

ASEAN-France Development Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2022-2026)

These Practical Cooperation Areas set out priority areas for engagement and is aimed at implementing the shared commitments for an enhanced, deeper, and mutually beneficial ASEAN–France Development Partnership for the period 2022-2026 to further substantiate the cooperation with a focus to foster resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth models in the region, in practical areas where ASEAN and France have expertise and mutual interests, including fight against climate change, biodiversity, global health and education.

Areas/Measures		Timeline ¹
POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION		
Peace and Reconciliation		
1.	Explore 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 support for the activities by the experts listed in the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) as agreed by ASEAN-IPR.	Future possibilities
2.	Explore cooperation to advance peacekeeping initiatives under the UN peace operations, including enhancing specialization trainings and language training, and contributions of peacekeepers on a flexible, voluntary and non-binding basis.	Immediate and medium term

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 interests of ASEAN and France after this PCA expires in 2026.

Version	Date Released	Status	Author
1	2 November 2022	Adopted	ASEAN and France

Security Cooperation		
3.	Explore the possibility of sharing experiences and exchanging best practices, and undertaking exchange training programs on 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 France.	Immediate and medium term
4.	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 (ICT) environment, including through the ASEAN Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.	Medium term
5.	Explore cooperation to promote moderation, tolerance and understanding to prevent and to counter terrorism and violent extremism, including by supporting ASEAN's efforts in implementing the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT), the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) and its Bali Work Plan 2019-2025.	Immediate and medium term
6.	Support ASEAN's efforts to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the region including through possible support from France for the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC).	Future possibilities

Maritime Cooperation		
7.	Promote ASEAN-France maritime cooperation in line with the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-European Union Strategic Partnership (2023-2027).	Immediate and medium term and future possibilities.
Good Governance and Human Rights		
8.	Support efforts to promote and protect human rights in ASEAN in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to promote inclusive and accountable governance, the rule of law, democracy, including through the sharing of experiences, best practices, and capacity building activities, as well as to support the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of every person focusing on the most vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and persons belonging to minorities, 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
ECONOMIC COOPERATION		
Energy		
9.	Support the development of ASEAN energy policy in achieving the renewable energy, energy intensity reduction targets as set out in the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025.	Future possibilities
10.	Explore opportunities for experience, knowledge sharing and capacity building to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in strengthening their capacity in the areas of energy security, the safe and sustainable development of renewable and alternative energy sources and technologies, power grid integration as well as promotion of energy efficiency and conservation practices aligned with the Paris Agreement.	Immediate and medium term

Food, Agriculture and Forestry		
11.	Explore dialogue between ASEAN and France to promote cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry, in key areas of interest under the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA- FS) 2021-2025, as well as Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, 2016-2025.	Immediate and medium term
12.	Explore opportunities for cooperation, including support for capacity building and exchanges, within the areas related to sustainable value chain development, agro ecological practices and other innovative practices and approaches, sustainable food systems and food safety towards increasing agricultural productivity and achieving food security as well as managing climate risks effectively.	Future possibilities
13.	Explore the possibility of sharing experience and best practices in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.	Future possibilities
14.	Identify and implement initiatives to strengthen forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) and sustainable forest management (SFM) and peatland restoration.	Immediate term
Blue economy		
15.	Explore cooperation on the blue economy in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy.	Immediate and medium term
Tourism		
16.	Support and explore joint-tourism cooperation between ASEAN and France on sustainable tourism through capacity building for sustainable tourism professionals and exchange of best practices and information on policies and regulations in the field of tourism and hospitality to support ASEAN's	Immediate and medium term

	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, as well as the development of other tourism-related services, including in quality and standards.	
Science, Technology and Innovation		
17.	Encourage and promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation, including through joint research activity, and development on cross-sectoral areas such as health, communicable and emerging infectious diseases, environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, agroecology and other innovative approaches, alternative energy, biodiversity conservation, food processing, advanced materials for development of value-added products, and space technology and applications.	Immediate and medium term
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)		
18.	Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICT by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan (ADMP) 2025.	Immediate and medium term
19.	Support ASEAN's efforts toward a digitally-enabled economy that is open, secure, and sustainable, and to further leverage ICT to enable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as new technological developments such as Smart Cities, Internet of Things, 5G, Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics.	Immediate and medium term
20.	Promote cooperation on research and development, management, capacity building and sharing of experience and best practices in the area of information and communication technology, especially in technology transfer, innovation models, digital technology-based innovation, digital economy, e-commerce, data governance, cross border data flows, personal data protection, e-	Future possibilities

	government services, artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.	
21.	Strengthen the professional development of the ICT workforce in the region.	Future possibilities
Transport		
22.	Explore possible cooperation to support ASEAN capacity building in urban transport in line with the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025 (KLTSP).	Future Possibilities
SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION		
People-to-People Exchanges, including Education		
23.	Promote people-to-people contacts through capacity building, professional development and fostering mutual understanding, convening of networking/dialogue platforms, leadership training programmes/workshops, student exchange programmes, share lessons learned and training in enhancing digital skills of children and youth and sports initiatives.	Immediate and medium term
24.	Share lessons learned and best practices related to utilising information and communications technology in education and training particularly for children and youth in remote areas, as well as students excluded from attending school due to disabilities, vulnerabilities or other challenges.	Future possibilities
25.	Promote collaboration between universities in ASEAN and France, for instance through the ASEAN University Network.	Medium term
26.	Explore and promote cooperation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and human resource development towards Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and developing standards and the quality of the workforce to meet the demands	Immediate and medium term

