

## **THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is dedicated to realising the full potential of ASEAN citizens. At the heart of the ASCC is the commitment to improve the quality of life of ASEAN people through cooperative initiatives that are people-oriented and people-centred. The ASCC opens a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise social, human, and sustainable development to foster an ASEAN identity and prepare the ASEAN community to face new and emerging challenges in the future.
2. Through the ASCC Blueprint 2025, which served as a comprehensive framework for the ASCC from 2016 to 2025, ASEAN propelled socio-economic development in the region by implementing and supporting initiatives to achieve a beneficial, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic ASEAN Community.
3. With the completion of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 (ACV 2045) and the accompanying ASCC Strategic Plan will intensify efforts to realise a resilient, inclusive, relevant, sustainable, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN by 2045 and strengthen substantive, meaningful, and mutually beneficial partnerships while upholding ASEAN Centrality. The ASCC Strategic Plan, guided by the ASEAN Charter and key ASEAN documents, provides concrete strategic measures and approaches to overcome current challenges as well as anticipate emerging trends and challenges facing the region. It serves as a strategic framework for the ASCC in developing initiatives, programmes and activities that will further benefit the people of ASEAN.
4. The development of the ASCC Strategic Plan is underpinned by megatrends and challenges, which include rapidly ageing societies, urban-rural disparities, the growing impact of artificial intelligence and its ethics, including cultural appropriation and discrimination, the future of work, environmental degradation and climate change, disasters, and future public health emergencies and emerging diseases, and rapid migration. The ASCC Strategic Plan also considers the challenges at the global level and surrounding wider regions that might affect the efforts to achieve a resilient, inclusive, relevant, sustainable, innovative, dynamic, and people-centred ASEAN. It also recognises the opportunities arising from emerging megatrends such as digital technology advancement and green and blue economies. The ASCC Strategic Plan acknowledges the potential of the ASEAN Community's human resources, meaningful roles and contributions of ASEAN centres, environmental and disaster resilience, digital natives, inclusive and

sustainable tourism, and the cultural and creative industries to drive economic growth and social development which the ASCC can leverage and maximise towards improving ASEAN people's quality of life. Moreover, the ASCC Strategic Plan draws priorities from key ASCC documents, stakeholder consultations and engagements, cross-pillar coordination and collaboration, and recommendations from the previous implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and ASCC sectoral workplans.

5. Anticipating future developments in and beyond the region and recognising ASEAN's contributions to the regional and global development agenda, the ASCC Strategic Plan's implementation will continuously integrate innovation, strategic foresight, and sustainable development. This is to ensure that the ASCC Strategic Plan continues to be effective and relevant in navigating emerging megatrends and challenges, as well as building a resilient and sustainable ASEAN Community that is people-centred, people-oriented, and forward-looking.

## **II. STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE ASCC STRATEGIC PLAN OF ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2045**

6. The ASCC Strategic Plan has twelve Strategic Goals, which are composed of ten Strategic Goals that reflect the ACV 2045 vision statement for the socio-cultural community and two cross-pillar Strategic Goals that focus on narrowing the development gap and sustainable growth and development. It has 16 objectives that correspond to the Core Elements of the ACV 2045 under ASCC.

### **STRATEGIC GOAL 1**

A Community that is people-centred, people-oriented, and interconnected with seamless movement of peoples, goods, and services with a shared ASEAN ownership and identity.

#### **Objective 1.1.**

To achieve an inclusive and sustainable digital society that increases people-to-people connectivity, ensures socio-economic benefits for all, enhances social inclusion and shared identity, prepares the future of work and education, sustains a safe and clean environment, strengthens health cooperation, and builds climate and disaster preparedness through policy coordination, technical cooperation, and capacity building.

## Strategic Measures

1.1.1. Enhance regional and national mechanisms to promote universal access to and effective use of information, communication, and digital technology to foster global and regional connectivity as well as ASEAN ownership and shared identity.

1.1.2. Strengthen cooperation in enhancing regional and national mechanisms on digitalisation and digital innovation in promoting universal access to and use of information and communication technology to improve protection standards of women and children and eliminate new and emerging forms of violence against women and children, including all forms of offline and online exploitation and abuse across the ASEAN Member States.

1.1.3. Expand inclusive access to quality digital and learning for teachers and learners, including youth not in employment, education and training (NEET) in support of lifelong learning and TVET.

1.1.4 Promote open education data and transparent statistics while ensuring the safety and privacy of individuals with special attention to children and youth.

1.1.5. Harness digital innovation and strengthen public-private-people partnerships in the information and media sectors to advance the digitalisation agenda across ASCC, improving digital connectivity and bridging the digital divide to empower ASEAN peoples for inclusive participation and advance digital skills.

1.1.6. Promote responsible and sustainable investments in rural development and poverty eradication, including increasing digital usage in agriculture and developing inclusive digital infrastructure, skills, and literacy to strengthen the response to transformation in the agriculture food system.

1.1.7. Increase human resource competencies, competitiveness and resilience for the future-ready workforce and relevant stakeholders on technical and technological knowledge, literacy, numeracy and digital competencies, and managerial skills, including through lifelong learning and skills development, so as to improve institutional capacity and address current and emerging challenges.

1.1.8. Enhance ASEAN human resource competitiveness and digital literacy for future workforce by leveraging technological transformation, such as communication and digital technology, as well as emerging technology, such as AI, ensuring the quality of basic and higher education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and providing decent work for all with an industry-driven approach.

1.1.9. Promote good governance and an agile, efficient and people-centred civil service in the digital era through enhancement of capacities and strategic partnerships

with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Entities, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partners, ASEAN Development Partners, international organisations, and other stakeholders.

