

# 2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CANADA ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

*Adopted on 10 September 2020*

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# 2021-2025 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CANADA ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

*Adopted on 10 September 2020*

This Plan of Action guides implementation of the goals and objectives of the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership, adopted by the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with Canada on 22 July 2009, with a focus on areas where ASEAN and Canada have expertise and mutual interests.

Building on a longstanding dialogue partnership and to continue the progress made under the previous Plan of Action (2016-2020), ASEAN and Canada, through this Plan of Action, are committed to further deepen and continue close consultations on widening the scope of their relations through ASEAN-led mechanisms and in all pillars of cooperation. Both sides will also continue to support ASEAN integration as well as its efforts in realising the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN, including by narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity.

ASEAN and Canada hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in the following priority areas through the corresponding activities, in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity for all parties.

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

### **1.1. Cooperation on Political, Regional Peace and Stability**

- 1.1.1. Strengthen the existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and Canada, including convening regular ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Canada (PMC+1), the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue, as well as the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting;
- 1.1.2. Continue to promote shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the friendly conduct of relations among states; including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), to contribute towards maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.3. Continue to maintain the engagement between Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) as well as the ASEAN Secretariat;
- 1.1.4. Promote collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations (UN);
- 1.1.5. Explore cooperation with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR);
- 1.1.6. Further enhance cooperation to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing women's equal, full, and effective participation in all stages of the peace process through concrete activities and exchanges, expanding existing networks and collaboration in building capacity for women mediators or facilitators;

- 1.1.7. Support the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific by exploring possible cooperation with ASEAN in the key areas outlined in the Outlook, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation in order to contribute to peace, freedom, and prosperity in the region;
- 1.2. Security Cooperation
  - 1.2.1. Further increase engagement and constructive dialogue through the existing ASEAN-led regional mechanisms to promote peace and security in the region;
  - 1.2.2. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, mutual trust and confidence, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or 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 Organisation (ICAO), and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO);
  - 1.2.3. Continue to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) including cooperation in ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) on Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs Security), as well as support ASEAN's central role in the ARF, including by strengthening confidence building measures as well as promoting preventive diplomacy activities and conflict resolution initiatives through capacity building and sharing of experience;
  - 1.2.4. Support ASEAN's efforts towards the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, as well as the ongoing efforts of States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty;
  - 1.2.5. Further explore cooperation with relevant partners, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, in strengthening nuclear security, safety and safeguards through capacity building and sharing of experience and best practices;
  - 1.2.6. Further promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through exploring cooperation with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC);
  - 1.2.7. Encourage further constructive dialogue and cooperation activities on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in line with relevant international conventions and treaties under the UN framework to which ASEAN Member States and Canada are parties;
- 1.3. Transnational Crime and Counter-Terrorism
  - 1.3.1. Enhance cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crimes such as illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, money laundering, arms smuggling, sea piracy and armed robbery against ships, terrorism including foreign terrorist fighters, international economic crime and cybercrime, by utilising existing regional and international institutions and agreements;

- 1.3.2. Explore cooperation on border management as appropriate to combat transnational crimes, particularly illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and smuggling of goods, people and weapons, as well as forgeries of identification and travel documents, in accordance with respective domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, as well as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and explore the use of relevant technologies to manage borders more effectively to stem the flow of terrorists and criminals, while respecting human rights;
- 1.3.3. Encourage studies by think-tanks, universities and other relevant academic institutions to identify new and transboundary challenges arising from non-traditional security issues;
- 1.3.4. Continue to hold regular ASEAN Plus Canada Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + Canada) Consultations and support the development and effective implementation of ASEAN-Canada Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime to further strengthen cooperation in combatting transnational crime;
- 1.3.5. Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in combating transnational crimes and further promote public and media awareness campaigns against transnational crimes;
- 1.3.6. Continue to enhance cooperation against terrorism including through the implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, 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) and deepen cooperation to implement the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2021 and its successor documents, as well as the 2019 ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism;
- 1.3.7. Promote training programmes to strengthen preventive measures as well as criminal justice responses, including the enhancement of investigation and interrogation techniques along with the examination and analysis of the evidence, relating to Transnational Crime and Counter-Terrorism;
- 1.4. Cooperation to Combat Illicit Drugs and Trafficking in Persons
  - 1.4.1. Enhance cooperation where appropriate on combating drug trafficking and drug related crimes and support the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025;
  - 1.4.2. Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration and ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia, ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) and the future cross-sectoral work to combat trafficking in persons;
  - 1.4.3. Explore cooperation on criminal justice responses as well as preventive measures to trafficking in persons, bearing in mind the need to protect victims of trafficking in accordance with relevant ASEAN instruments and where applicable, other relevant international conventions and protocols on trafficking in persons;

