

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2025-2029)

This Plan of Action (POA) builds on the strong history of cooperation between ASEAN and Australia since 1974. This POA guides implementation of the goals and objectives of the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), including Leaders' commitments from annual ASEAN-Australia Summits, the 2024 ASEAN-Australia Special Summit Leaders' Vision Statement – Partners for Peace and Prosperity and the Melbourne Declaration – A Partnership for the Future, and relevant joint statements. These statements map out the future direction for the ASEAN-Australia relationship and commit ASEAN and Australia to work together to contribute to the maintenance of peace, prosperity, and stability in the region.

ASEAN and Australia hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in the following priority areas through the corresponding activities, in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations, and policies on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity for all parties.

1. Political and Security Cooperation

1.1. Political Dialogue

- 1.1.1. Strengthen the existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and Australia including convening annual ASEAN-Australia Summits, the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Australia (PMC+1), ASEAN-Australia Forum (AAF), the ASEAN-Australia Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting, and the Joint Planning Review Committee (JPRC) Meeting;
- 1.1.2. Cooperate to strengthen ASEAN Centrality, including deepening dialogue and cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the region's premier Leaders' led strategic forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political, and economic issues, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) in accordance with the objectives and principles laid out in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP);
- 1.1.3. Continue regular engagement among the Group of the EAS Participating Countries' Ambassadors to ASEAN in Jakarta on the implementation of Leaders' decisions as well as exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives, and discuss the evolving regional architecture;

- 1.1.4. Continue to cooperate through ASEAN-led mechanisms to promote conflict prevention, mutual trust, mutual respect, mutual benefit, and ensure transparent, predictable and responsible conduct, so as to reduce risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation, as well as prevent disputes from escalating into conflict;
- 1.1.5. Promote two-way High-level visits as well as inter-Parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including engagement with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA);

1.2. Security Cooperation

- 1.2.1. Strengthen the value of practical defence cooperation as a means for confidence building, conflict prevention and capacity building, to bolster peace and security in our region, by enhancing and expanding the scope and sophistication of ADMM-Plus' cooperation to address the challenges facing the region in the areas of Maritime Security, Military Medicine, Counter-Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Mine Action, and Cyber Security, as well as in the chemical, biological and radiological domains, including through the ADMM-Plus' Experts' Working Groups (EWGs);
- 1.2.2. Consider holding ASEAN-Australia Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings, subject to approval by the ADMM;
- 1.2.3. Strengthen cooperation through the ARF including in the areas of preventive diplomacy, disaster relief, maritime security, peacekeeping operations, defence dialogue, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, security of and in the use of ICTs as well as non-proliferation and disarmament;
- 1.2.4. Enhance linkages and synergies between relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the EAS and ADMM-Plus, particularly by promoting information exchange;
- 1.2.5. Enhance defence exchanges and cooperation through dialogues at different levels, mutual visits, training, capacity building, the ASEAN-Australia Postgraduate Defence Scholarships, ASEAN Maritime Security Research Program and other practical cooperation through relevant and existing regional security frameworks;
- 1.2.6. Enhance cooperation on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, including through implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS and convening of dialogues;
- 1.2.7. Explore cooperation on the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda;
- 1.2.8. Promote cooperation in peace and reconciliation, including with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR);

- 1.2.9. Promote cooperation to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region in accordance with the applicable treaties, conventions and instruments and respective domestic laws and policies, including through the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC);
- 1.2.10. Strengthen cooperation to promote and strengthen women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in peacekeeping efforts through existing ADMM and ADMM-Plus mechanisms;

1.3. Nuclear Security, Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

- 1.3.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter;
- 1.3.2. Strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, advance nuclear disarmament as stipulated in Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy as set forth in NPT Article IV and the IAEA Additional Protocol;
- 1.3.3. Explore cooperation on universalisation of the IAEA Additional Protocol, and support full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC);

1.4. Transnational Crime

- 1.4.1. Deepen cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crime on issues of common interests as agreed by utilising existing ASEAN mechanisms and instruments, including dialogue and cooperation under ASEAN sectoral mechanisms on law enforcement cooperation, namely the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + Australia Consultation, the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD) + Australia Consultation;
- 1.4.2. Further deepen non-traditional security cooperation, including through the regular convening of the ASEAN-Australia Counter Terrorism Dialogue and continued implementation of joint initiatives on shared security priorities under the ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership (APSP) and ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking program (ASEAN-ACT). Explore participation in other mechanisms complementary to

