

2024-2028 ASEAN-GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION

Adopted in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 20 October 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. Through the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Framework of Cooperation 2024-2028, ASEAN and the GCC aim to further strengthen partnership and cooperation to realise the potential for growing cooperation between both sides, in line with the outcomes of the two ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meetings which were held respectively in September 2018 and September 2019 at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.
2. This Framework identifies measures and cooperation activities to be jointly undertaken by the two sides in the areas of common interest in political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars to realise the full potential of ASEAN-GCC collaboration. It also takes into account the progress made in the implementation of the previous ASEAN-GCC Two-Year Action Plan (2010-2012).
3. ASEAN and the GCC have further committed to enhancing cooperation between both sides on the basis of equal and mutual benefits, particularly in political, economic and cultural relations, tourism, connectivity, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), trade and investment as well as in the fields of education and agriculture development.
4. ASEAN and the GCC hereby endeavour to cooperate in conformity with their existing obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

POLITICAL AND SECURITY

1. Convene regular ministerial meetings in the margins of UNGA in New York.
2. Rotary holds an annual meeting between the GCC Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat.
3. Explore for further cooperation between GCCPOL and ASEANAPOL.

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM, RADICALISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

4. Explore cooperation and enhance the exchange of experiences and best practices on preventing and countering radicalism and violent extremism that lead to terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

5. Provide enabling and favourable environment for enhanced trade and investment flows under respective laws and policies.

6. Enhance dialogue and cooperation among trade promotion agencies; Encourage policy dialogue on trade and investment matters; Encourage business exchange, including through facilitating the participation in trade exhibitions in ASEAN and GCC Member States.
7. Explore cooperation on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) development policies, and continue to share information and experiences in the promotion and development of MSMEs.
8. Enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in financial and banking services between ASEAN and the GCC.
9. Exchange of views on economic integration experiences of both sides.
10. Encourage information exchange and policy dialogue on trade and investment of both sides.
11. Conduct further consultations to explore new opportunities for trade, investment and technical cooperation between ASEAN and GCC, including the possibility of developing a framework arrangement on economic, trade, technical and investment cooperation.
12. Encourage participation of ASEAN and GCC Member States in seminars, conferences, events and specialized workshops, in the fields of investment, trade and industry as well as other areas of mutual interest, hosted in ASEAN and GCC Member States.
13. Enhance contact and coordination between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and the Federation of the GCC Chambers and promote the role of the private sector from both sides in ASEAN-GCC economic relations.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

14. Explore investment opportunities in the agriculture field in order to further promote productivity.
15. Encourage exchange of information, sharing of experiences, research, modern technologies and best practices, as well as through conducting capacity building activities in areas such as trade, food and halal industry development including various standards for halal food certification.

ENERGY

16. Explore ASEAN-GCC cooperation in energy and clean low-carbon energy technologies, including technology development for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative sources of clean energy as well as the promotion of effective energy efficiency practices and conservation measures.

TOURISM

17. Strengthen cooperation on and promotion of tourism, including, heritage, cruise and eco-tourism, and medical tourism. Promote the sharing of information, experiences and best practices by undertaking benchmarking activities, conducting of fora in the areas of tourism investment, training, planning and development and enhancement of competitiveness of MSMEs.

SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

CULTURE AND INFORMATION

18. Enhance people-to-people contacts to promote mutual understanding and awareness among peoples of the two regions.
19. Explore the possibility of exchanging or holding joint cultural activities and exhibitions such as through organising ASEAN Day in GCC and GCC Cultural Day in ASEAN; arrange media and journalists exchanges between ASEAN and GCC.
20. Explore contact and consultations between the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI), and its GCC counterparts.
21. Encourage people-to-people contacts and dialogue between various segments of ASEAN and GCC Member States, such as academics, thought leaders, youth and cultural institutions.

EDUCATION

22. Continue to develop the ASEAN-GCC Action Plan on Education to include initiatives such as on:
 - (i) joint conferences or workshops involving, among others, the ASEAN University Network (AUN), ASEAN and GCC Secretariats, think tanks and other institutions of education and research; and
 - (ii) exchange programmes for students, researchers, and education personnel.

CAPACITY BUILDING

23. Support the strengthening of human capacity through encouraging participation in human resource capacity building programmes.

CONNECTIVITY

24. Explore cooperation to support ASEAN's effort in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, with its five strategic areas namely sustainable infrastructure; digital innovation; seamless logistics; regulatory excellence; and people mobility, including measures on infrastructure development and institutional connectivity to support regional and inter-regional trade and investment and people-to-people links.

INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION (IAI) / NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP (NDG)

25. Explore the possibility of cooperation in the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025).

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

26. The Secretariats of ASEAN and the GCC will continue to facilitate contacts and coordination between both sides in the implementation of this Framework of Cooperation, including holding annual meetings between the Secretariats and exchanging information and experiences in related areas to this Framework of Cooperation, as appropriate.

27. Encourage relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and their GCC counterparts to pursue cooperation through this Framework of Cooperation, where appropriate, while also providing the flexibility to make adjustments as required during implementation. Both sides may consider implementing this Framework of Cooperation through mutually agreed activities.

28. Encourage regular interactions between the GCC Ambassadors' Council in Jakarta and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN in Jakarta, and encourage holding regular meetings between the ambassadors of ASEAN's Member States to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the GCC General-Secretariat in Riyadh to follow up the implementation of this Framework of Cooperation.