	of the global labour market, for the benefit of the people in the region, including through the ASEAN TVET Council.	
Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance		
27.	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, 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 and collaborative humanitarian support to ASEAN countries affected by natural disasters as well as support ASEAN's efforts to guarantee safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to all population in need.	Immediate and medium term
Public Health, Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control		
28.	Support the implementation of the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025), where appropriate, including through strengthening health systems and access to health services and social protection with the aim of achieving universal health coverage, responding to all hazards and emerging threats; promoting healthy lifestyles including healthy ageing and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, promoting actions to tackle antimicrobial resistance for instance through cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI); and, ensuring food safety.	Future possibilities

29.	Explore possible cooperation to implement the Regional Strategic and Action Plan of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR), and ASEAN's efforts in ensuring drug security and self-reliance including the adequacy of essential medicines, timely, equitable access to affordable, safe, and quality vaccines.	Future possibilities
30.	Support ASEAN's efforts in the collective and synergised measures in the prevention, detection and response to communicable and emerging infectious diseases, public health emergencies and pandemics such as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including through the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan in line with the One Health approach.	Future possibilities
31.	Promote coordination in enhancing transparent, effective and efficient exchange of information, data and knowledge on COVID-19 as well as technical knowledge sharing through training of health workers, research and development, with digital technology to facilitate the efficient implementation of public health responses.	Future possibilities
32.	Encourage relevant technical and capacity building cooperation including training of health and medical personnel and, mutual visits of experts and health workers.	Future possibilities
Biodiversity, Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Circular Economy		
33.	Support ASEAN's efforts to address biodiversity loss to prevent land degradation and restore degraded ecosystems, to strengthen environmental protection and conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources for attaining the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to promote environmental education, including sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and public awareness, including through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.	Immediate and medium term

34.	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 the 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
35.	Promote regional cooperation to reduce climate risk, including through joint ASEAN-France 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.	Future possibilities
36.	Explore joint cooperation in the areas of sustainable management of coastal and marine environment.	Immediate and medium term
37.	Support the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris through exchange of experience and knowledge, capacity-building, and by helping to establish integrated solutions for waste management, and working together towards a circular economy.	Future possibilities
Culture, Media and Information		
38.	Promote greater awareness of ASEAN's and France's traditions, arts, heritage and cultures, through regularly held cultural festivals, art exhibitions, film festivals, workshops, book fairs, and other cultural events and activities.	Future possibilities
39.	Explore cooperation in the areas of culture, arts and heritage between ASEAN and France, including through exchange of best practices and capacity building in areas of museology as well as protection, conservation and restoration of cultural and historical heritage.	Immediate and medium term

40.	Promote cooperation in creative economy including but not limited to areas such as music, craft, performance, design, publishing and video games, including capacity building for creative and cultural entrepreneurs, practitioners, and policy makers and administrators.	Medium term and future possibilities
41.	Explore possible cooperation in co-production of films, TV shows, and other forms of new media to promote inter-cultural awareness, and foster people-to-people interaction, understanding and ties through film festivals and exchanges of media personnel and to build capacities of media personnel in the region.	Future possibilities
ASEAN Smart Cities Network		
42.	Promote capacity building and knowledge sharing by encouraging various smart cities players including private sector, universities and research institutions to conduct training programmes, undertake analytical studies, and nurture talent in smart and sustainable city development, to support 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 terms
CONNECTIVITY		
43.	Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, including through (i) exchange of best practices and support to regional capacity building activities on sustainable infrastructure, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, digital innovation and people mobility. And ii) private sector collaborations in sustainable infrastructure, including through cooperation with the AFD.	Immediate and medium terms

NARROWING THE DEVELOPMENT GAP		
Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing the Development Gap		
44.	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
45.	Explore dialogue between ASEAN and France in fostering effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the development gap, including through supporting CLMV's socio-economic development in accelerating digital adoption, promoting gender equality for more inclusive growth, strengthening efforts for environmental protection, as well as mitigating the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Future possibilities
Sustainable Development Cooperation		
46.	Strengthen dialogue and cooperation in sustainable development to promote green and inclusive growth, to reduce the development gap in ASEAN and to ensure the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, France's development strategy and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through information sharing, exchange of best practices and capacity building in areas of poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production and resilience as well as data collection on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.	Immediate and medium term
47.	Explore possibilities to support ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including cooperation with relevant ASEAN centres,	Future possibilities

	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.	
FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM		
48.	The implementation of the Practical Cooperation Areas will be reviewed by the ASEAN-France Development Partnership Committee (AF-DPC) Meeting and annual progress reports on the implementation of the Practical Cooperation Areas shall be submitted by the ASEAN Secretariat to the AF-DPC. ASEAN and France may mutually agree to make amendments to this PCA as they may find appropriate at any time.	2022-2026

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