ASEAN, such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime;

- 1.4.3. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), through practical initiatives in line with the current and future cross-sectoral work plans as well as other relevant ASEAN guiding documents to combat TIP and terrorism;
- 1.4.4. Cooperate to strengthen public outreach, preventive measures as well as protection and reintegration of victims of transnational crime, where applicable, including through engagements with traditional and online media, the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, in line with the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation in Protecting and Assisting Witnesses and Victims of Transnational Crime, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against TIP 2023-2028 (Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0) and the Work Plan for the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (Bali Work Plan) 2019-2025;

1.5. Maritime Cooperation

- 1.5.1. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, the exercise of self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes, the non-use of force or the threat to use force, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the relevant standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 1.5.2. Strengthen sustainable ocean management and promote cooperation in conserving and sustainably using marine resources, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS and address transboundary challenges, including unprecedented loss of biodiversity, marine pollution, including plastic pollution in the marine environment and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- 1.5.3. Strengthen cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), and the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea and oil spill preparedness, including through technical cooperation, training exercises and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and Australian officials;
- 1.5.4. Promote maritime cooperation, through appropriate ASEAN mechanisms, including the EAMF, and where appropriate, promote technical

cooperation, capacity building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise, including but not limited to enhancing maritime domain awareness and information sharing;

1.6. Good Governance and Human Rights

- 1.6.1. Support the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN, including the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of AHRD, the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international human rights instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties in accordance with the law and regulations of the respective countries;
- 1.6.2. Promote cooperation and information sharing between the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) and Australia, including by continuing consultations and fostering dialogue between AICHR and Australia, and continuing support to the annual ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour under the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW);
- 1.6.3. Support the promotion of good and effective governance principles and innovation in public service management between ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) and the Australian Public Service Commission, as well as among governments, private sector and other stakeholders;
- 1.6.4. Promote cooperation in combating corruption, including through the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;
- 1.6.5. Exchange best practices in promoting democracy and democratic institutions including lessons learned from mechanisms such as the Bali Democracy Forum;

2. Economic Cooperation

2.1. Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- 2.1.1. Promote effective implementation of the Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA and RCEP to bolster trade and investment, including through enhancing institutional capacity of ASEAN

to implement the AANZFTA and RCEP, as well as enhancing the business community's understanding and access to the benefits of both FTAs, including by MSMEs and women-led enterprises;

- 2.1.2. Utilise the AANZFTA Implementation Support Programme (AISP) and the RCEP Implementation Support Programme (RISP), implemented through the Regional Trade for Development (RT4D) Facility, to realise the benefits of AANZFTA and RCEP;

2.2. Regional Economic Integration

- 2.2.1. Strengthen engagements between Economic Ministers of ASEAN and Australia, including at the AEM-Closer Economic Relations (CER) Consultations, the RCEP Ministers' Meeting, and the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting to support regional economic integration and to strengthen regional resilience and supply chains;
- 2.2.2. Enhance cooperation to strengthen and work towards necessary reform of the World Trade Organization, which is at the core of the non-discriminatory, free, fair, open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system that underpins regional and global prosperity;
- 2.2.3. Continue to support the ASEAN economic integration and capacity building initiatives including but not limited to the sectors of customs, digital trade, digital integration, supply chain resilience, support to MSMEs, and further technical capacity building, in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, and other guiding documents, on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity for all parties;
- 2.2.4. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuff Products through technical assistance and capacity building programmes;
- 2.2.5. Collaborate, where appropriate, with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) and other relevant Business Councils, and Think Tanks to orient their policies and research activities towards the priorities and concerns of ASEAN and Australia as well as other EAS Participating Countries;
- 2.2.6. Support ASEAN's efforts on regulatory improvement through exchange of best practices and capacity building;
- 2.2.7. Explore collaboration to increase two-way trade and investment, and boost investors' confidence in the region, including through opportunities identified in *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*, and facilitate stronger business linkages and networks through the ASEAN-BAC and through other regional initiatives;

2.3. Finance

- 2.3.1. Encourage the expansion of trade financing and other available funding support mechanisms for MSMEs to stimulate trade;
- 2.3.2. Support regional financial development and integration, through deepening the understanding of capital market development in ASEAN Member States including strengthening the capacity of financial regulators in the areas of financial inclusion, and international payments and remittance services;
- 2.3.3. Enhance cooperation and support ASEAN's efforts in developing green and sustainable finance;

