

ASEAN-UN Work Plan for 2015

This ASEAN-UN Work Plan for 2015 sets out priority areas for the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations (UN), adopted at the 4th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on 19 November 2011.

At the 5th ASEAN-UN Summit, held on 10 October 2013 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, the ASEAN Leaders and the UN Secretary-General “encouraged the Secretariats of ASEAN and the UN to draft a “roadmap on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership for 2014-2015”, including ‘immediate priorities’ in all four pillars of ASEAN-UN cooperation, which subsequently has been renamed as a ‘Work Plan’.

This Work Plan is of critical importance in the context of ASEAN Community building in 2015, ASEAN’s own deliberation on the ASEAN Community’s post-2015 Vision and the global discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. A formal review of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN will be undertaken in 2015, with a view to informing the vision and priorities for the ASEAN-UN partnership beyond 2015 in the context of the establishment of the ASEAN Community and the post-2015 development agenda.

In formulating this Work Plan, the two Organisations took a careful note of the challenges and recommendations contained in the 2013-2014 Joint Report of the two Secretariats on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership. In this regard, it was of particular importance that the AUMM, held on 26 September 2014 in New York, agreed to strengthen joint activities more strategically through ensuring better coordination, stable and sustainable funding, and where appropriate, creating mechanisms to monitor the activities and generate greater impact for the two Organisations and the peoples of ASEAN. Therefore, the areas prioritised in this Work Plan are, to the extent possible, coordinated through programmes that involve ASEAN Member States and are beneficial to the ASEAN region, and multi-agency in scope; are based on existing commitments and have confirmed resourcing; and will be implemented in 2015.

PILLAR 1 – POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION

- Enhance the capacity within ASEAN on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, pacific settlement of disputes and maintenance of peace and stability, as well as voluntary electoral observation, including through supporting specialised training and sharing of expertise and best practices in these areas through cooperation with relevant ASEAN mechanisms and ASEAN-led arrangements such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and regular dialogues and specialised trainings; collaborate with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR).

- Ensure that relevant provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security be featured in regional dialogues, trainings and technical advice, as appropriate.
- Strengthen collaboration in peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building between ASEAN Member States and the UN, including through national focal points and the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network; and promote close cooperation between the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and the UN Mine Action Service on activities related to landmines and explosive remnants of war.
- Combat transnational crime, including by strengthening international criminal justice cooperation with ASEAN Member States and supporting the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism.
- Assist in the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons particularly Women and Children, and in the operationalisation of the Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children in Southeast Asia and relevant measures for protecting victims and populations at the risk of being trafficked.
- Provide technical assistance, specialised training and other support toward strengthening protection measures to address irregular migration and the vulnerability of migrants and displaced persons.
- Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights through support to the ASEAN human rights mechanisms, notably the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

PILLAR 2 - ECONOMIC COOPERATION

- Assist in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) in its three key elements, namely physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity, as well as the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015.
- Assist in the implementation of the existing regional arrangements for the development of an ASEAN regional approach on facilitation of cross-border trade and transport, including through capacity development assistance to ASEAN Member States to develop an integrated transport and logistics system under the 2011-2015 ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan; support paperless trade initiatives and ASEAN Single Window; provide technical assistance in harmonising and developing regional capacity on international transport processes; and strengthen the capacity of ASEAN government agencies to develop and implement effective border management procedures.

- Support ASEAN's pursuit of economic integration both within the region and into the global economy, and ASEAN's efforts to create effective operational and regulatory frameworks to provide a foundation for a competitive ASEAN Economic Community (AEC); carry out capacity building and targeted initiatives to help address the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, with particular focus to be given to the CLMV.
- Promote economic diversification through capacity development and advisory services to stakeholders in ASEAN Member States in the areas of trade, investment, SME development and integration policies, and management of resources, with a particular focus on CLMV.
- Promote the contribution of trade to inclusive and sustainable development.
- Assist ASEAN Member States in developing policy, and institutional frameworks that facilitate women and youth's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.
- Support ASEAN in finalizing the Draft Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025); and strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS) and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020.
- Support ASEAN Member States to strengthen policymaking, technology and investment choices of ASEAN that lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Implement the ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including through providing technical support to the ASEAN Regional MDG Assessment; support country-level initiatives, particularly of CLMV countries, to design, implement and monitor development policies for achieving the MDGs, graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status where appropriate and promote integration of CLMV into the ASEAN Economic Community.
- Continue to support ASEAN in developing the ASEAN Community's post-2015 Vision.
- Strengthen the national statistical systems of ASEAN Member States in areas of priority need, including to meet monitoring requirements for the MDGs in 2015 and the sustainable development goals and associated targets in 2015 and thereafter.

PILLAR 3- SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

- Implement the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development (2010-2015) with a focus on matters pertaining to the four key regional strategies drawn from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, namely enhancing food security and safety; access to healthcare and promotion of healthy lifestyles; improving capabilities to control communicable diseases; and building disaster-resilient nations and safer communities.
- Implement priority areas for 2015 from the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths.
- Implement priority areas for 2015 from the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs).
- Support efforts to implement the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, in accordance with the national laws, regulations and policies of ASEAN Member States.
- Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (2013) through concrete actions towards improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection in ASEAN Member States.
- Implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children in ASEAN.
- Support the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production including through the ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the ASEAN Forum on SCP.
- Continue cooperation on implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including through knowledge sharing with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the ASEAN-China Environment Cooperation Centre and other agencies such as UNEP and UNDP.
- Prepare and implement the 2nd Phase of the ASEAN-UN Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management, which will align with Phase 2 of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme.
- Enhance ASEAN disaster reduction institutions and measures, including through capacity and technical support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) and other relevant ASEAN bodies.

- Develop activities, seminars, and capacity building programmes to promote sharing of best practices and experiences on humanitarian assistance, particularly on disaster preparedness and early warning system as well as post-disaster response and recovery management.
- Promote culture as an enabler of sustainable development by supporting ASEAN countries to integrate cultural perspectives into national education policies and programmes.
- Conduct a Study for Media Development in ASEAN Member States and identify opportunities for further cooperation to improve people's access to information and knowledge.
- Support the establishment of the ASEAN qualifications reference framework (AQRF), a voluntary framework, in line with the recommendation of the Third International Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Congress in regard to international guidelines on quality assurance for the recognition of qualifications.

PILLAR 4- SECRETARIAT-TO-SECRETARIAT COOPERATION

- Fully operationalise the UN liaison presence in Jakarta to provide a direct interface with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Dialogue Partners in relation to the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.
- Explore the possibility of dedicated funding sources for the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership.
- Continue regular ASEAN-UN Secretariat-to-Secretariat dialogues, ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meetings (AUMM), and ASEAN-UN Summits. Where appropriate, convene informal ASEAN-UN Senior Officials' Meetings and other relevant ASEAN-UN meetings to prepare for the AUMM and ASEAN-UN Summit.
- Continue producing joint reports by the two Secretariats on the implementation of the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership to the AUMM, and through it to the ASEAN-UN Summit.

ASEAN (relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies) and the UN (relevant departments, offices, agencies, funds and programmes) will closely coordinate to ensure the effective implementation of the above-mentioned priority activities.

Adopted on 11 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw.