

**ASEAN-Italy Development Partnership:  
Practical Cooperation Areas (2022-2026)**

These Practical Cooperation Areas set out priority areas for ASEAN-Italy engagement and are aimed at implementing the shared commitments for an enhanced, deeper, and mutually beneficial ASEAN–Italy Development Partnership for the period 2022-2026 to further substantiate the cooperation with a focus on practical areas where ASEAN and Italy have expertise and mutual interests:

<b>Areas/Measures</b>		<b>Timeline<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION</b>		
<b>Peace and Reconciliation</b>		
1	Explore cooperation in the area of peace and reconciliation, including with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), in accordance with its Terms of Reference, as well as support for the activities by the experts listed in the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) as agreed by ASEAN-IPR.	Immediate and medium term
2	Explore cooperation to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing women’s equal, full, and effective participation in all stages of crises management and the peace processes through concrete activities and exchanges, expanding existing networks and collaboration in building capacity for women mediators or facilitators.	Medium term

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<sup>1</sup> - *Immediate term: indicative timeframe between 1 and 2 years.  
- Medium term: indicative timeframe between 2 and 4 years.  
- Future possibilities: indicative timeframe of 4 years and beyond.  
- These indicative timeframes are intended to be flexible and suggestive, taking into account programmes/projects/activities to be implemented under the areas in this PCA which might be carried over the specified timeframes. Such programmes/projects/activities may also be carried forward as may be determined by and in mutual interest of ASEAN and Italy after this PCA expires in 2026.*

3	Explore cooperation to advance peacekeeping initiatives under the UN peace operations, 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. Strengthen the capacity building in the field of civilian peacekeeping also through the support of the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), based in Vicenza.	Future possibilities
<b>Security Cooperation</b>		
4	Share experiences, exchange best practices, and undertake exchange training programs on detecting, prevent and combat transnational crimes in areas such as, for instance, organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism, financial crime, corruption. Such activities will aim at strengthening cooperation among law enforcement and other agencies of the criminal justice systems of the ASEAN Member States and Italy.	Immediate and medium term
5	Explore the possibility of supporting ASEAN in the area of cybersecurity through capacity building as well as sharing experiences and best practices among relevant national authorities responsible for cybersecurity in order to build mutual trust and create an open, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable and peaceful information and communication technologies (ICT) and digital environment, including through the ASEAN Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.	Immediate and medium term
6	Explore cooperation to promote moderation, tolerance and understanding to prevent and to counter terrorism and violent extremism, including by supporting ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism (ACPoA on CT), ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise	Future possibilities

	of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) and its Bali Work Plan 2019-2025.	
<b>Maritime Cooperation</b>		
7	Underline the importance of and explore practical cooperation and capacity-building activities to promote the respect for the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).	Immediate and medium term and future possibilities.
<b>Good Governance and Human Rights</b>		
8	Support ASEAN's efforts in promoting good governance and the rule of law, including through the sharing of experiences, best practices, and capacity building activities.	Immediate and medium term
9	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 regional and international human rights instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are Parties.	Immediate term
10	Support the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in accordance with its Terms of Reference in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms	Immediate and medium term

	through trainings, regional dialogues and other capacity-building initiatives.	
<b>ECONOMIC COOPERATION</b>		
<b>Trade, Investment and Private Sector Development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)</b>		
11	Support the promotion of trade and investment relations between ASEAN and Italy, including through enhancing private sector engagement and business-to-business relations between both sides, including through available and new platforms to stimulate supply chain linkages.	Immediate and medium term
12	Convening further editions of the High-Level Dialogue between ASEAN and Italy focused on areas including improving trade facilitation, attracting foreign investors, strengthening MSMEs.	Immediate and medium term
13	Promote MSME development and inclusive business through capacity building, sharing best practices, technical cooperation mechanisms, and business matching activities in order to further integrate MSMEs in the global and regional value chains.	Medium term
14	Provide technical assistance and capacity building through activities to develop ASEAN entrepreneurs, with particular focus on women, youth, and persons with disabilities to enable them to compete regionally and globally.	Immediate and medium term
<b>Energy</b>		
15	Support the development of ASEAN energy policy in achieving the renewable energy, and energy intensity and reduction targets as set out in the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025.	Future possibilities

16	Explore opportunities for experience, knowledge sharing and capacity building to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in strengthening their capacity in the areas of energy security the safe and sustainable development of renewable and alternative energy sources and technologies, power grid integration as well as promotion of energy efficiency and conservation practices.	Immediate and medium term
<b>Food, Agriculture and Forestry</b>		
17	Explore dialogue between ASEAN and Italy to promote cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, in key areas of interest under the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, 2016-2025.	Immediate and medium term
18	Explore opportunities for cooperation within the area of sustainable food systems, including the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action in Food Security, 2021-2025.	Future possibilities
19	Exchange experience and best practices in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.	Medium term
20	Exchange experience and best practices on forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) and sustainable forest management (SFM).	Immediate term
<b>Tourism</b>		
21	Explore joint tourism cooperation between ASEAN and Italy through joint programmes in marketing and promotions, travel facilitation, digital tourism, sharing of best practices in the development of sustainable tourism, exchange of information on tourism statistics and investment opportunity.	Immediate and Medium term