2.4. Information Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Integration

- 2.4.1. Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICT, through the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), with support for the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 and its successor document;
- 2.4.2. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity through increasing digital trade, e-commerce, and entrepreneurship, preparing MSMEs for digital transformation and developing a digital-ready workforce equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- 2.4.3. Enhance cooperation on digital integration, including e-commerce, with support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce, the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan, and the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement;

2.5. Energy and Minerals

- 2.5.1. Explore cooperation, including through the private sector, to promote energy security through regional power integration and interconnectivity, and the development of renewable and alternative energy sources as well as promotion of clean energy technologies and energy efficiency and conservation practices in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation;
- 2.5.2. Advance the application of carbon management technologies, such as carbon capture utilisation (CCU), carbon capture and storage (CCS), and carbon dioxide removal (CDR), as a part of the portfolio of technologies needed for decarbonising industry, resources sector and reducing environmental and climate change impacts;
- 2.5.3. Address energy security challenges as countries transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, supporting the energy transition to net-zero

emissions in a just, inclusive, orderly and equitable manner to align with the conditions and situations of each country;

- 2.5.4. Promote best practices on energy regulation and technical standards, by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase II: 2021-2025 and its successor document, through technology transfer and capacity building support for the programme area to realise the ASEAN Power Grid vision;
- 2.5.5. Advance secure and diversified clean energy supply chains in the region to support the global energy transition;
- 2.5.6. Strengthen cooperation to accelerate the region's transition to renewable and clean energy, in a just, inclusive, orderly and equitable manner, including deepening collaboration on reducing emissions as well as decarbonising energy systems, establishing renewable energy markets, deploying low emissions technologies and developing our workforces' skills and capabilities to drive an inclusive energy transition;
- 2.5.7. Support ASEAN's efforts to build a resilient clean energy sector and achieve a green recovery through technical studies, capacity-building programmes, cooperative activities, and training and through enhancing trade and investment opportunities in the region's energy transition;
- 2.5.8. Explore cooperation in sustainable minerals development, including critical minerals, capacity building programmes and exchange of knowledge and experiences in minerals, and support the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 and its successor document;
- 2.5.9. Promote ASEAN as a sustainable minerals investment destination to help facilitate the region to become a major global exporter of critical minerals and metals which are fundamental green technologies to achieve the net-zero emission such as clean energy, electric vehicle technology and digital technologies, including through the enhancement of the ASEAN Minerals Information System;

2.6. Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.6.1. Support the practical implementation of the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and its Action Plan as appropriate and promote closer cooperation in agriculture in key areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to capacity building, strengthening agricultural markets and establishing linkages and partnerships between relevant agriculture authorities to enable greater access for ASEAN and Australian products to regional and global markets, focusing on decarbonisation, reduction of harmful agrochemicals, digitalisation, reduction of crop burning practices, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and public and private partnerships;

- 2.6.2. Collaborate to strengthen food security, resilience and nutrition in response to crises and enhancing cooperation to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems, while recognising the diversity of agricultural production practices and environmental conditions as agreed in the ASEAN-Australia Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises;
- 2.6.3. Explore collaboration to promote climate resilient agricultural practices, including the sustainable management of soil and water resources including through the implementation of the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 and its successor document as well as through other relevant regional initiatives;
- 2.6.4. Combat illegal logging, and promote trade in sustainable and legal wood products;

2.7. Science and Technology

- 2.7.1. Encourage cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in science and technology, including but not limited to joint research and development projects, and support implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 and its successor document;

2.8. Blue Economy

- 2.8.1. Explore collaboration to support the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy and the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework, to harness the potential of the Blue Economy as a new engine of growth for ASEAN, promoting inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic development across coastal and landlocked States in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;

2.9. Competition, Consumer Protection, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- 2.9.1. Promote fair competition through regulatory progress and effective enforcement, alongside capacity building initiatives. Strengthen consumer protection with supporting standards harmonisation and robust enforcement frameworks, empowering consumers and facilitating seamless cross-border transactions. Safeguard Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and advance the IPR ecosystem through enhanced continued cooperation, enforcement, and capacity building, fostering innovation and technology transfer between ASEAN and Australia;
- 2.9.2. Support the successful implementation of strategic measures under the ASEAN Action Plans on Competition, Consumer Protection 2025 and ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025 and their successor documents to cultivate an environment conducive to regional economic integration,

driving mutual innovation, competitiveness, prosperity and sustainable growth for ASEAN and Australia;

