

ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2022-2026)

These Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) set out priority areas for ASEAN-Switzerland engagement and are aimed at implementing the shared commitments for an enhanced, deeper, and mutually beneficial ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership to further substantiate the cooperation with a focus on practical areas where ASEAN and Switzerland have expertise and mutual interest:

Areas/Measures	Timeline ¹
POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION	
Peace and Reconciliation	
1.	Continue 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 explore support of activities by the experts listed in the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) as agreed by ASEAN-IPR.
2.	Explore cooperation to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing women's equal, full, meaningful, and effective participation in all stages of peace processes in the ASEAN region through concrete activities and exchanges, expanding existing networks and collaboration in building capacity for women mediators or facilitators.

¹ - 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 Switzerland after this PCA expires in 2026.

3.	Explore cooperation to promote international humanitarian law through sharing of experiences and best practices.	Immediate and medium term
Security		
4.	Explore the possibility of sharing experiences and best practices in the areas of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.	Immediate and medium term
5.	Explore the possibility of sharing experiences and exchanging best practices, supporting capacity building initiatives and undertaking exchange training programs on detecting, preventing and combating transnational crimes in areas including cooperation among law enforcement and other agencies of the criminal justice systems of ASEAN Member States and Switzerland.	Immediate and medium term
6.	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 to create an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communication technologies (ICTs) environment, including through the ASEAN Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence and the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre.	Immediate and medium term
7.	Support ASEAN's efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region through possible support from Switzerland for the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).	Immediate and medium term
Good Governance and Human Rights		
8.	Support ASEAN's efforts in promoting inclusive and accountable governance by fostering the rule of law and strengthening the institutions, including through the sharing of experiences, best practices, and capacity building activities.	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 and medium term
10.	Continue to 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 through trainings, regional dialogues and other capacity-building initiatives.	Immediate and medium term
11.	Enhance cooperation in the areas of business and human rights including in the digital technologies sector, responsible business conduct and sustainability reporting through sharing of experiences and best practices.	Immediate and medium term
12.	Explore cooperation on digital governance by holding a policy dialogue and through the exchange of best practices, common goals and interests, including the implementation and improvement of digital government services.	Immediate and medium term
ECONOMIC COOPERATION		
Trade, Investment and Private Sector Development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)		
13.	Support the promotion of trade and investment between ASEAN and Switzerland including through enhancing private sector engagement and business-to-business exchanges and create an environment that is stable, resilient, predictable and conducive to foster inclusive business focusing on MSMEs, women, the youth and start-up entrepreneurs.	Immediate and medium term

14.	Promote sustainable, inclusive economic growth and prosperity including through the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan by facilitating the integration of MSMEs in global and regional value chains through, amongst others, building their capacity and sharing best practices to use digital technology, developing a digital-ready workforce equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, increasing digital trade, and promoting entrepreneurship and business matching activities.	Immediate and medium term
15.	Strengthen the three dimensions of sustainability (society, economy, environment) along global value chains, including for biotrade, which refers to collecting, producing, transforming and commercialising sustainably sourced goods and services derived from native biodiversity in accordance with relevant laws and regulations thereby conserving natural resources and creating prosperity.	Immediate and medium term
16.	Continue dialogue with the aim of concluding and implementing a Joint Declaration on Cooperation between ASEAN and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with a view to providing a platform for strengthening economic relations between ASEAN and the EFTA states.	Immediate and medium term
Energy		
17.	Explore avenues for future collaboration in the area of energy security the safe and sustainable development of low carbon energy sources and technologies, power grid integration as well as promotion of energy efficiency and conservation practices to achieve energy intensity reduction target, for example through experience and knowledge sharing, as well as capacity building.	Immediate and medium term

Tourism		
18.	Explore opportunities for Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences in Tourism to support capacity building programmes for tourism professionals, and exchange of best practices and information on policies and regulations in the field of hospitality and tourism development 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, including environmentally sustainable and socially responsible community-based tourism, and quality and standards.	Immediate and medium term
19.	Explore joint tourism cooperation between ASEAN and Switzerland through sharing of best practices in the development of sustainable tourism and exchange of information on tourism statistics.	Immediate and medium term
Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)		
20.	Promote cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation in areas of mutual interest and benefit; enhance mobility of scientists and researchers from both public science and technology institutions and private sectors through exchange programmes and other appropriate arrangements.	Immediate and medium term
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Digital Integration and E-Commerce		
21.	Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICTs by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM2025), the Work Plan on the Implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce and the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (DIFAP) 2019-2025.	Immediate and medium term