22	Support capacity building for tourism professionals and exchanges of best practices, and information on policies and regulations in the field of tourism and hospitality to support the implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (MRA-TP) and Phnom Penh Declaration on A More Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient ASEAN Tourism, as well as the development of other tourism-related services, including in quality and standards	Immediate and medium term
23	Encourage and facilitate the participation of business communities and other tourism segments in travel marts, exhibitions and tourism festivals both in ASEAN and Italy.	Immediate and medium term
<b>Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)</b>		
24	Encourage and promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation, including through expertise sharing and joint research activity on cross-sectoral areas such as health, communicable and emerging infectious diseases, environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, agricultural technologies, alternative energy, biodiversity conservation, food processing, advanced materials for development of value-added products, and space technology and applications.	Immediate and medium term
25	Explore joint activities and projects in the fields of space science, space technology, earth observation and related applications, space education and capacity building.	Future possibilities
26	Support the establishment of innovative systems and smart partnerships to nurture Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) enterprises and to support MSMEs, and nurture knowledge creation and STI applications to raise competitiveness.	Future possibilities

<b>Information Communications Technology (ICT), Digital Integration and E-Commerce</b>		
27	Enhance digital cooperation and information sharing on emerging technologies including Internet of Things, 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Cities and Big Data Analytics in support of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan (ADM) 2025.	Immediate and medium term
28	Leverage digital technologies to boost innovation and entrepreneurship towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth, in particular by promoting e-commerce, digital economy enhancing MSMEs' readiness for digital transformation and training the workforce for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.	Immediate and medium term
29	Work towards an open, secure, interoperable and sustainable environment, with a particular focus on data governance, cross border data flows, personal data protection, e-government services and cybersecurity.	Immediate and medium term
<b>SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION</b>		
<b>People-to-People Exchanges</b>		
30	Promote people-to-people contacts, through capacity building, professional development and fostering mutual understanding, convening of networking/dialogue platforms, leadership training programmes/workshops, student exchange programmes and sports initiatives.	Immediate and medium term
31	Share lessons learned and best practices related to utilising information and communications technology in education and training particularly for children and youth in remote areas, as well as students excluded from attending school due to disabilities, vulnerabilities or other challenges.	Immediate and medium term

32	Promote cooperation in human resource development, particularly in higher education, addressing out-of-school children and youth, digital education, digital skills and 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills development as well as efforts to improve the quality of education and training through initiatives such as skills training for students and youth, capacity building for teachers and education practitioners, provision of scholarships, research, and the sharing of good practices and experiences.	Immediate and medium term
33	Support diplomatic contacts by promoting training activities for diplomats and explore collaboration between ASEAN and Italy training centers.	Immediate and medium term
34	Promote collaboration between universities in ASEAN and Italy through the ASEAN University Network and appropriate Italian networks, such as CRUI (the Association of the Rectors of Italian Universities) and Uni Italia (Centre for the Academic Promotion and Orientation of Study in Italy).	Immediate and medium term
35	Explore and promote cooperation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and human resource development towards Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and developing standards and the quality of the workforce to meet the demands of the global labour market, for the benefit of the people in the region.	Immediate and medium term
36	Support ASEAN's efforts in advancing TVET and human resource development initiatives through the ASEAN TVET Council, with a view to develop a future-ready, competitive and resilient workforce.	Immediate and medium term
<b>Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance</b>		
37	Support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 through	Immediate and medium term



	capacity building and sharing of best practices, knowledge and experiences, and technology transfer to further enhance disaster risk assessment and monitoring , prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, and resilient recovery in the region, as well as to contribute towards the realisation of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management which envisions ASEAN as a global leader in disaster management by 2025.	
38	Support ASEAN's efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region. Italy has granted a financial contribution to the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) within the "Strengthen Gender Equality and Empowerment in Mine Action in the Mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) affected ASEAN Member States" initiative.	Future possibilities
<b>Health</b>		
39	Support the implementation of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025), where appropriate, including through capacity building and technical exchange of relevant information and good practices; in strengthening health systems and access to care with the aim of achieving universal health coverage, responding to all hazards and emerging threats; promoting healthy lifestyles including the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and promoting active ageing through cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI); and, ensuring food safety.	Future possibilities
40	Support the implementation of the Regional Strategic and Action Plan of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR); and ASEAN's efforts in ensuring drug security and self-reliance, including the adequacy of essential medicines,	Future possibilities