1.1.10. Strengthen national capacities and international cooperation in information and media sectors to promote social responsibility by cross-border digital and media platforms and foster mutual respect in cyberspace across ASEAN in mitigating and responding to fake news through initiatives such as media monitoring, fact-checking, reinforcing reliable government communications, and countering extremism.

1.1.11. Strengthen the roles of education, family, and community in fostering digital literacy, ethical AI awareness, and responsible ICT use to build societal resilience against misinformation, online harm, and the misuse of emerging technologies.

1.1.12. Ensure teachers, trainers, and educators of children and young people are able to develop the relevant and adaptive learner-centred pedagogical practices and digital literacy skills needed for remote, online, and blended teaching through effective and equitable pre-service and in-service training, communities of practice and peer networks.

## **Objective 1.2.**

To achieve an integrative Community that is participative and addresses the social and cross-sectoral trends and impacts of people flows and ideas in ASEAN.

## **Strategic Measures**

1.2.1. Promote cooperation in information and media to be Knowledge-Driven, Value-Adding and Digitally Transformative by empowering policymakers, media, and other stakeholders with timely and accurate information, enhancing information literacy and digital readiness for the Knowledge-based ASEAN Community and facilitating a seamless flow of information to drive regional dynamism innovative solutions for contemporary and emerging challenges.

1.2.2. Promote greater people-to-people interaction and mobility across and beyond ASEAN through innovative digital content that raises ASEAN awareness, strengthens ASEAN's shared identity, fosters critical thinking and lifelong learning, and programs and projects that would open opportunities, especially for young people

1.2.3. Enhance meaningful and inclusive access participation and engagement of people in vulnerable situations<sup>1</sup> in the development and implementation, monitoring

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<sup>1</sup> Including but not limited to Women, Children, Youths, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, Migrant Workers, and People in At-risk Areas, Remote and Border Areas, and Climate Sensitive Areas and those affected by Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters, Public Health Emergencies, Digital Exclusion and other Technological Advancements, and other Environmental Changes

and evaluation, as well as decision-making process of ASEAN policies and programmes/initiatives, socioeconomic development and ASEAN community building through strengthened regional, cross-sectoral and cross-pillar platforms and engagements.

1.2.4. Strengthen the protection of migrant workers through the mainstreaming of inclusive and gender-responsive approaches in all migration cycles as well as cooperation with the relevant private entities, employers and other partners, and dedicate resources, policies, mechanisms and processes to protect their labour and respond to labour migration challenges of increasing complexity.

1.2.5. Enhance the well-being and the protection of migrant fishers as well as facilitate their safe and regular migration, including through collaboration and partnership with ASEAN's external partners, international organisations, and other regional and national stakeholders.

1.2.6. Enhance cooperation and dialogue to strengthen the culture of tolerance and moderation, promote cultural pluralisms and responsible citizenship.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 2**

A caring Community that will ensure the full potential and improve the quality of life for its peoples that is participative, inclusive, sustainable, and promotes social cohesion, hereby ensuring shared prosperity, especially among vulnerable groups, and leaving no one behind.

### **Objective 2.1.**

To achieve equitable and shared prosperity for all, especially for the vulnerable groups, through connecting them with opportunities and activities that will enhance socio-economic well-being.

### **Strategic Measures**

2.1.1. Promote adaptive social protection to strengthen family's resilience and well-being throughout their life cycle, including through the work of social workers and the wider social service workforce.

2.1.2. Strengthen cross-sectoral and inter-pillar cooperation across the ASEAN Community to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment (WEE), such as integrating gender sensitivity in WEE initiatives, increasing access to opportunities for girls and women in education, including technical vocational education training (TVET), Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics

(STEAM), and mainstreaming gender into labour employment and entrepreneurship policies and programmes.

2.1.3. Adapt policies to include support for migrant workers, including those who become undocumented through no fault of their own, and their families left behind or the ones residing with them in crisis situations, facilitate access to social and health services across occupational areas at all stages, including during crisis preparedness, response and recovery and accommodate the specific needs of migrant workers, especially women and children.

2.1.4. Address systemic and institutional barriers faced by women, especially women with disabilities and those in vulnerable situations, to entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and broader economic empowerment, and through providing gender-responsive and accessible entrepreneurship support services by strengthening care economy, especially for girls and older women.

2.1.5. Develop and strengthen policies and strategies to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work through social protection, care infrastructure and gender-responsive labour policies, and promote shared responsibility and work-life balance within the household and the family

2.1.6. Create and enhance the enabling environment for care entrepreneurship opportunities to complement and enhance the public provision of care in the community.

2.1.7. Strengthen mechanisms and institutional capacity to enhance inclusive and equitable access to social protection through extending coverage, availability, and quality of social protection.

2.1.8. Build an enabling environment to provide equitable access to resources, opportunities, and safeguard measures, particularly for the unemployed, poor and people in vulnerable situations<sup>2</sup>, to prevent them from falling under the negative influence of violent extremism and threats as well as from the risk of transnational crime such as human trafficking, people smuggling and the illegal use of social media.

2.1.9. Strengthen human and institutional capacity in implementing environment and climate actions and just energy transition at all levels, especially people in vulnerable situations<sup>3</sup> to build inclusive and sustainable resilient ASEAN.

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<sup>3</sup> Including but not limited to Women, Children, Youths, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, Migrant Workers, and People in At-risk Areas, Remote and Border Areas, and Climate Sensitive Areas and those affected by Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters, Public Health Emergencies, Digital Exclusion and other Technological Advancements, and other Environmental Changes

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 3**

A Community that is able to optimise its demographic bonus to, among others, make ASEAN the epicentre of growth and innovation through inclusive, comprehensive and transformative education in a conducive learning environment to develop a highly skilled and competitive labour force and the creation of decent work and high-quality jobs.