1.5. Human Rights, Good Governance, and Anti-Corruption

- 1.5.1. Continue to support the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), and the Committee on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), in accordance with their respective mandates and work plans;
- 1.5.2. Support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including through capacity building, support for research, and sharing of experiences and best practices in mutually agreed areas
- 1.5.3. Explore cooperation against corruption and promote the universalisation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

**2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

2.1. Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1. Pursue the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) and its successor document, including by considering the possibility of an ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and promoting and facilitating greater involvement of the private sector;
- 2.1.2. Continue regular dialogues and engagement between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Canada's Minister of International Trade and their Senior Officials to explore ways and means to further deepen the trade and investment linkages;
- 2.1.3. Enhance coordination in areas of mutual interest at regional and multilateral trade fora, including at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and help strengthen and economic cooperation towards safeguarding an open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory, mutually beneficial and rules-based multilateral trading system as embodied by the WTO;
- 2.1.4. Continue to support ASEAN's regional economic integration agenda, including through the provision of technical assistance activities that contribute to capacity building and sustainable economic growth and ASEAN's efforts in addressing emerging challenges through robust national and regional mechanisms that address economic shocks and other emerging trade-related issues;
- 2.1.5. Explore cooperation in the field of intellectual property, including the provision of support for ASEAN to implement the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025);
- 2.1.6. Encourage cooperation between Canadian experts in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices and the ASEAN CSR Network by sharing of information and best practices between Canadian and ASEAN CSR practitioners to support green growth, employee development, and sustainable communities;

## 2.2. Finance

- 2.2.1. Strengthen cooperation on financing development and capital market development infrastructure with a view to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth;
- 2.2.2. Support regional financial integration through initiatives that promote greater financial stability and strengthen the capacity of financial regulators in the pursuit of their reform agenda objectives;
- 2.2.3. Support and foster the efficient access to financing and other available funding support mechanisms for SMEs, including the development of innovative financing mechanisms and new investment opportunities to improve SME growth, stimulate trade, and create employment towards achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- 2.2.4. Explore cooperation on financial education programmes and consumer protection mechanisms to bolster financial management capacity and encourage take up of financial services. These include raising awareness of personal safeguard measures against deceptive practices as well as enhancing technical countermeasures against threats of digital fraud;

## 2.3. Energy and Minerals

- 2.3.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025;
- 2.3.2. Explore cooperation to pursue energy cooperation through research, development, production, technology transfer, and use of renewable and alternative energy sources, as well as promote the development of cleaner energy technologies and energy efficient technologies;
- 2.3.3. Explore cooperation in oil and gas production, exchange information, best practices, experience and technology on the development of conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources, as well as promote LNG trade and support the implementation of the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) project for greater energy security and sustainability;
- 2.3.4. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP III) Phase 2 from 2021 to 2025 for efficient and sustainable mineral development;
- 2.3.5. Explore consultations between ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) and Canada to encourage investments in the mineral industries and promote sustainable development of mineral resources by improving competitiveness in the mineral sector through exchange of information best practices and capacity building as well as technology transfer;

## 2.4. Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.4.1. Facilitate dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Canada that enhances agricultural trade to encourage interactions relating to food and nutrition and agricultural innovation while acknowledging regulations based on relevant scientific evidence and international standards in order to promote global food security and regional economic development;
- 2.4.2. Strengthen cooperation on food security and nutrition, in particular to promote trade and investment, capacity building, sharing of experience and best practices, research and

development, agricultural products and agro-food innovation, as well as infrastructure development in the agricultural sector;

2.4.3. Enhance cooperation on research and development on food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including technical assistance and support related to these activities, as well as explore possible cooperation to promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

2.4.4. Develop new and appropriate technologies, best practices and management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues including resilience to climate change and natural disaster, particularly in the fast-growing aquaculture, livestock and crops sub-sectors;

## 2.5. Tourism

2.5.1. Explore the possibility of tourism cooperation between ASEAN and Canada through joint programmes on marketing and promotions, travel and tourism investment facilitation sharing of best practices in the development of quality and sustainable tourism, exchange of information on tourism statistic and investment opportunity, capacity building and exchanges of personnel in tourism sector;

2.5.2. Encourage the exchange and facilitate the participation of business communities and other tourism segments in travel marts, exhibitions, and tourism festivals both in ASEAN and Canada;

2.5.3. Explore possible cooperation in crisis communications through sharing of accurate and timely information to relevant tourism organisations;

## 2.6. Transport

2.6.1. Explore further transport cooperation in areas such as maritime, road, and rail transport infrastructure networks, including inland waterways and civil aviation through capacity building and exchange of best practices;

