

AEC 2025 TRADE FACILITATION STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

VISION

To achieve the competitive, efficient and seamless movement of goods within the region in order to enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks, better participate into global value chains, as well as to establish a highly integrated and cohesive economy that is consistent with the broader AEC vision, thereby leading to accelerated economic growth and shared prosperity.

MISSION

To effectively and efficiently implement the ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework (ATFF), guided by the principles of – Transparency; Communications and consultations; Simplification and efficiency; Non-discrimination; Harmonization and mutual recognition; Modernization and use of new technology; Due process; Cooperation; and Private sector orientation.

GOALS

Increased trade flows, by facilitating the efficient movement of goods across borders, with the following measurable targets:

- Reduction in trade transactions cost in the AEC (by 10% by 2020)
- Doubling of intra-ASEAN trade between 2017 and 2025
- Improved performance in global rankings/surveys e.g. World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report (WEF-GCR), World Bank Ease of Doing Business (WB-EODB)

Strategic Measures and Action Lines	Outputs	Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Timeline	Responsible and Relevant Bodies
1. Strategic Objective: Encourage the accelerated implementation of trade facilitation measures, which have been accepted by international institutions such as the WTO and/or the WCO, and in light of other relevant best practices					
1.1 <u>Action:</u> Aligning Customs Procedures with the Revised Kyoto Convention where possible	Recommendation to Customs to prioritise and adopt WCO rules and practices based on the Revised Kyoto Protocol	Customs measures of ASEAN are aligned with WCO	percentage of AMSs' customs procedures in line with Revised Kyoto Convention. Number of customs	2025	ATF-JCC/CCC

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Note: The Revised Kyoto Convention is being reviewed.			procedures identified for alignment with RKC		
1.2 <u>Action</u> : Full and effective implementation of AMS Category A commitments under the WTO-ATF	Category A commitments under the WTO-ATF effectively implemented	Trade facilitation measures of ASEAN are aligned with WTO – ATF practices.	Number of Category A measures adopted and implemented by AMSs	2017-2018	ATF-JCC/ CCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
1.3 <u>Action</u> : Accelerated implementation of Category B and C commitments under the WTO-ATF	Implementation of Category B and C commitments under the WTO-ATF accelerated.	Trade facilitation measures of ASEAN are aligned with WTO – ATF practices	Number of Category B and C measures adopted by AMSs Number of Category B and C implemented by AMSs	2017-2025	ATF-JCC/ CCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
1.4 <u>Action</u> : Sharing of experiences and best practices on trade facilitation among AMS	Annual Compendium of ASEAN Trade Facilitation best practices	ASEAN best practices shared and learnt among ASEAN	Number of activities for sharing experience and best practices among AMS	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
1.5 <u>Action</u> : Explore the possibility of adopting international best practices in trade facilitation, through increased engagement with relevant international partners.	Enhanced partnership with international organisations and external development partners.	Adoption of relevant international practices in trade facilitation by ASEAN and AMS	Number of formal consultations with partners under ATF-JCC Number of international best practices adopted by AMSs.	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies

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2. <u>Strategic Objective:</u> Achieve competitive, efficient, and seamless movement of goods within the region in order to enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks, better participate in global value chains, as well to establish a highly integrated and cohesive economy					
2.1 <u>Action:</u> Full utilisation/operationalisation of ASW, ATR, ACTS, ASSIST to facilitate users while doing business in the region	A comprehensive trade facilitation platform to all users	Expedited documentary clearance of goods Expedited resolution of trade complaints	Number of users who use the systems Number of unique users visiting/accessing the ATR/NTRs Number of electronic documents exchanged	2017-2025	ATF-JCC/CCA/CCC/ASWSC
2.2 <u>Action:</u> Simplified and expeditious border formalities					
2.2.1 <u>Action:</u> Harmonisation of technical requirements and simplification of administrative procedures affecting the acceptance of goods between AMSs based on international standards and facilitated through mutual recognition, where appropriate	Harmonised technical requirements and simplified administrative procedures for licensing a product to be marketed	Reduced time and cost to comply with rules and procedures for marketing a product in ASEAN	Time and cost required for a product to be licensed or marketed in ASEAN Number of MRAs concluded in ASEAN	2019-2025	ACCSQ/ ATF-JCC