### **Objective 3.1**

To sustain ASEAN as an epicentrum of growth and innovation through inclusive, equitable, and transformative education to achieve a highly skilled and competitive labour force while taking into account the demographic trend in the region.

#### **Strategic Measures**

3.1.1. Enhance the responsiveness and cohesiveness of relevant policies and institutional frameworks towards better employment opportunities, employability, higher income, job security, quality of jobs and enterprise competitiveness.

3.1.2. Improve and expand inclusive education and employment for all within the ASEAN region, including to leverage on demographic bonus/demographic dividend by improving access to and quality of education TVET and job opportunities for all.

3.1.3. Strengthen ASEAN civil service through high-quality education, effective capacity building, application of merit principle, strategic partnerships, and collaboration programmes among ASEAN Member States and other relevant stakeholders to generate highly skilled, competent and future-ready human resources and active global citizens for sustainable development.

3.1.4. Promote socially responsible entrepreneurship by fostering creative and inclusive opportunities for youths, such as social entrepreneurship.

3.1.5. Accelerate regional initiatives to support ASEAN Member States towards building age-friendly societies and mainstreaming population ageing issues into national policies and development plans and programmes, which may include promotion of healthy, active, and successful ageing, care economy, life-long learning and digital literacy, flexible employment and retirement policies, and sustainable and accessible infrastructure.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 4**

A healthy ASEAN populace, with higher life expectancy, well-being for all ages, safe from communicable and non-communicable diseases with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and access to resilient healthcare architecture.

### **Objective 4.1.**

To achieve a resilient Community that promotes human security and increases people's resilience in responding to future health emergencies, crises, disasters, and impacts from climate change.

### **Strategic Measures**

4.1.1. Accelerate the implementation of One Health Initiative by enhancing institutional and human capacity, increasing investment, research and development for public health prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) activities, and strengthening the capacity and resources of ASEAN-related centres such as ACPHEED.

4.1.2. Minimise the risk, exposure, and vulnerability of people living in at-risk areas to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters, including through enhancing adaptive and shock-responsive social protection system and empowering them to become agents of resilience.

4.1.3. Institutionalise coherence and coordination on strengthening regional and national data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, including on family development, poverty and equity, and establish a reliable regional database for key sectors to support ASEAN policies and programmes while ensuring the safety and privacy of individuals.

4.1.4. Enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of universal health coverage, including pharmaceutical development, food safety and control system, maternal and child health, ending all forms of malnutrition, enhancing food and nutrition security through sustainable food systems, expanding access to traditional and complementary medicine, ensuring the availability of service and care for mental health, healthy and active ageing, health service for people in vulnerable situations<sup>4</sup> while emphasising the need to address relevant social factors such as poverty and decent employment for all.

4.1.5. Promote and strengthen a community that is healthy, caring, sustainable and productive, and one that practices a healthy lifestyle resilient to health threats and has

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universal access to healthcare, and nurture the participation of civil society to cushion against emerging health risks.

4.1.6. Enhance local community resilience by, among others, integrating gender-responsive disaster risk management, ensuring women's leadership in preparedness and response efforts and through the promotion of traditional and local knowledge and wisdom on disaster management and risk reduction.

4.1.7. Strengthen holistic strategies and evidence-based policies to address biodiversity challenges, enhance climate resilience, policy coordination and capacity development, and adopt best practices for conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial, coastal and marine, wetlands, peatlands, biodiversity, land and water resources.

4.1.8. Enhance cooperation for the conservation, protection, restoration, scientific research, technology transfer and sustainable use of coastal and—marine environments, respond to, and deal with the environmental risk of pollution and threats to marine ecosystem and coastal environment, such as Marine Debris and Marine Plastic Pollution particularly the respect of ecologically sensitive areas.

4.1.9. Strengthen ASEAN Health Architecture in responding to future health emergencies, crises and disasters, impact of climate change, emerging trends and external challenges through strengthened data-driven decision-making in healthcare, improved synergy and strong multisectoral collaboration between the health, finance and other relevant, complementing global health efforts and strengthening the global health architecture.

## **Objective 4.2.**

To achieve a sustainable Community that advances a thriving, healthy and resilient ASEAN for future generations.

## **Strategic Measures**

4.2.1. Promote resilient health systems in response to all hazards, including communicable emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, zoonotic diseases, neglected tropical diseases, antimicrobial resistance, environmental degradation, climate change and food insecurity through investments in healthcare infrastructures, strengthening health information systems, implementing health promotion, and enhancing regional capacity towards the prevention and control of communicable diseases and their risks in the ASEAN Member States.

4.2.2. Accelerate action to reduce risk factors of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), intensify efforts to promote the screening of people at risks of NCDs and monitoring

systems for NCDs, and strengthen the capacity of health systems in incorporating the principles of UHC to include management of NCDs.

4.2.3. Enhance community awareness and social responsibility on the ill effects of dangerous and illegal drugs—and other addictive and harmful substances through policy formulation, development and implementation of preventive programmes, adoption and utilisation of effective treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and after-care programmes, research on substance abuse problems, and community engagement and advocacy programmes.

4.2.4. Enhance policies, strategies and models for mental health and well-being to enable people of all ages to cope with the stresses of life, realise their potential, learn, work and live well and eventually contribute to their communities while enhancing preventive, curative, and rehabilitative approach in alignment with international and national frameworks.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 5**

A Community where its peoples play an active role in all aspects of life through the promotion of human security, enhancing peoples' resilience through public-private partnerships in line with the ASEAN sustainability agenda.

