

ANNEX TO PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN-INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE, PROGRESS AND SHARED PROSPERITY (2021-2025)

At the 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations on 12 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ASEAN and India established the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) that is substantive, meaningful, and mutually beneficial.

To mark this historic development in ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, this annex identifies areas to further deepen practical cooperation between ASEAN and India as Comprehensive Strategic partners. Building on the priorities already outlined in the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025),

ASEAN and India agree:

Political-Security Cooperation

1. To continue strengthening ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific and deepen ASEAN-India engagement, especially through high-level dialogue, cooperation and coordination in the framework of existing ASEAN-led mechanisms including ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF);
2. To consider holding ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings as and when required, subject to approval by the ADMM;
3. To take steps towards the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime (2023-2027), adopted by the 10th SOMTC + India Consultation held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 23 June 2023, in order to enhance cooperation in the priority areas of the Workplan;
4. To strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation on cybersecurity, including through the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence, ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE) and ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre

(AJCCBC), and by establishing linkages between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) with ASEAN CERT as and when it is established;

5. To continue to promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful maritime commerce, mutual trust and confidence, exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or of 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 relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

6. To explore activities to implement the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region through enhanced cooperation between the AOIP and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), with a focus on areas of cooperation, such as maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation;

7. To continue working together on regional and global issues of common concern while endeavouring to strengthen our partnership which shall contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and to explore greater cooperation and coordination between ASEAN and India on issues of common concern in other regional architectures and global fora;

8. To explore potential synergies with sub-regional frameworks, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Singapore-Johor-Riau (SIJORI) Growth Triangle, Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), and Mekong sub-regional cooperation frameworks, including Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Ayeyawady Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), and to support ASEAN and India's efforts in promoting equitable development by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive, mutual growth and development of ASEAN and India;

Economic Cooperation

9. To expeditiously review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in order to make it more effective, user-friendly, simple, trade-facilitative for businesses and relevant to the current global trading practices;

10. To work together to make supply chains more inclusive and resilient and to mitigate the climate change and pandemic risks in supply chains;
11. To work together to enhance ASEAN-India cooperation on digital economy through the following:
 - a. A series of regional capacity-building activities in the areas of digital trade, digital skills, digital identity and innovation, including through Hackathons, to help develop and prepare MSMEs for digital transformation and enhance their participation in the global value chain;
 - b. Exploring possibility for fintech cooperation including unified and inter-operable digital financial systems between ASEAN and India, which would expand opportunities for businesses and e-commerce;
12. To promote the development of MSMEs and start-ups in ASEAN and India through business-matching events or other activities, that may involve various matters such as digital economy, sustainable development, resilient supply chain, healthcare development, and food security, with the facilitation by, among others, the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC);
13. To explore cooperation on the possibility of exchange of trade administration documents through ASEAN Single Window and India's Single Window System to promote paperless trade, cut down trade transaction cost, reduce time, and further maximise the utilisation of the current AITIGA, as well as prepare for the upgrade of the agreement in the future;
14. To explore cooperation among Customs administrations with respect to Customs procedures related to Cross-Border E-Commerce, including sharing experiences and best practices in implementing strategies and development of legal and regulatory frameworks, monitoring, and capacity building, among others;
15. To utilise the ASEAN-India Green Fund and ASEAN India Science & Technology Development Fund to launch new projects including capacity-building programmes on Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE), green economy including clean and renewable energy, to utilise the ASEAN-India Green Fund to support the implementation of sustainable and circular projects on agriculture under the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, with a focus on food security and smart and sustainable agriculture, reduction of the use of harmful chemicals, and livestock farming, where both sides can exchange best practices in the use of new technologies and implement development projects in a future-ready, resilient, and sustainable manner;

- a. Pursue opportunities for capacity building and pilot demonstration of clean energy and decarbonization technologies, such as on hydrogen and ammonia as well as carbon capture utilization and/or storage (CCU/S), including through collaboration under the MoU between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed in November 2022;
- b. In order to ensure food security to jointly celebrate International Year of Millets;

16. To further explore cooperation on Science, Technology, and Innovation by utilising the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund (AISTDF), including through) a) Start-up Festival; b) Grassroot Innovation Forum; c) Innotech Summit; and d) Women Scientists Conclave;

17. To strengthen the research and development capacity in Science and Technology, ASEAN-India Collaborative Research and Development (AICRD) programme and the ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF) programme to continue to be organised on an annual basis; as well as to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing in the transformation of digital government, e-service development and technology infrastructure;

18. Pursue cooperation on civilian nuclear energy by exploring collaboration between ACE and the Department of Atomic Energy, India, including through the framework of Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, and future opportunities to develop capacity for nuclear energy for power generation. Also, explore collaboration between ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board on the regulatory matters related to nuclear and radiation safety;

19. Explore opportunities to collaborate on energy security and power grid connectivity, including grid deployment of clean, renewable, and low-carbon energy and decarbonization technologies in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation and India's renewable energy priorities;