2.10. Tourism

- 2.10.1. Explore joint tourism cooperation, including capacity building and exchanges, between ASEAN and Australia covering marketing and promotions, encouraging and facilitating the participation of business communities in exhibitions, travel facilitation, sharing of best practices in the development of sustainable tourism, and exchange of information on tourism statistics and investment opportunities, among others;

3. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

3.1 Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

- 3.1.1. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme (AWP) for 2021-2025 and the forthcoming AWP 2026-2030, as well as support ASEAN's efforts on the provision of humanitarian assistance through ASEAN-led mechanisms;
- 3.1.2. Continue to support the enhancement of ASEAN's capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters, including through strengthening capabilities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), as the operational engine of AADMER and coordinator for the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in The Region and Outside the Region to promote effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) in the region and beyond;
- 3.1.3. Support the work the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ASEAN's disaster management and emergency response instruments;
- 3.1.4. Support efforts in building a sustainable resilient ASEAN region in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience, including through support to implement multi-layered and cross-sectoral governance on disaster management, and support to the enhancement of national and local capacity in undertaking measures to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, and collaboration with other regional organisations and the private sectors;

3.2. Education

- 3.2.1. Expand education partnerships, including through scholarships, exchange programmes, transnational education and research collaboration, and placement programmes;
- 3.2.2. Strengthen engagement between Australian and ASEAN education institutions, staff and students, including through the New Colombo Plan, Australia Awards, BRIDGE schools partnerships and other scholarships and awards programs;
- 3.2.3. Explore enhancements to qualification recognition arrangements based on international best practices;
- 3.2.4. Enhance inclusiveness and quality of early childhood care and development (ECCD), primary, secondary, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and higher education through sharing of best practices, and capacity building in regard to education curricula and syllabuses, teaching pedagogies, and resource development;
- 3.2.5. Enhance cooperation on digital transformation in education, including to improve access to safe digital learning opportunities, foster digital, media, and information literacy, and develop transferable skills among all ASEAN Member States; as well as to address challenges from the digital divide, and enhance the digital readiness of education systems and institutions;
- 3.2.6. Expand cooperation with the ASEAN TVET Council on the implementation of its Work Plan (2021-2030), with a focus on new disciplines such as green technologies and regional collaboration in the area of TVET, on the changing world of work;
- 3.2.7. Encourage the exchange and mobility of scientists and researchers and encourage conducting joint research projects in ASEAN and Australia;

3.3 People-to-People Links, Sports, Arts and Culture

- 3.3.1. Enhance education, sports, skills and development, arts, youth, emerging leaders, media and volunteering and other community building activities and cultural exchange programmes between ASEAN and Australia, including but not limited to Aus4ASEAN scholarships, the Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills Initiative, Australia Awards and programmes run by the ASEAN-Australia Centre and the New Colombo Plan to enrich social, business, cultural and creative industries linkages, and strengthen people-to-people ties between ASEAN and Australia;
- 3.3.2. Encourage ASEAN-Australia engagements through youth dialogue, exchange, entrepreneurship and leadership, including through emerging leaders programs and possible internships with Australian companies in ASEAN Member States;

- 3.3.3. Strengthen people-to-people linkages with a special focus on cultivating enduring connections between future leaders, including through media, sports for development and training programs, arts and cultural exchange, including through programs and the activities of the ASEAN-Australia Centre and the ASEAN Foundation;
- 3.3.4. Promote the greater participation of the youth in development through volunteering and other community building activities in ASEAN Member States or in Australia;
- 3.3.5. Promote the professional development of athletes and coaches, through training and exchange programmes, coaching clinics, as well as partnerships with Australian sports academies and related institutions;
- 3.3.6. Support development in sports through collaborative and ethical research, knowledge-exchange and other relevant activities;
- 3.3.7. Encourage cooperation and collaboration on policies governing arts and culture, including protection, preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible heritage, as well as initiatives specific to the cultures of indigenous communities of both regions, to foster mutual understanding, appreciation, economic opportunities and appropriate management;
- 3.3.8. Encourage cooperation and collaboration in media and information relating to Press, Television, Radio, Video, Film, Digital Broadcasting, and New Media, as well as strengthen the efforts in tackling misinformation, disinformation, and in increasing digital, media, and information literacy of our people;