### **Objective 5.1.**

To achieve an inclusive Community where all people have an active role to play in all aspects of life and achieve sustainable progress, including through partnerships and collaboration.

### **Strategic Measures**

5.1.1. Enhance regional strategy and national policy to strengthen disability-inclusive development, contributing to a resilient, inclusive and prosperous ASEAN community that focuses on addressing inequalities and promoting disability empowerment.

5.1.2. Strengthen public understanding and awareness through media engagements and campaigns about the rights of persons with disabilities while providing opportunities and ensuring comprehensive and inclusive social protection.

5.1.3. Leverage the growth opportunities of the care economy in the ASEAN region by encouraging the development of products, infrastructures, technologies, services, and solutions tailored to the needs of the ageing population align with promoting healthy ageing and intergenerational resilience aiming to maximise functional ability and continue living independently.

5.1.4. Strengthen local institutions and community-based approaches that promote the participation of local governments/authorities, provinces, townships, municipalities, cities, and villages through the central government in the development of ASEAN capacity-building programmes that benefit their respective communities.

5.1.5. Accelerate children's access to and participation in affordable, quality, and inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and foundational learning, particularly for people in vulnerable situations<sup>5</sup> to ensure their holistic and integrated development by stimulating their early learning and enhancing their health, nutrition, and overall well-being, especially those within the first one thousand days.

5.1.6. Advance initiatives to promote and develop the ASEAN Creative Economy (ACE), increase the value creation and contributions of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), including in strengthening of ASEAN Identity and shared civilisational values, and implement capacity-building initiatives and talent development programs to enhance the skills of cultural and creative workers.

5.1.7. Strengthen the capacity and capability of the ASEAN public sector, including civil servants, to respond to the needs of the peoples, emerging challenges, and technological advancements through the highest standard of professionalism, efficient, effective, transparent and accountable public services, participatory and innovative approaches, and strategic collaboration.

5.1.8. Strengthen regional and multi-stakeholder initiatives and engagement to pro-actively respond to new and emerging forms of violence to eliminate all forms of discrimination, exploitation, trafficking, harmful practices, intolerance, bullying and violence and abuse against children, women, persons with disabilities, youths, migrant workers, the elderly/older persons, and victims/survivors of trafficking in persons, and ethnic groups, people in vulnerable situations<sup>6</sup>.

5.1.9. Eliminate all forms of maltreatment on the basis of old age and gender through rights-based/needs-based and life cycle approaches that promote equitable access of older persons to public services, income generation, health care services, social protection, and essential information, as well as preventive measures, legal protection, and effective support system.

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<sup>6</sup> Including but not limited to Women, Children, Youths, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, Migrant Workers, and People in At-risk Areas, Remote and Border Areas, and Climate Sensitive Areas and those affected by Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters, Public Health Emergencies, Digital Exclusion and other Technological Advancements, and other Environmental Changes

5.1.10. Enhance quality care, well-being, gender equality, social justice, human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially people in vulnerable situations<sup>7</sup>, in response to all hazards and emerging social and economic risks/threats through a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach and regional inter-sectoral mechanisms.

5.1.11. Develop and strengthen sustainable financing mechanisms for social protection, universal health coverage, early childhood care and development and foundational learning, disaster risk reduction and social pension.

5.1.12. Accelerate extension of coverage, accessibility, availability, comprehensiveness, quality, equality, affordability and sustainability of social services and social protection.

5.1.13. Promote government, private sector, ASEAN Dialogue and Development Partners, and community collaboration to facilitate knowledge sharing, effective resource mobilisation and develop continuous training and re-training systems, promoting human capital development and regional cooperation in education, training, and research.

5.1.14. Promote awareness, respect and protection of human rights, particularly those of persons with disabilities, women, children, youth, older persons and others in vulnerable situations to enhance understanding of human rights principles and relevant ASEAN declarations and instruments and their effective implementation.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 6**

A Community with a shared ASEAN identity that is adaptive and responsive to evolving national needs, as well as relevant regional and global issues.

### **Objective 6.1.**

To achieve a Community that is adaptive and responsive to evolving cross-pillar and cross-sectoral trends, as well as national, regional, and global issues and development.

### **Strategic Measures**

6.1.1. Promote regional cooperation in education, training, and research, strengthening ASEAN's role in regional and global research networks.

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6.1.2. Promote the innovative use of information and communications technology to preserve and promote ASEAN traditional sports and games, including the engagement of ASEAN youth, media, volunteers, private sectors, and other stakeholders to support ASEAN Traditional Sports Games and enhance awareness of its role in ASEAN community-building.

6.1.3. Promote knowledge and awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) cooperation and implementation, including policy options concerning IPR of cultural and creative assets, such as traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, to safeguard and ensure equitable use and benefits to alleviate poverty.

6.1.4. Enhance the quality and competitiveness, including through internationalisation of higher education institutions—and training institutions, and cultural and creative industries, including visual arts, performing arts, film, music, and animation, through regional and global cooperation.

6.1.5. Encourage the government, private sector and community to develop a system of continuous training and re-training to support community engagement, lifelong learning and workforce development.

6.1.6. Ensure food adequacy and accessibility and the availability of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, especially people in vulnerable situations<sup>8</sup>, and the ability to cope with disasters, food price shocks and scarcity by developing adaptive mechanisms and strategies, including in times of crisis, among others, through cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination.

6.1.7. Explore the possibility of establishing shock-responsive financial and insurance mechanisms and strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

6.1.8. Enhance positive economic, social, and environmental linkages among urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, including strengthening policies and strategies for managing the impact of population growth and urbanisation.

