

Priority Plan for the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership

I Introduction

With the view to promote effective cooperation between ASEAN and Norway through deepened dialogue and activities and cooperation on matters of mutual interest, this document sets out the overall framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Norway under the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

Whereas ASEAN and Norway adopted the Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 8 August 2014, which sets out areas of cooperation between Norway and ASEAN, under the pillars Political and Security, Economic, and Social and Cultural as well as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI).

Whereas the visit of the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives to Norway in November 2014 identified relevant sectors for cooperation where Norwegian interests and competence coincided with ASEAN's own priorities.

Whereas the Norwegian-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP) has been established, with funding provided by Norway, for the purpose of implementing cooperation projects.

Whereas the Forty-Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (48th AMM) held on 4 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN on Norway.

Whereas the ASEAN-Norway Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AN-JSCC) has been established to further enhance and deepen the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

Whereas ASEAN and Norway at the inaugural meeting for the AN-JSCC in December 2015, agreed to further specify the priorities for the cooperation in areas of mutual interest between ASEAN and Norway.

ASEAN and Norway have established this Priority Plan to continue, further structure and enhance dialogue and cooperation within the following priorities:

II Objectives and Scope

ASEAN and Norway hereby agrees that, under the pillars Political and Security, Economic and Social and Cultural, Sustainable Development, including Narrowing the Development Gap (NDG), the following areas will be given priority for the cooperation between ASEAN and Norway:

- Peace, reconciliation and security, including disarmament and non-proliferation and non-traditional security, in accordance with ASEAN principles and processes;
- Human Rights;
- Maritime and marine cooperation;
- Energy;
- Connectivity;
- Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI);
- Trade and private sector development, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- Climate change and biodiversity; environmental protection; and
- People-to-people exchanges, including education and culture.

The abovementioned priorities do not exclude adoption of projects from other areas of cooperation in the Joint Statement.

III Consultations/Meetings

ASEAN and Norway intend to facilitate the following consultations/meetings:

The AN-JSCC will be convened at least once a year and at any other time as mutually agreed by ASEAN and Norway.

The AN-JSCC is established to further enhance and deepen the ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership through a) Reviewing the key thrusts of ASEAN-Norway substantial cooperation; b) Monitoring, facilitating and coordinating all activities relating to the areas of cooperation under its purview; and c) Providing direction to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation in areas under its purview.

Norway will be invited for or may request for consultations with relevant ASEAN Sectoral bodies upon agreement by the concerned ASEAN sectoral body (ies).

ASEAN and Norway may explore holding high-level consultations based on mutual agreement, to maintain close dialogue between ASEAN and Norway.

IV Adoption and Amendment

This Priority Plan will be valid for a period of three years from the date of its signing/adoption by ASEAN and Norway. ASEAN and Norway may make amendments to this Priority Plan as it may find appropriate at any time.