3.4 Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

- 3.4.1. Promote cooperation and engage relevant stakeholders to support social inclusion and promote cohesive and multicultural societies;
- 3.4.2. Collaborate across the breadth of ASEAN's pillars, to promote and protect the human rights of women and children, achieve gender equality, remove barriers to women's full and equal participation and leadership in political, economic, and public life, and eliminate all forms of gender based violence particularly via support for AICHR, ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and ACWC activities and the mainstreaming of gender across ASEAN-Australia cooperation, and support to the elimination of child labour especially its worst forms;
- 3.4.3. Enhance cooperation on women's economic empowerment, including in, but not limited to, entrepreneurship, digital economy and e-commerce, financial inclusion, and international trade and through the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN);

- 3.4.4. Support programmes and projects for persons and groups in vulnerable situations, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, older people, youth, women, children, undernourished, victims of disasters, and migrant workers;
- 3.4.5. Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities including through activities and measures in line with the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community as well as the post-2025 master plan including in aspects of labour participation and capacity building;
- 3.4.6. Engage relevant stakeholders and exchange best practices to support the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection and its Regional Framework and Action Plan;

3.5 Labour and Migrant Workers

- 3.5.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) and its corresponding action plan through cooperation with the ACMW under the Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN Project and its successor programme; and encourage further cooperation under relevant ASEAN Declaration and frameworks, including the ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN and the ASEAN Declaration on Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers and respective Guidelines;

3.6 Public Health

- 3.6.1. Continue to collaborate and share information and updates on priority health issues, including but not limited to strengthening regional prevention, preparedness, detection, and response capabilities for health issues and emergencies; emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; and communicable diseases including initiatives on ending AIDS by 2030 in ASEAN, in coordination with relevant international and regional agencies currently collaborating with relevant ASEAN sectors;
- 3.6.2. Enhance coordination and collaboration with sectors involved with public health, animal, wildlife, plant, environment and food in addressing zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, food hazards and health-related impacts or challenges of climate change, among others, through the ASEAN One Health Network and the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action 2023-2030;
- 3.6.3. Promote equitable, inclusive, and sustainable collaboration in research and development on priority health issues identified by ASEAN and Australia relevant to promoting healthy lifestyle; responding to all hazards and emerging threats; strengthening health systems and access to care;

and ensuring food safety;

- 3.6.4. Promote cooperation on strategic priorities under the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda and successor agenda and associated plans including the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Nutrition 2018-2030 and respective ASEAN centres including the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation, including but not limited to malnutrition, active ageing and innovation, and mental health including suicide prevention;
- 3.6.5. Continue to cooperate on malaria control, including through the implementation of the 2012 EAS Declaration on “Regional Responses to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Anti-malarial Medicines” through the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) in consultation with relevant bodies;
- 3.6.6. Promote cooperation on health security including through the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (ARRMS), the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), and the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative;

3.7 Environment

- 3.7.1. Provide support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial and aquatic environment, including its restoration of degraded and fragile ecosystems, in cooperation and coordination with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);
- 3.7.2. Continue to collaborate on capacity building for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan and the UAE Consensus, including addressing biodiversity loss through cooperation with the ACB and implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030;
- 3.7.3. Continue to promote nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and sustainable management of forests, water, coastal, and marine environment and resources, including through cooperation on promoting the interlinkages of ocean and climate nexus to strengthen climate action in ASEAN Member States;
- 3.7.4. Strengthen implementation of the integrated water resources management programs through, public participation and awareness raising, partnership and cooperation, knowledge exchange and capacity building to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of water resources management;
- 3.7.5. Explore opportunities for regional coordination and cooperation to

address waste-related issues including marine debris, in line with the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States;

- 3.7.6. Explore cooperation, including in innovation and technology, to address pollution, including but not limited to, plastic pollution, and transboundary haze pollution, including potential support to the Second ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap 2023-2030 and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC);

3.8 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- 3.8.1. Advance regional cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including, but not limited to supporting the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change Action Plan, implementation of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, supporting the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, ASEAN Centre for Energy, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, to support communities and ecosystems to be adaptive and resilient, identify nature-based solutions, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to transition into low carbon development;
- 3.8.2. Promote quality climate change-resilient infrastructure development including through investments by the private sector, as appropriate, such as through public private partnership (PPP) mechanisms;
- 3.8.3. Support for the effective and full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, the decisions negotiated upon in previous Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, and the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), noting that the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, and in the context of relevant goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4 Cross-Pillars Cooperation