6.1.9. Strengthen regional cooperation to protect, restore, conserve, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems resources, combat desertification, halt and reverse biodiversity loss and land degradation.

6.1.10. Strengthen global and regional partnerships and cooperation to support the implementation of relevant international agreements and frameworks, including promoting cooperation in environmental management, conservation and sustainable

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use of biodiversity and natural resources, and climate change through environmental education, community engagement, and public outreach.

6.1.11. Strengthen ASEAN towards becoming a global leader in disaster management

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 7**

A Community where women are empowered to participate fully and effectively in ASEAN Community-building and realise their full potential in its decision-making processes.

### **Objective 7.1.**

To achieve a Community where women are empowered to effectively and fully participate in the ASEAN Community-building process, including having access to opportunities and activities that will further enhance their socio-economic well-being and advance recovery.

### **Strategic Measures**

7.1.1. Strengthen policies and action plans that better respond to the needs of women and girls in the region and enhance the capacities of sectoral bodies to undertake initiatives that benefit and protect the rights of women and girls.

7.1.2. Strengthen and engagement of women's organisations in ASEAN consultation, planning, and implementation so that the perspectives and needs of women and girls are better addressed and better responded to.

7.1.3. Institutionalise support for intergovernmental strategies and processes as well as ASEAN Member State's gender mainstreaming and gender equality initiatives, including capacity building and knowledge-sharing initiatives to address gender issues.

7.1.4. Institutionalise a clearly articulated and coordinated approach to gender equality.

7.1.5. Ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making and leadership of women and girls at all levels, including their empowerment in peace and security.

7.1.6. Increase and enable investments in building universal, gender-responsive and sustainable care systems and social services to recognise and reduce the burden of

unpaid care work of women and girls in the family, including especially during times of crisis and disaster.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 8**

A Community where youth can meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of a dynamic, innovative, resilient ASEAN Community, and in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges, advancing sustainable socio-economic development, and reinforcing ASEAN awareness, values and identity.

### **Objective 8.1.**

To achieve a resilient and integrative community where youth can meaningfully contribute and participate in promoting human security, social cohesion and strong family cohesion with due regard to increase people's resilience in addressing social and cross-sectoral trend and development in the region.

### **Strategic Measures**

8.1.1. Strengthen the capacity and role of ASEAN youth in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges by providing more opportunities for ASEAN youth through various approaches and platforms, as well as increasing the access to and availability of decent work and the job market for the youth.

8.1.2. Promote the role and participation of ASEAN youth in regional and global industries, particularly creative industries and entrepreneurship, leadership programmes, respect for cultural diversity, sustainable socio-economic development, and digital advancements, including through exchange, scholarship, youth dialogue, volunteerism, internship, and fellowship programmes, to foster greater regional collaboration among youth.

8.1.3. Provide a platform for participation and further local and regional collaboration among the ASEAN youth, as well as between ASEAN youth and their peers from other regions, towards biodiversity conservation, climate change consciousness, and action and disaster risk reduction, and disaster management initiatives through education and capacity building.

8.1.4. Empower young people and communities at all levels in climate action and disaster resilience by engaging advocates and establishing partnerships at all levels through relevant and appropriate strategies consistent with ASEAN Member States' respective national interests.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 9**

A Community that is proud of its identity and assumes ownership of the preservation, conservation and value creation of its cultural heritage, arts and traditions while also promoting cultural industries.

### **Objective 9.1.**

To achieve a Community that is proud of its ASEAN Identity through continuous cooperation in raising ASEAN awareness and fostering ASEAN identity by strengthening people-to-people connectivity, cultivating a culture of prevention, and promoting both inherited and constructed values.

### **Strategic Measures**

9.1.1. Project ASEAN's visibility through comprehensive, multi-stakeholder branding efforts, which are represented by common ASEAN identifiers, such as ASEAN Day, ASEAN Flag, ASEAN Anthem, and ASEAN Emblem.

9.1.2. Increase ownership and deepen the sense of ASEAN identity and the spirit of belonging to the ASEAN Community amongst students, children, youths and all stakeholders as part of strengthening the ASEAN Community.

9.1.3. Strengthen the ASEAN Community and ASEAN shared values in the government by reinforcing ASEAN Identity through innovative policy initiatives both at the regional and national levels.

9.1.4. Promote a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive ecosystem of stakeholders to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas' value-centric ASEAN identity and communities through forging partnerships.

9.1.5. Strengthen ASEAN identity and solidarity among the people through the use of digital information while focusing on the appreciation of shared and common denominators, such as history, folklore, culture, tradition, and food, among others.

9.1.6. Strengthen ASEAN identity among villages community through the existing ASEAN Villages Network to increase ownership, particularly in the rural areas.

9.1.7. Promote the knowledge of the political, legal system, history, culture, shared heritage and religion and faiths of ASEAN Member States to foster a culture of respect for all, unity in diversity, and a common identity.



9.1.8. Promote ASEAN globally through diverse approaches such as arts, musical gala, film festivals, and heritage programs, projecting a unified ASEAN voice in relevant global socio-cultural fora and negotiations.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 10**

A Community that advances sports to contribute towards the growth of ASEAN as a sporting hub for excellence to promote peace, inclusion, health, education, and socio-economic development.

### **Objective 10.1.**

To achieve a community that preserves traditional sports and games (TSG) and advances sports, including to promote peace, health, and mental well-being of people, harness the culture of sportsmanship, and contribute to social-economic development, shared prosperity, and fulfil aspirations.

