
36. To strengthen cultural cooperation through ASEAN's project for ASEAN Cultural Heritage List;
37. To support efforts to protect, restore, and sustainably manage the marine environment, especially on marine plastic pollution;
38. To strengthen healthcare for the people by enhancing collaboration on public health infrastructure including in the areas of research and development (R&D), technology transfer in mutually agreeable, such as capacity-building and exchange of expertise, public health emergency prevention, preparedness and response, enhancing capacities for prevention, training of healthcare professionals, medical technology, pharmaceuticals, vaccine security and self-reliance, vaccine development, production and distribution, production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API), bioprocessing technology for biosimilar and biologics, innovation in generic medicines, as well as cooperation in general, traditional and complementary medicine;
39. To enhance cooperation in the field of environment, biodiversity, through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and climate change, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change once it is established;

#### **CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION**

40. To continue establishing and strengthening the institutional linkages between corresponding institutes of ASEAN and India under all the pillars of cooperation;
41. To enhance cooperation in areas of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) by exploring practical cooperation areas in ASEAN Vision on Disaster Management 2025 and close cooperation between National Disaster Management Authority (India) and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM);
42. To work towards forging city-to-city partnerships between the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the Smart City Mission of India by fostering exchanges of best practices and capacity-building;

43. To contribute towards ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its institutions by supporting various initiatives including The ASEAN magazine