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2.3 <u>Action</u> : Implement Automated risk management systems	Automated risk management	Effective management system for security while facilitating trade	Number of AMSs that have implemented automated risk management.	2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
2.4 <u>Action</u> : Implement Time Release Studies (TRS)	Studies being undertaken and published by AMs	Simplified Customs Procedure to expedite clearance of goods	Number of AMSs implementing the TRS	2018-2025	ATF-JCC/CCC
2.5 <u>Action</u> : Introduce Authorised Operator (AO) or similar schemes in accordance with WTO	Sharing experience and best practices in implementing AO or similar schemes.	AOs or similar schemes adopted by AMSs	Number of AOs or similar schemes in AMSs Number of AO or similar schemes being implemented by AMS.	2017-2025	CCC/AFT-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
3. <u>Strategic Objective</u>: Put in place an effective and responsive regional approach to efficiently address the trade distorting effect of NTMs with a view to pursuing legitimate policy objectives while reducing cost and time of doing business in ASEAN					
3.1 <u>Action</u> : updating the existing ASEAN NTMs database (starting with AMS verifying and cross-verifying the NTMs in the ERIA-UNCTAD NTM Database).	ASEAN NTMs database and ERIA-UNCTAD NTM Database are updated.	Improved assessment of NTMs in the region.	Number of NTMs notified and reported.	2018-2020	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies

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3.2 <u>Action:</u> Enhance Article 11 of the ATIGA to include cross-notification, i.e. an AMS notifying NTMs introduced by another AMS if these have not been notified as per Article 11	Enhanced Article 11 of the ATIGA to include cross-notification procedures	Improved control over NTMs, among AMSs, with a view to their resolutions/revision	Number of NTMs reported and addressed by AMSs.	2018-2019	ATF-JCC/CCA
3.3 <u>Action:</u> Study the possibility of AMS undertaking standstill and rollback commitments for measures relevant to trade facilitation, including NTMs that have a barrier effect ¹ .	Standstill and rollback provisions be observed by AMSs	Enhanced transparency and predictability of laws, regulations and administrative measures	Number of NTBs identified to be withdrawn annually Number of NTBs cases addressed by the concerned AMSs	2018-2020	ATF-JCC/CCA
3.4 <u>Action:</u> Develop a set of guidelines for assessing existing NTMs with the view to identifying trade barrier elements that could subsequently be eliminated.	Adoption of guidelines for the assessment of NTMs	Improved mechanisms to identify and eliminate trade barrier elements of NTMs		2018	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies

¹ "Standstill" means not introducing new or additional non-tariff measures that impeded intra-ASEAN trade. "Rollback" means phasing-out or eliminating NTMs that impede intra-ASEAN trade.

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3.5 <u>Action</u> : Strengthen National Trade Facilitation Coordinating Committees (established pursuant to Article 50(2) of the ATIGA) to include regulatory oversight functions that would be critical in reviewing existing NTMs.	Recommendation to AEM to include regulatory oversight functions on NTMs to the National Trade Facilitation Coordinating Committees.	Enhanced clarity in the regulatory procedures and reviews of introducing NTMs	Number of AMS introducing regulatory oversight functions to their NTFCC.	2019-2020	ATF-JCC
3.6 <u>Action</u> : Make available laws, regulations and administrative procedures relating to the exportation and importation of goods in a manner that is easily accessible and understood by businesses especially MSMEs	Adoption of a concrete mechanism to support MSMEs to access to necessary information in AMSs	Enhanced transparency of laws, regulations and administrative measures	Number of AMSs adopting a concrete mechanism to allow MSMEs to access information on laws, regulations and administrative measures.	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
3.7 <u>Action</u> : Establish a mechanism that would give AMS an opportunity, where possible, to comment on the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application governing border measures/matters	Adoption of a concrete mechanism to allow opportunities for AMS comments to the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations	Enhanced transparency and predictability of laws, regulations and administrative measures	Number of AMSs adopting a mechanism to allow the opportunity to comment.	2018-2020	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies

Strategic Measures and Action Lines	Outputs	Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Timeline	Responsible and Relevant Bodies
before their adoption.					
3.8 <u>Action</u> : Enhance ASSIST to include a feature where the private sector can “report an NTM.”	ASSIST feature to report an NTM is added to the ASSIST website	Increased opportunity to report trade-impeding NTMs or trade-barrier elements of NTMs	Number of ASSIST complaints on NTMs received and resolved	2018	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
4. <u>Strategic Objective</u>: Actively engage the private sector, with particular emphasis on the development and promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the process of regional economic integration					
4.1 <u>Action</u> : Strengthening private sector engagement, especially MSMEs, on trade facilitation issues within ATF-JCC	Active and effective private sector, especially MSMEs engagement	Regular and efficient participation by the relevant ASEAN private sector representatives at ATF-JCC	Number of effective consultation with the private sectors, especially MSMEs Recommendations or proposals by private sector addressed ²	2020	ATF-JCC, Relevant Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-BAC
5. <u>Strategic Objective</u>: Enhance the institutional coordination among the relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN, in order to effectively implement the trade facilitation measures under their respective purview consistently with their sectoral work-plans for 2016- 2025 and the ASEAN Blueprint 2025					
5.1 <u>Action</u> : Operationalise the guidelines on institutional coordination on trade	Guidelines on institutional coordination adopted	Effective institutional and operational	Trade facilitation activities/initiatives jointly undertaken with	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant Sectoral Bodies

² For the purposes of this ATF-SAP, “addressed” means the proposal or recommendation from the private sector has been considered without prejudice to the final decision or action to be taken by the ATF-JCC.

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facilitation among relevant sectoral bodies	Active participation of sectoral bodies	coordination among relevant sectoral bodies	relevant sectoral bodies ³		
6. <u>Strategic Objective:</u> Work towards increasing the participation of all AMSs, especially least developed AMSs, in the process of implementation of ASEAN trade facilitation programmes					
6.1 <u>Action:</u> Explore and facilitate the delivery of projects to support AMS, in particular CLMV, to implement trade facilitation programmes	Technical Assistance to be extended to AMS, in particular from CLMV, including trade facilitation training	Gaps in the delivery of trade facilitation measures narrowed between AMSs	Number of technical assistance initiatives in trade facilitation, particularly for CLMV	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies
7. <u>Strategic Objective:</u> Improve the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of trade facilitation measures, with a view to increasing their effectiveness and responsiveness in improving the competitiveness of ASEAN industries and businesses					
7.1 <u>Action:</u> Conduct biennial survey on trade facilitation using ASTFI	Improved implementation of trade facilitation measures in ASEAN	Efficient monitoring mechanism for ASEAN trade facilitation implemented and in accordance with the principles and processes contained in the M&E Framework for AEC 2025	Report on ASTFI survey result	2018-2025	ATF-JCC and relevant sectoral bodies
7.2 <u>Action:</u> Facilitate the delivery of trainings on trade facilitation indicators	Workshops on trade facilitation measurement and		Number of workshops on trade facilitation measurement and	2017-2025	ATF-JCC and other relevant sectoral bodies

³ For the purposes of this ATF-SAP, “initiatives” could also mean non-physical actions such as adoption of trade facilitation measures, workshops, seminars, studies, and consultations undertaken by the ATF-JCC and the relevant sectoral bodies

Strategic Measures and Action Lines	Outputs	Outcomes	Outcome Indicators	Timeline	Responsible and Relevant Bodies
for AMS officials	indicators		indicators conducted		