### **Strategic Measures**

10.1.1. Support the growth of the sports industry and high-performance sports development through innovation and technology utilisation, enhancing cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in sports science and management, knowledge exchange, and professional capacity building to promote mechanisms to improve administrative governance in sports, which in turn contributes to the realisation of the potential of ASEAN athletes at international sports arenas and as a means of nurturing ASEAN pride.

10.1.2. Strengthen collaboration with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in promoting sports participation and physical activities across different age groups as an additional step towards a healthier and more active ASEAN Community.

10.1.3. Promote inclusive access to sports and recreation to increase participation among local communities, including women, persons with disabilities, and people in vulnerable situations<sup>9</sup> by setting up more sports and recreation zones across the ASEAN Member States, with the engagement of local authorities and multi-stakeholder partnerships for continual sports infrastructure development and promotion of healthy lifestyle among the people of ASEAN.

10.1.4 Strengthen the sports ecosystem to support inclusivity, decent work, and entrepreneurial opportunities in sports, particularly the advancement of and synergy

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<sup>9</sup> Including but not limited to Women, Children, Youths, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, Migrant Workers, and People in At-risk Areas, Remote and Border Areas, and Climate Sensitive Areas and those affected by Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters, Public Health Emergencies, Digital Exclusion and other Technological Advancements, and other Environmental Changes

between physical education and talent development, youth professional exchanges, job apprenticeships, and other skills development programmes.

10.1.5. Preserve and promote ASEAN Traditional Sports and Games at local, regional, and international levels.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 11**

A nimble and resilient Community that is empowered in responding to future crises and long-term challenges. We continue to narrow development gaps through relevant initiatives and promote inclusive, participatory, and equitable access to economic opportunities.

### **Objective 11.1.**

To achieve a resilient Community that ensures shared prosperity that continues to narrow development gaps through equitable access to opportunities and relevant initiatives that enhance social and economic well-being.

### **Strategic Measures**

11.1.1. Promote inclusive human capital development, economic self-reliance, and sustainable livelihood, especially among the poor, women, youth, older persons, and persons with disability through access to quality higher education, transformative and industry-based programs and trainings, decent work, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship.

11.1.2. Accelerate inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth at the national and regional levels through multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and community-based approaches that guarantee access to social protection, economic empowerment and other opportunities for the poor, and people in vulnerable situations<sup>10</sup> towards eradicating multi-dimensional poverty.

11.1.3. Establish and reinforce platforms and mechanisms, including ASEAN Villages Network, that facilitate local, community-based approaches and inclusive participation through engagement to actively contribute to and benefit from development initiatives, facilitating collaboration and cooperation among villages to expedite rural transformation and enhancing access to markets for rural products, creating opportunities for these products to penetrate regional and international markets, thereby promoting economic growth in villages.

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<sup>10</sup> Including but not limited to Women, Children, Youths, Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Groups, Migrant Workers, and People in At-risk Areas, Remote and Border Areas, and Climate Sensitive Areas and those affected by Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters, Public Health Emergencies, Digital Exclusion and other Technological Advancements, and other Environmental Changes

11.1.4. Mainstream women's empowerment across ASEAN, including through the promotion of women's entrepreneurship, gender-responsive budgeting, and ensuring the representation of women in decision-making and leadership both in public and private sectors.

## **Objective 11.2.**

To achieve a resilient Community, especially at the local level, against future crises and long-term challenges, including climate change and health emergencies preparedness and response through a whole of ASEAN approach for sustainable resilience.

## **Strategic Measures**

11.2.1. Strengthen health systems to be resilient in the prevention, preparedness, and response to health-related hazards, including chemical and biological, which incorporate biosafety and biosecurity concerns, radiological-nuclear and hazards and emerging threats.

11.2.2. Strengthen ASEAN's collective capability through a whole-of-ASEAN approach in building sustainable resilience by, among others, enhancing anticipatory action and disaster management capabilities and supporting the implementation of effective policies to achieve disaster resilience and sustainable development.

11.2.3. Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change and reduce vulnerability by promoting climate resilience and adaptive capacity, implementing nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches through active engagement of the ASEAN Community-based Climate Action.

11.2.4. Strengthen communication and linkages among ASEAN processes and mechanisms to swiftly and effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters, as well as to optimise or streamline the use of existing measures and ASEAN processes.

11.2.5. Enhance national and local capacity in undertaking measures to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies, including building sustainable resilience and reducing the impact of disasters by strengthening capacity at all levels for better protection of communities and their ability to minimise losses, and facilitate swift and effective recovery.

## **STRATEGIC GOAL 12**

A green ASEAN that will be achieved through sustainable growth on land and in water, as we embrace the green economy and blue economy in the regional context and strengthen ASEAN's position in promoting sustainability and climate responses.

### **Objective 12.1.**

To achieve a sustainable community that advances ASEAN's sustainability agenda in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2030 global development agenda.

### **Strategic Measures**

12.1.1. Adopt good management practices and strengthen policies to address transboundary environmental issues, including pollution, illegal movement and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, and in doing so, utilise existing regional and international institutions and agreements.

12.1.2. Enhance the implementation of regional agreements, such as the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), as well as strengthen the capabilities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control.

12.1.3. Strengthen public-private-people partnerships to promote the adoption of circular economy approaches for maximising resource efficiency, including the development of standards for regional circular economy approaches towards sustainable and inclusive growth.

12.1.4. Enhance cross-sectoral cooperation to stimulate a sustainable green economy through the promotion of green jobs and green skills and mainstreaming of green jobs and skills in human resources development agenda through awareness raising, policy, research and development of TVET on green skills and national TVET competencies certification systems.