4.1 AOIP

- 4.1.1. Increase and mainstream practical cooperation in the four priority areas of the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation, including through Australia for ASEAN Futures Initiative and the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the EAS;
- 4.1.2. Work with other partners to promote an open, stable, prosperous, and

rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region based on adherence to international law, and to enhance engagement in the wider Indo-Pacific including with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA);

4.2 Connectivity

- 4.2.1. Strengthen cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, including through implementation, regular consultation, and communication with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, outreach and monitoring and evaluation of the MPAC 2025 and its successor document, the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) and through other regional fora;
- 4.2.2. Increase the supply of investment-ready and climate-resilient infrastructure projects in ASEAN Member States by supporting regional project preparation facilities, including through PPP schemes and other financing modalities, enhancing investment enabling environments through governance programmes, and providing targeted technical assistance and capacity building;
- 4.2.3. Support the implementation of ASEAN-Australia infrastructure and smart city initiatives to deliver sustainable infrastructure and sustainable urbanisation projects under the ASEAN Connectivity agenda;
- 4.2.4. Foster greater cooperation in seamless logistics and supply chain connectivity and advance ASEAN initiatives aimed at enhancing connectivity, efficiency and resilience in supply chains across the region, including through supporting the Implementation Plan of the Framework for Enhancing ASEAN Supply Chain Efficiency and Resilience as well as exploring cooperation in implementing the Guidelines on Smart Port;
- 4.2.5. Promote people-to-people connectivity by undertaking cooperation aimed at increasing intra-ASEAN people mobility;

4.3 Smart Cities

- 4.3.1. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building communities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected and explore partnerships with cities in the ASCN;
- 4.3.2. Promote smart and sustainable urban development, including through the mobilisation of sustainable financing and the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy;
- 4.3.3. Promote collaboration between city authorities, academic institutions, private investors and businesses to support the ASCN;
- 4.3.4. Continue collaboration in promoting rural development and poverty

eradication, including through the ASEAN Masterplan on Rural Development 2022-2026, and the ASEAN Villages Network (AVN);

4.4 Cybersecurity

- 4.4.1. Promote an open, secure, resilient stable, accessible, interoperable and peaceful ICT environment;
- 4.4.2. Improve joint efforts to enhance cyber resilience, and promote security, peace and stability in cyberspace, including through the possible ASEAN-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue, as well as potential cooperation on the protection of online personal information, where appropriate;
- 4.4.3. Promote a rules-based cyberspace based on international law, cooperative capacity building, practical confidence building measures, and voluntary and non-binding norms of responsible behaviour based on the recommendations in the 2015 Report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE);
- 4.4.4. Cooperate on national CERT-to-CERT cyber response, efforts and cyber information exchanges especially where cyber incidents have direct impact to ASEAN and Australia, including by leveraging on the ARF Points of Contact Directory on Security of and In the Use of ICTs, the ASEAN Regional CERT and established contacts in the CERT community;
- 4.4.5. Strengthen the regional cybersecurity posture by collaborating on cyber capacity-building programmes, including through the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE);

4.5 Initiative for ASEAN Integration/Narrowing the Development Gap (IAI/NDG)

- 4.5.1. Continue to 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) and its successor document as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;
- 4.5.2. Further enhance cooperation in support of sub-regional frameworks in the ASEAN region, which would contribute to narrowing the development gap and promoting sustainable and equitable development and inclusive growth across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN;

4.6 Development Cooperation

- 4.6.1. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and 2045 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through 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;
- 4.6.2. Support ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including but not limited to the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy;
- 4.6.3. Continue to support Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN, including through technical assistance and capacity building initiatives in line with the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Application of Timor-Leste for ASEAN Membership, and the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN;

5 ASEAN Institutional Strengthening

- 5.1.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacity in the ASEAN Secretariat;

6 Implementation Mechanisms

- 6.1.1 This Plan of Action will be implemented with the support, where appropriate, of funding mechanisms available through ASEAN and Australian governments; and
- 6.1.2 The ASEAN-Australia JCC Meeting, the ASEAN-Australia Forum, and the PMC+1 Session with Australia will review ASEAN-Australia cooperation. ASEAN and Australian officials, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, will submit a summary Progress Report of the implementation of the POA to the PMC+1 with Australia.

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