22.	Support ASEAN's efforts toward a digitally-enabled economy that is open, secure, interoperable and sustainable, and to further leverage ICTs to enable innovation and entrepreneurship, inter alia by sharing of experience and best practices in the area of information and communication technology, especially in digital technology-based innovation, digital economy, e-commerce, data governance, e-government services, cross border data flows, personal data protection, artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.	Immediate and medium term
Food, Agriculture, and Forestry		
23.	Explore dialogue between ASEAN and Switzerland 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, as well as share lessons and best practices within the area of sustainable food systems, including climate-smart agriculture (CSA), that can help farmers respond to market demands and withstand climate change and natural disasters.	Immediate and medium term
24.	Support initiatives in the promotion of responsible investment in food, agriculture and forestry to support regional economic development, food and nutrition security, food safety and equitable benefits, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources.	Immediate and medium term
25.	Support initiatives that strengthen and mainstream social forestry practices at scale, and thereby improve livelihoods-and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives of ASEAN Member States.	Immediate and medium term

SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION		
Biodiversity, Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Circular Economy		
26.	Share lessons and best practices in addressing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, to strengthen environmental protection and conservation, and the sustainable management of natural resources, and to promote environmental education, including sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and public awareness, including through the ASEAN Centre on Biodiversity.	Immediate and medium term
27.	Promote regional cooperation to reduce climate risk, including through joint ASEAN-Switzerland 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, as well as technical and capacity building.	Immediate and medium term
28.	Promote resource efficiency by demonstrating the viability and benefits of greening industrial parks in improving resource efficiency, cleaner production as well as economic, environmental and social performances of businesses.	Immediate and medium term
29.	Support regional cooperation and efforts in sustainable water resources management, notably by: sharing experiences, establishing expert contacts, and strengthening shared solutions and cooperation on water management and water-related disasters.	Immediate and medium term

30.	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
Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance		
31.	Support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025 through capacity building and sharing of best practices, knowledge and experiences to further enhance disaster risk assessment and monitoring, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, 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 including through support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).	Immediate and medium term
Public Health, Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control		
32.	Explore opportunities for exchange and support on Public Health, Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control, including support the implementation of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025), where appropriate, i.e. 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	Immediate and medium term

	active ageing through cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI); and ensuring food safety.	
People-to-People Exchanges and Education		
33.	Explore cooperation to promote parliamentary contacts, including through the framework of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and support capacity-building activities of AIPA.	Immediate and medium term
34.	Promote autonomous and direct collaboration between universities in ASEAN and Switzerland through the ASEAN University Network according to mutual interests and benefits.	Medium term and future possibilities
35.	Support human capital development and promote cooperation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) through information sharing, exchange programmes, capacity building and voluntary mutual recognition of certificates in the areas of vocational education and skills development, including through the ASEAN TVET Council.	Immediate and medium term
Labour Migration		
36.	Support the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Action Plan (2018-2025) to Implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers including the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor and its recommendations.	Immediate and medium term

Women Empowerment and Gender Equality		
37.	Support ASEAN's initiatives on gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls through, among others, the active works of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN), and ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR).	Medium term and future possibilities
Sustainable Urbanisation and Smart Cities		
38.	Explore avenues for future collaboration in the area of sustainable urban development, including continuous exchange with 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 term
CONNECTIVITY		
39.	Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including through exchange of best practices and support to regional capacity building activities on sustainable infrastructure, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, digital innovation, and people mobility.	Immediate and medium term

NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP AND INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI)		
40.	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
Sustainable Development Cooperation		
41.	Continue dialogue and cooperation on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the realisation of complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through information sharing, exchange of best practices, capacity building and the improvement of data collection on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.	Immediate and medium term
42.	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 (ACSDSD) in Thailand.	Immediate and medium term

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM		
43.	The implementation of these Practical Cooperation Areas will be reviewed by the ASEAN-Switzerland Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AS-JSCC) Meeting and an annual progress report on the implementation of the PCA shall be submitted by the ASEAN Secretariat to the AS-JSCC. ASEAN and Switzerland may mutually agree to make amendments to this PCA as they may find appropriate at any time.	2022-2026

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