2.6.2. Explore cooperation and identify relevant strategic actions, programmes and activities to support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) (2016-2025);

## 2.7. Information Communications Technology (ICT), Digital Integration and E- Commerce

2.7.1. Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICT by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2020 and the ASEAN Digital Master Plan (ADMP) 2025;

2.7.2. 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;

2.7.3. Support ASEAN's efforts toward a digitally-enabled economy that is open, secure, and sustainable, and to further leverage ICT to enable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as new technological developments such as Smart Cities and Big Data Analytics;

2.7.4. Enhance cooperation on digital integration, including e-commerce, with support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce and the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP) 2019-2025;

2.7.5. Strengthen the professional development of the ICT workforce in the region;

2.8. Science, Technology, and Innovation

2.8.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 and encourage cooperation in science technology and innovation (STI);

2.8.2. Strengthen existing networks of Science and Technology (S&T) centres of excellence to promote cooperation, sharing of research facilities and workforce towards joint research and technology development, technology transfer, and commercialisation;

2.8.3. Enhance mobility of scientists and researchers from both public S&T institutions and private sector through exchange programmes and other appropriate arrangements, according to the respective laws, rules, regulations, and national policies;

2.8.4. Support the establishment of systems and mechanisms that will increase the engagement of women and youth in STI to promote entrepreneurship;

2.8.5. Strengthen the competitiveness of the MSMEs sector in ASEAN through the application of S&T tools and methodologies;

2.8.6. Support the application of science, technology, and innovation for green growth and sustainable development, including through the implementation of collaborative projects to support green growth;

2.9. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

2.9.1. Support the continued implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025) through the Canada-OECD Project on ASEAN SMEs (COPAS) and further explore possible collaboration and/or cooperation between ASEAN and Canada to enhance SME development across ASEAN;

**3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

3.1. Disaster Management and Emergency Response

3.1.1. Continue cooperation on disaster management to realise ASEAN's vision for disaster-resilient nations and safer communities in the region by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 and the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre);

3.1.2. Continue to support the development of an ASEAN-wide disaster risk assessment system through hazard and vulnerability mapping as well as support the establishment of regional networks for disaster risk management and disaster risk financing and insurance initiatives;



3.1.3. Encourage regular consultations between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and Canada to facilitate synergy among multilateral cooperation mechanisms on disaster management, including in the ARF Framework;

3.2. Environment and Climate Change

3.2.1. Promote, where feasible, cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices including capacity building in environmental protection, water and waste management and pollution control, environmental monitoring and environmental law enforcement, as well as biodiversity management, to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change;

3.2.2. Promote regional cooperation on climate change in accordance with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 and under the work of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC);

3.2.3. Encourage cooperation to provide our peoples access to clean water, clean air, basic health care, and other social services, so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community;

3.2.4. Explore opportunities for regional coordination and cooperation to address waste-related issues such as waste management, which includes plastics and waste-to-energy, and support ASEAN's efforts to promote greener and more sustainable technologies by exploring clean-tech collaboration and promotion of biofuels transportation;

3.2.5. Support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris;

3.2.6. Facilitate the development of comprehensive and coherent responses to climate change challenges, such as but not limited to multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches, and promote sound scientific and evidence-based policies on climate change adaptation;

3.2.7. Strengthen human and institutional capacity in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially on vulnerable and marginalised communities;

3.3. Health and Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats

3.3.1. Enhance cooperation in building ASEAN's capacity and capability in preparedness, prevention, detection and response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics, zoonoses and other potential public health threats. These would include, among others, strengthening coordination and collaboration in areas of improving disease surveillance, laboratory strengthening and networking, human resource development, management of big data analytics, risk assessment, and information sharing and technical exchanges, and other relevant advocacies;

3.3.2. Promote multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration on health security which includes, among others, programmes on mitigation of biological threats and networking on information exchanges;

3.3.3. Continue cooperation in relevant health priorities under the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and its ASEAN Health Cluster Work Programmes;

3.3.4. Support for a Safer ASEAN that is able to Respond to all Health-related Hazards including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear threats;

3.4. Education, Youth, Sports, Culture and People-to-People Exchange

3.4.1. Explore cooperation on exchanges of knowledge and experience in lifelong learning in different forms, including virtual and distance learning for the underprivileged and those in remote areas;

3.4.2. Explore academia's interest to promote mutual recognition in support of educational institutions' possible cooperation on credit transfer, quality assurances, and implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework as well as the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualification Concerning Higher Education;

3.4.3. Promote greater awareness of both ASEAN and Canada through the implementation of educational exchanges, youth leadership and skills development programmes and other people-to-people activities, including sports;

