

ASEAN-UAE Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2024-2028)

The ASEAN-UAE Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) is aimed at implementing future cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN-UAE Sectoral Dialogue Partnership to further substantiate the Partnership and cooperation with a focus on practical areas for mutual benefits, where ASEAN and the UAE have the expertise and mutual interests. The PCA will also contribute to the realisation of the goals of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its successor document as well as further strengthen ASEAN-UAE relations.

ASEAN and the UAE hereby agree that the following areas will be given priority for the cooperation between both sides. Both sides aim to develop programmes, projects and/or cooperative activities to undertake practical cooperation under these areas:

1. Political-Security Cooperation

- 1.1** Maritime cooperation including sustainable marine economic development
- 1.2** Combating transnational crimes namely terrorism, violent extremism, radicalisation, illicit drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, people smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crime and cybercrime
- 1.3** Peace and reconciliation
 - 1.3.1** Exploration of cooperation with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR), in accordance with their Terms of References
- 1.4** Women, Peace and Security Agenda
- 1.5** Humanitarian mine action and explosive remnants of war through-the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)
- 1.6** Good governance, rule of law and human rights, including through the sharing of experiences, knowledge, best practices, and capacity building activities
- 1.7** Cybersecurity

2. Economic Cooperation

- 2.1** Trade and investment, including but not limited to:
 - 2.1.1** Exploration of possibility for an ASEAN-UAE free trade agreement and the UAE's accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement
- 2.2** Finance and Banking
- 2.3** Private sector cooperation, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including exploration of the possibility of convening ASEAN-GCC Business Forum
- 2.4** Digital economy, including cooperation in the areas of digital trade, data protection, and emerging technologies
- 2.5** Science, Technology, Innovation (STI), research and development, Artificial Intelligence, including but not limited to Natural Language Processing
- 2.6** Information and Communications Technology (ICT), digital integration and e-commerce
- 2.7** Telecommunication
- 2.8** Tourism
- 2.9** Food, agriculture and forestry, including but not limited to:
 - 2.9.1** Support for implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and the ASEAN Guidelines on the use of digital technologies in the food and agricultural sector
 - 2.9.2** Exchanges of best practices on food diversification policies and framework to strengthen food security and supply chain, including fertiliser
 - 2.9.3** Promotion of aquaculture
 - 2.9.4** Promotion of halal industry development including various standards for halal food certification
- 2.10** Energy security and energy transition, including but not limited to:
 - 2.10.1** Exchanges of best practices and explore collaboration on Carbon, Capture, Utilisation and/or Storage (CCUS), as well as the use of hydrogen as a low-carbon energy solution
 - 2.10.2** Knowledge sharing on lessons learned in the development and implementation of 'The UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Programme'
 - 2.10.3** Support in the development of renewable energy
 - 2.10.4** Sharing of best practices and encourage collaboration and joint projects to support the expansion of multilateral power trading in ASEAN
- 2.11** Transport, including but not limited to:
 - 2.11.1** Sharing of best practices and capacity building in the areas of transport safety, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and transport

regulations in land and maritime transport to support the implementation of Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and its successor

- 2.11.2** Exploration of cooperation in the development and implementation of Sustainable Aviation Fuel Roadmap to support the ASEAN Sustainable Aviation Action Plan
- 2.11.3** Promotion of cooperation to support the development of green and smart ports in ASEAN
- 2.12** Support for the implementation of ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, including the implementation of Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework

3. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

- 3.1** Education and Youth Development, including but not limited to the establishment of the UAE scholarship programmes for ASEAN students and youth development, academic accreditation, mutual recognition of qualifications, exchange programmes for students and faculty members
- 3.2** Environment and climate change, including but not limited to:
 - 3.2.1.** Cooperation to improve access to climate finance, clean technologies, capacities of community adaptation to climate change
 - 3.2.2.** Ecosystem restoration and sustainable management of peatlands
 - 3.2.3.** Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction towards carbon neutrality
 - 3.2.4.** Sustainable water resource management
- 3.3** Employment and migrant labour protection and placement
- 3.4** Civil service matters and modernisation of public services, including digitalisation and big data management
- 3.5** People-to-people exchanges, including in the fields of sports, media, arts and culture
- 3.6** Disaster management and humanitarian assistance, including knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, risk assessment sharing and capacity building activities between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and relevant entities in the UAE
- 3.7** Cultural exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture and the arts, including tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and promotion, preservation, safeguarding and protection of world heritage sites
- 3.8** Health cooperation, including but not limited to public health emergencies
- 3.9** Poverty alleviation

- 3.10** Gender equality, social inclusion and women empowerment
- 3.11** Social welfare and development
- 3.12** Human resources development, including but not limited to cooperation in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and capacity building programs

4. Connectivity, including sustainable infrastructure and seamless logistics

5. Smart Cities

- 5.1** Explore collaboration between the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and relevant entities in the UAE, to promote mutually beneficial partnerships to cooperate on smart cities development, including by catalysing bankable projects with the private sector, and welcoming potential contributions to the ASCN

6. Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing the Development Gap (NDG)

7. Sustainable Development

Follow-Up Mechanism

The implementation of the PCA will be reviewed by the ASEAN-UAE Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AUAE-JSCC) Meeting and an annual progress report on the implementation of the PCA shall be submitted to the AUAE-JSCC. ASEAN and the UAE may make amendments to this document as appropriate, taking into account new priorities following the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, with the approval of the AUAE-JSCC.

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