20. To explore cooperation on the blue economy, including the sustainable development of ocean resources, preventing and/or reducing marine debris, fisheries and aquaculture; tourism, renewable energy; blue science technology; blue conservation and management; as well as blue financing and blue infrastructure, in consultation with the relevant sectorals;

21. To strengthen cooperation in the field of digital economy, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and application of ICT and digital technologies through capacity building and knowledge sharing;

22. To further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in the space sector including through the establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception/ Data Processing Station in Viet Nam and Indonesia, encouraging cooperation between ASEAN and Indian space industry players such as SMEs and startups via industry networking events; training of ASEAN personnel in Space Science and Technology and in the application of satellite remote sensing in areas such as disaster management, earth observation, oceanography and meteorology;

23. To utilise the ASEAN-India Development Fund to support the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025), including but not limited to existing projects such as the Centres of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT), and expand scholarships scheme under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Nalanda University;

24. To promote the revival of tourism industries which have been severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, through supporting the implementation of the Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism in line with the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027 and the ASEAN Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for Professionals and Communities in the Tourism Industry, including the ASEAN Safe Travel Stamp “Safe and Warm,”. Encourage the sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism development between ASEAN and India through supporting the implementation of the Framework on Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN in the post COVID-19 era. To further enhance the ASEAN-India travel facilitation and market intelligence exchange, including through exchange of tour operators;

25. To further strengthen partnership in physical, digital, and people-to-people connectivity, including via the timely completion and extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway, on the basis of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, its successor document, and other relevant connectivity initiatives in the maritime and air transport domains, to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated region. The ASEAN Member States are encouraged to utilize the Line of Credit offered by the Government of India for IMT and its extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Viet Nam;

26. To enhance connectivity between ASEAN and India, explore cooperation to (i) improve operationalisation of dry ports/inland container depots (ICDs) in ASEAN Member States and India and (ii) exchange information on the operationalisation of multimodal transport in ASEAN and India;

27. Explore cooperation on the implementation of port digital transformation and on the private investments in the area of port development including green port;

28. To respond to emerging challenges and opportunities and in the spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and shared benefit, explore synergies between the MPAC 2025 and India's connectivity strategies under India's Act East Policy in line with "Connecting the Connectivities" approach to achieve fair, inclusive, and sustainable regional economic growth;

29. Support ASEAN efforts to achieve net zero emissions to enable environmental, social and economic development goals to be achieved simultaneously in a mutually reinforcing way while noting India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) as complementary approach in combating climate change;

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

30. To expand ASEAN-India cooperation in human capital development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), including through support for the ASEAN Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council;

31. To work together to support ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) through initiatives and action, including capacity building on land and / or forest fire mitigation, prevention, and preparedness;

32. To explore collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), particularly to support its role in responding to disasters during an emergency situation and encourage AHA Center and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to institutionalize their interaction through an MoI/MoU;

33. To extend Scholarship/Fellowship Programmes to students/researchers under various programmes including scholarship programme offered by Nalanda University (India), ASEAN-India Network of Universities, ASEAN-India Collaborative Research & Development (R&D), and explore new programmes under areas of mutual interest, in addition to the ongoing Doctoral fellowships in India for ASEAN (DIA) under which 1000 scholarships have been extended in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

34. To organise youth-related events such as youth summits and hackathons;

35. To enhance ASEAN-India cultural exchanges, including by regularly organizing ASEAN India Artists' camp and ASEAN-India Music Festival;

36. To strengthen cultural cooperation through ASEAN's project for ASEAN Cultural Heritage List;

37. To support efforts to protect, restore, and sustainably manage the marine environment, especially on marine plastic pollution;

38. To strengthen healthcare for the people by enhancing collaboration on public health infrastructure including in the areas of research and development (R&D), technology transfer in mutually agreeable, such as capacity-building and exchange of expertise, public health emergency prevention, preparedness and response, enhancing capacities for prevention, training of healthcare professionals, medical technology, pharmaceuticals, vaccine security and self-reliance, vaccine development, production and distribution, production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API), bioprocessing technology for biosimilar and biologics, innovation in generic medicines, as well as cooperation in general, traditional and complementary medicine;

39. To enhance cooperation in the field of environment, biodiversity, through the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and climate change, including through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change once it is established;

Cross-Pillar Cooperation

40. To continue establishing and strengthening the institutional linkages between corresponding institutes of ASEAN and India under all the pillars of cooperation;

41. To enhance cooperation in areas of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) by exploring practical cooperation areas in ASEAN Vision on Disaster Management 2025 and close cooperation between National Disaster Management Authority (India) and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM);

42. To work towards forging city-to-city partnerships between the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the Smart City Mission of India by fostering exchanges of best practices and capacity-building;

43. To contribute towards ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its institutions by supporting various initiatives including The ASEAN magazine.