12.1.5. Accelerate biodiversity conservation and mainstream biodiversity and climate change into the various development processes in ASEAN to provide opportunities for resilient and sustainable livelihood, and economic development.

12.1.6. Enhance cross-pillar coordination to implement a comprehensive approach to environmental and social sustainability resilience, including the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources, ecological health, combatting pollution, reducing emissions, strengthening disaster risk management, and advancing ASEAN workforce to support the blue economy.

12.1.7. Enhance cooperation with the private sector on cooperative education internship, secondary school or equivalent immersion programs, STEAM education, and apprenticeship to meet demand-driven competencies and qualifications, including for green jobs and green skills of TVET and higher education, incorporating updated research on advanced technology to meet labour market needs.

## **Objective 12.2.**

To achieve a green ASEAN that harnesses digital innovation and accelerates new and existing work on digitalisation to ensure a safe and clean environment and enhance climate and disaster preparedness.

## **Strategic Measures**

12.2.1. Implement a comprehensive strategy for sustainable urbanisation in ASEAN by enhancing participatory and integrated approaches in urban planning and management and strengthening the capacity of national and local institutions to effectively implement strategies and programs aimed at creating cities that are clean, green, liveable and enhance well-being.

12.2.2. Expand engagement with the private sector and relevant stakeholders to encourage an increase in climate financing as well as to explore new and innovative financing mechanisms to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

12.2.3. Intensify efforts in utilising and harnessing the full potential of science, technology, and innovation in strengthening climate, disaster resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions for sustainable development to realise ASEAN as a centre of excellence for disaster management.

## **III. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

7. The ASCC Strategic Plan is guided by the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 as well as other key ASEAN and ASCC instruments and documents, which provide the guidelines, principles and framework for the ASCC.
8. The ASCC will ensure the effective, efficient and full implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the ASCC Strategic Plan through existing and established mechanisms of the ASCC or others that may be established or streamlined as needed, resource mobilisation, strategic communication, and monitoring and evaluation. Its implementation, monitoring and evaluation is also guided by relevant domestic laws, regulations, and policies.

## **A. Implementation Mechanism**

- i. The implementation of the ASCC Strategic Plan shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies to encourage stakeholders, including Entities associated with ASEAN, to enhance public engagement and capacity-building mechanisms on implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as in the dissemination of relevant knowledge to the peoples of ASEAN. It shall promote the accessibility and availability of platforms for engagement and participation of stakeholders in programmes, meetings, and other initiatives of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, as well as opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. It shall also promote public-private-people partnerships (4Ps), social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility (CSR) for inclusive and sustainable socio-cultural development. Furthermore, the ASCC will intensify strategies, work programmes, and initiatives of sectoral bodies under the ASCC Pillar to narrow the development gap.
- ii. The ASCC Council, with the support of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCA), is responsible for overseeing the realisation of the ASCC Strategic Plan. SOCA and the sectoral bodies shall be responsible for result/ outcome-based implementation and the coordination of cross-sectoral and cross-pillar matters to ensure coherence among the three Pillars and ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plans.
- iii. The ASCC Council, through the support of SOCA and the ASEAN Secretariat, shall continue to strengthen the Senior Officials Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOC-COM) mechanism to provide a more inclusive and engaging platform for broad participation of sectoral bodies within ASCC and from other pillars (through their chairpersons/ vice-chairs), the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Socio-Cultural Officers attached to the Permanent Missions of ASEAN in Jakarta, entities associated with ASEAN, and other relevant stakeholders, including sub-regional organisations.
- iv. The sectoral bodies under the ASCC shall be responsible for operationalising the strategic measures relevant to their mandate by translating them into their respective sector policies, strategies, workplans, programmes, and projects. For strategic measures that are cross-cutting and require collaboration with sectoral bodies within ASCC and from the APSC and AEC Pillars and Connectivity, the ASCC should leverage the existing mechanism or other that may be established or streamlined as

needed. Sectoral Bodies will also develop their respective sectoral work plans that are anchored on the ASCC Strategic Plan and the ASCC Results Framework, as well as other relevant ASEAN documents for cross-cutting collaboration which outline Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) measures and indicators to ensure the realisation of ASCC's strategic goals and objectives.

- v. The ASCC Council and its sectoral bodies shall promote multi-stakeholder engagement to share expertise and resources, transfer of knowledge and technology, monitor implementation, and strengthen collaboration and partnership on regional cooperation initiatives.
- vi. The ASCC Council and its sectoral bodies shall promote and undertake substantive, practical, and mutually beneficial cooperation with External Partners and other ASEAN partners in the relevant areas of cooperation within the ASCC Strategic Plan while upholding ASEAN Centrality, and other agreed cooperation frameworks, including the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific (AOIP), where the programmes, projects and activities are in line with the goals, objectives and strategic measures of the ASCC Strategic Plan.
- vii. The ASEAN Secretariat shall also enhance its capacities and responsiveness to support the work of the ASCC in collaboration with relevant sectors, pillars, and stakeholders. Cognisant of the recommendations by the "Recommendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness to the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits by the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision," the ASCC Council and sectoral bodies under its purview, with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat shall take concrete steps to carry out the recommendations towards an enhanced ASEAN institutional capacity and presence.
- viii. Strengthen coordination among ASEAN National Secretariats, National-Specific ASCC Secretariats as applicable, SOCA and Focal Points of ASCC Sectoral Bodies, as well as enhancing the role of Socio-Cultural Officers attached to the Permanent Missions, including in cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination, in ensuring timely exchange of information, facilitating effective and meaningful consultation with capitals and actively promoting public awareness on the work and achievements of the ASCC.