	and timely, equitable access to affordable, safe, and quality vaccines.	
41	Support ASEAN's efforts in the collective and synergised measures in the prevention, detection and response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases, public health emergencies and pandemics such as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including through the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Funds as well as ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan.	Future possibilities
42	Promote cooperation and exchanges of information and expertise on non-communicable diseases including mental health.	Medium term
43	Promote coordination in enhancing transparent, effective and efficient exchange of information, data and knowledge on COVID-19 including research and development, through digital technology to facilitate the efficient implementation of public health responses.	Future possibilities
45	Encourage relevant technical and capacity building cooperation including training of health and medical personnel and knowledge transfer through mutual visits of relevant health experts and professionals.	Immediate and medium term
<b>Environment and Climate Change</b>		
46	Promote regional cooperation to reduce climate risk, including through joint ASEAN-Italy cooperation in the areas of climate financing, low-carbon technologies, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and its linkages to a circular economy and climate-related risks and resilience in line with the Paris Agreement goals and the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted in November 2021 at COP26 UNFCCC.	Immediate and medium term

47	Support ASEAN's efforts to address biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, to strengthen environmental protection and conservation, to sustainably manage natural resources, and to promote environmental education, including sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and public awareness, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.	Immediate and medium term
48	Promote cooperation and mutual support on issues of air quality and on the strengthening of support for ASEAN's efforts in the full and effective implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, including through the establishment and operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control.	Immediate and medium term
49	Support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris through exchange of experience and knowledge, capacity-building, and by helping to establish integrated solutions for waste management, and working together towards a circular economy.	Future possibilities
<b>Culture, Media and Information</b>		
50	Promote greater awareness of ASEAN's and Italy's traditions, arts, heritage and cultures, through regularly held cultural festivals, art exhibitions, film festivals, workshops, book fairs and other cultural events and activities.	Future possibilities
51	Explore cooperation in the areas of culture, arts and heritage between ASEAN and Italy, including through exchange of best practices and capacity building activities, such as training programmes in areas of (i) museology, management of museums and sites of cultural interest (ii) protection of tangible and intangible cultural and historical heritage, including archaeological	Immediate and medium term

	sites, artworks, antique books and maps, against illicit trafficking, natural and human-induced disasters, and, conservation and restoration of cultural and historical heritage.	
52	Promote cooperation in creative economy, including but not limited to areas such as music, craft, performance, design, publishing, including capacity building for creative and cultural entrepreneurs, practitioners and policy makers and administrators.	Medium term and future possibilities
53	Explore possible cooperation in co-production of films, TV shows, and other forms of new media to promote inter-cultural awareness and foster people-to-people interaction, understanding and ties through film festivals and exchanges of media personnel and to build capacities of media personnel in the region.	Future possibilities
<b>ASEAN Smart Cities Network</b>		
54	Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building communities that are resilient, innovative, and well-connected, including through partnerships and collaborations on areas of mutual interest.	Immediate and medium terms
55	Promote capacity building and knowledge sharing by various smart city players including but not limited to encouraging private sector, universities and research institutions to conduct training programmes, undertake analytical studies, and nurture talent in smart and sustainable city development.	Immediate and medium terms
<b>CONNECTIVITY</b>		
56	Explore cooperation through capacity building and sharing of expertise and best practices to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN	Immediate term

	Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 in a fiscally sound and environmentally sustainable manner.	
57	Promote regional capacity building in the MPAC 2025 strategic areas of sustainable infrastructure, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and digital innovation, including in relation to financial inclusion and digital literacy.	Future possibilities
<b>NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP</b>		
<b>Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing the Development Gap</b>		
58	Support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the goals of the ASEAN Community and advance regional integration.	Immediate and medium term
59	Explore dialogue between ASEAN and Italy in fostering effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the development gap, including through supporting CLMV's socio-economic development in accelerating digital adoption, promoting gender equality for more inclusive growth, strengthening efforts for environmental protection, as well as mitigating the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Future possibilities
<b>Sustainable Development Cooperation</b>		
60	Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in sustainable development to promote green growth and 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	Immediate and medium term

	connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production and resilience as well as data collection on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.	
61	Support ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including cooperation with relevant ASEAN centres, institutions and mechanisms under the ASEAN Charter that facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, as well as the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) in Thailand.	Future possibilities
<b>FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM</b>		
62	The implementation of the Practical Cooperation Areas will be reviewed by the ASEAN-Italy Development Partnership Committee (AI-DPC) Meeting and annual progress reports on the implementation of the Practical Cooperation Areas shall be submitted by the ASEAN Secretariat to the AI-DPC. ASEAN and Italy may mutually agree to make amendments to this PCA as they may find appropriate at any time.	2022-2026

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