3.4.4. Strengthen cultural exchange and knowledge-sharing activities such as cultural festivals, exhibitions, film festivals, media exchanges, and enhance cooperation on managing intangible and tangible culture heritage, including through exchanges of expertise in cultural heritage preservation and human resource development of professional managers of cultural institutes such as museums, archives and libraries, cultural centres, archaeological and conservation administration, etc;

3.4.5. Continue to support ASEAN capacity-building programmes through the provision of scholarship programmes, professional exchanges of academics, joint research, and educational partnerships, in collaboration with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other educational institutions;

3.4.6. Provide capacity building programmes, including training for teaching staff and staff exchange programmes as well as sharing best practices, provided by Canadian community colleges and institutes, aiming to promote the quality of education at all levels, which includes industry-specific training opportunities, including for persons with disabilities, such as Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in the region;

3.5. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

3.5.1. Support the implementation of the Action Plan (2018-2025) of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers through cooperation with the ACMW under the Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN Programme (2015-2025);

3.6. Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender

3.6.1. Collaborate on the promotion and protection of women and children's rights and strengthen women's entrepreneurship as well as gender equality across the ASEAN pillars, including support for the promotion and dissemination of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children in ASEAN, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the context of Migration, the economic empowerment of women, the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region and the political participation of women;

- 3.6.2. Provide support in reaching out to the most vulnerable groups, including children, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities, by enhancing appreciation of social protection and rights-based measures through the lens of vulnerability and by adopting and investing on flexible, adaptive, inclusive social protection measures that adhere to a community-based and family-centred approach;
- 3.6.3. Support ASEAN Member States' initiatives in strengthening national gender and age-disaggregated databases and analyses, including on poverty, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the region and establish a reliable regional database for key sectors to support ASEAN policies and programmes;
- 3.6.4. Support ASEAN's efforts in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities, and fostering Member States' commitment towards an inclusive community, including the promotion of employment for persons with disabilities;
- 3.6.5. Support ASEAN's efforts on implementing the culture of prevention, to promote and uphold the values of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for life and diversity;
- 3.7. Civil Service
  - 3.7.1. Support the cooperation on good governance and anti-corruption programmes, including but not limited to, gender equality in public service, civil service modernisation, talent management, and other areas of mutual interests to accelerate an agile ASEAN civil service in a digital economy;

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

- 4.1. Connectivity
  - 4.1.1. Enhance cooperation to strengthen the ASEAN Connectivity agenda through participation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025;
  - 4.1.2. Encourage robust public and private sector investments in infrastructure projects and capacity building to develop economically, socially and environmentally viable projects, including through public private partnership (PPP) schemes and other financing modalities, sharing of knowledge, technology and experience in infrastructure development towards achieving a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN;
  - 4.1.3. Strengthen engagement and consultation on connectivity cooperation through exploring bilateral and multilateral dialogues partnerships, and promote links and synergies between MPAC 2025 and other relevant connectivity strategies, including through the "Connecting the Connectivities Initiative";
- 4.2. Cybersecurity
  - 4.2.1. Strengthen cooperation in combatting cybercrimes, including timely sharing of relevant information and best practices among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need to develop or improve appropriate laws and capabilities to address cybercrimes and child online protection;

- 4.2.2. Strengthen the capacity of criminal justice authorities, through training and exchange of best practices to apply the laws on cybercrimes and electronic evidence, with due consideration to respective domestic rules and regulations;
- 4.2.3. Build a trusted digital ecosystem including through further strengthening cooperation on cybersecurity, including mitigating the risks from malicious software (malware) and developing measures to protect personal data;
- 4.2.4. Explore cooperation to build resilience to cyber threats through exchange of best practices, and technical guidance, capacity building programmes, as well as encouraging partnerships between cybersecurity industries in ASEAN Member States and Canada;

#### 4.3. Smart Cities

- 4.3.1. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and explore collaboration between the ASCN with the Canada Smart City Challenge;

### 5. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

- 5.1.1. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 5.1.2. 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 (ACSDSD) in Thailand and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE) in Myanmar;

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

- 6.1.1. 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;
- 6.1.2. Continue to support CLMV countries in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan through areas such as human resource development by increasing the development scholarships, vocational education, and training programmes;

### 7. **STRENGTHENING OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT**

- 7.1.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat by enhancing ASEAN Secretariat's capacity, and explore providing training and capacity building courses for ASEAN Secretariat staff;

### 8. **IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**

- 8.1.1. The measures provided under this Plan of Action may be implemented with the appropriate funding support from the governments of Canada and ASEAN Member States;
- 8.1.2. Review of this Plan of Action will be made through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, including the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue;

- 8.1.3. Submit progress reports of the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN PMC+1 with Canada.