## **B. Resources**

- i. In keeping with the principles of ownership and enhancing ASEAN Centrality and in order to support the implementation of the ASCC Strategic

Plan, ASEAN Member States are encouraged to mobilise resources to support, when appropriate, the projects and work of the sectoral bodies.

- ii. The ASCC sectoral bodies are encouraged to mobilise resources from external partners, external parties and other sources in terms of, but not limited to, funding, expertise and capacity-building to implement the strategic measures and relevant activities of the ASCC Strategic Plan. Additionally, sectoral bodies have to ensure the resource sustainability of their sectoral workplans in establishing or maximising existing mechanisms to support its implementation while ensuring the transparency and accountability of the mobilisation, utilisation, and management of external resources.

### **C. Communication and Outreach**

- i. The ASCC shall undertake communication and outreach activities to support the implementation of the ASCC Strategic Plan to inform the progress of its implementation, promote awareness and better understanding of the milestone and impact of the ASCC, and foster meaningful participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the ASCC Strategic Plan.
- ii. Furthermore, the ASCC, in line with the ASEAN Communications Master Plan (ACMP), shall work closely with relevant ASEAN Organs and Bodies and stakeholders in developing necessary platforms, mechanisms, strategies and initiatives to promote awareness and appreciation of the ASCC Strategic Plan for greater and long-term impact.
- iii. The ASCC shall also maximise existing platforms for engagement to enhance their relevance and contribution to the ASEAN Community-Building.

### **D. Review**

- i. The review, particularly the monitoring and evaluation, of the ASCC Strategic Plan will utilise the existing ASCC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System, including the ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation System.
- ii. SOCA will support the ASCC Council to monitor the progress of the implementation of the ASCC Strategic Plan document through the respective ASEAN national secretariats, sectoral bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat and with the support of the ASCC Senior Officials Coordinating



Conference Meeting (SOC-COM) towards the achievement of the strategic goals.

- iii. The M&E System of the ASCC will consist of implementation-focused monitoring and results-based monitoring and evaluation. Building on the current ASCC Blueprint 2025 M&E System, the ASCC will consider lessons learned and recommendations from the End-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint. These recommendations shall be reflected in the ASCC Results Framework, which is anchored on the ASCC Strategic Plan. The ASCC Results Framework will comprise key performance indicators, baselines and targets that are aligned to the strategic measures of the ASCC Strategic Plan and will serve as a guide in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sectoral workplans, programmes and activities of the sectoral bodies under the ASCC. The ASCC Results Framework will also provide operational definitions for the key performance indicators to aid in better designing and planning of ASCC initiatives.
- iv. The ASCC Strategic Plan will have a 10-year timeframe. A Mid-Term Review will be conducted in 2030 and an End-Term Review in 2035 to monitor and evaluate the outcomes and impact of the ASCC Strategic Plan. The End-Term Review will specifically focus on long-term outcomes and impact that were achieved since the start of the Strategic Plan's implementation. The results of the reviews shall be reported to the Summit, after deliberation and approval of the ASCC Council.
- v. The ASCC shall continuously enhance its M&E system to adapt to developments and innovation in monitoring and tracking progress and milestones of regional and developmental initiatives.
- vi. The ASCC shall continue to operationalise the ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation (ADME) System in its data collection and monitoring of the sectoral workplan implementation and the delivery of the key performance indicators in achieving its targets. The ASCC shall encourage all sectoral bodies in socialising and utilising the ADME System for the monitoring and evaluation of the ASCC Strategic Plan and the ASCC Results Framework.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACAI</b>	ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation
<b>ACB</b>	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
<b>ACCC</b>	ASEAN Centre for Climate Change
<b>ACC-THPC</b>	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control
<b>ACCMSME</b>	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs
<b>ACDM</b>	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
<b>ACPHEED</b>	ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases
<b>ACSS</b>	ASEAN Community Statistical System
<b>ACTF-BE</b>	ASEAN Coordinating Task Force on Blue Economy
<b>ACW</b>	ASEAN Committee on Women
<b>ACWC</b>	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
<b>ADGSOM</b>	ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting
<b>ADSOM</b>	ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting
<b>AFCDM</b>	ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting
<b>AHA Centre</b>	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management
<b>AICHR</b>	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
<b>AJSCBD</b>	ASEAN Joint Statement to the 16 <sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the
<b>COP16</b>	ASEAN Joint Statement on the Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>ASCN</b>	ASEAN Smart Cities Network
<b>ASLOM</b>	ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting
<b>ASOD</b>	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters
<b>ASOEN</b>	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on the Environment
<b>ASOF</b>	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
<b>ATC</b>	ASEAN TVET Council
<b>AUN</b>	ASEAN University Network
<b>COCI</b>	ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information
<b>COM-AATHP</b>	Committee under the Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution
<b>COSTI</b>	Committee on Science, Technology & Innovation
<b>ECCE</b>	Early Childhood Care and Education
<b>IAI Task Force</b>	Initiative for ASEAN Integration Task Force
<b>KRA</b>	Key Result Area
<b>SLOM</b>	Senior Labour Officials Meeting
<b>SOM-ACCSM</b>	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters
<b>SOM-AMAF</b>	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

<b>SOMCA</b>	Senior Officials' Meeting for Culture and Arts
<b>SOME</b>	Senior Officials' Meeting on Energy
<b>SOM-ED</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Education
<b>SOMHD</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development
<b>SOMRDPE</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
<b>SOMRI</b>	Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information
<b>SOMS</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Sports
<b>SOMSWD</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
<b>SOMTC</b>	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
<b>SOMY</b>	Senior Officials Meeting on Youth
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>WC-FINC</b>	ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security