

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026-2030)

This Plan of Action (POA) builds upon the significant achievements made in the relations between ASEAN and India and the successful implementation of the POA 2021-2025 and its Annex to advance the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and the joint statements adopted by ASEAN and India Leaders during the past five years. It will serve as a guiding document to further strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation in areas of mutual interest, bringing benefits to our peoples, as well as contributing to the promotion of peace, stability, prosperity and sustainability in the region. The POA will also contribute to the promotion of the ASEAN Community building and integration, while further strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and cooperation. We look forward to contributing to the implementation of ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future. This POA also affirms India's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora.

This POA calls for strengthening existing ASEAN-India mechanisms by improving coordination, monitoring, and review processes, as appropriate, to ensure the effective and timely implementation of its action lines.

ASEAN and India 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 ASEAN Member States' and India's domestic laws, regulations and policies, on the basis of mutual benefit and opportunity for ASEAN and India.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1. Political Cooperation

- 1.1.1. Continue to strengthen the existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and India including the ASEAN-India Summit, the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with India (PMC+1), ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting and through ASEAN-India high-level engagements and visits;
- 1.1.2. Continue to work closely to further strengthen the East Asia Summit (EAS), with ASEAN as the driving force, as a premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern, with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in the region;

- 1.1.3. Continue regular engagement among the Group of the EAS Participating Countries' Ambassadors to ASEAN in Jakarta to facilitate the implementation of Leaders' decisions, EAS Plan of Action, 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 underline the value of inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including two-way visits between ASEAN and Indian parliaments and engagement with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA);
- 1.1.5. Continue to strengthen and support ASEAN Centrality in the regional architecture, as well as further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the EAS Declaration on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles), towards an open, transparent, inclusive, resilient, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the centre that upholds international law as well as to contribute towards maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.6. Further promote collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN System, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), on issues of common interest and concern and to strengthen the multilateral system and, where appropriate, carry out consultations between ASEAN and India at the margins of these fora;
- 1.1.7. Enhance cooperation to support ASEAN's efforts in peace and reconciliation in the region including the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security through relevant mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN Advisory Group on WPS and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW);
- 1.1.8. Promote the purpose and principles of the TAC as well as the importance of all High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty while continuing to enhance the relevance and visibility of the TAC in the region and beyond as well as exploring cooperation between the HCPs, including through participation and support for activities such as the Conference of the HCPs to the TAC;

1.2. Security Cooperation

- 1.2.1. Continue to deepen ASEAN-India engagement, especially through high-level dialogue, active participation, 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);
- 1.2.2. Promote dialogue and strengthen practical defence cooperation within the framework of the ADMM-Plus, in the areas of maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity;
- 1.2.3. Consider holding ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings as and when required, and other capacity building activities such as exercises, subject to approval by the ADMM;
- 1.2.4. Promote cooperation to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region, through possible financial and technical support for the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) as well as the work of the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action;
- 1.2.5. 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;
- 1.2.6. Continue to strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation on cybersecurity and enhance capacity building and knowledge-sharing in this area, including through the ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue, ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE), 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 Regional CERT;
- 1.2.7. Strengthen cooperation with the ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine (ACMM) through trainings, exercises, and people-to-people exchanges;

1.3. Human Rights

- 1.3.1. Cooperate and provide support in enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN through regional dialogue, education and awareness raising activities, capacity-building initiatives as well as exchanges of best practices and information among ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders;

1.4. Maritime Cooperation

- 1.4.1. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded 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);
- 1.4.2. Advance the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation and continue to cooperate on areas such as maritime security, blue economy, sustainable and responsible fisheries, marine environmental protection, including marine debris and pollution, marine biodiversity, and climate change issues, among others in accordance with international law, including 1982 UNCLOS;
- 1.4.3. Strengthen cooperation on maritime safety and security, through confidence-building measures, sharing best practices on emergency response, search and rescue (SAR) operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), early warning systems, Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) as well as in the areas of countering piracy, armed robbery against ships, cyberattacks against ships and port facilities, trafficking in persons, smuggling of arms and drugs, combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, especially through support for ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), and information sharing, through appropriate ASEAN-led mechanisms;

1.5. Transnational Crime

- 1.5.1. Continue to strengthen ASEAN-India cooperation to combat transnational crime through the ASEAN Plus India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + India) Consultation framework, to be guided by the SOMTC + India Work Plan on Cooperation to Combat

Transnational Crime (2023-2027) as well as by the successor work plan and other relevant ASEAN reference documents;

- 1.5.2. Strengthen cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) as well as cross-sectoral efforts of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan Against TIP 2023-2028 (Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0) and its successor document;
- 1.5.3. Deepen cooperation in combating international terrorism and addressing the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), the successor document of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) and its corresponding cross-sectoral work plan, the 2003 ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, and other relevant EAS, ADMM-Plus, and ARF statements;
- 1.5.4. Convene the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) + India Consultations on a regular basis and support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025 and its successor document, once adopted;
- 1.5.5. Explore possible cooperation between ASEAN and India in the area of cybercrime;

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1. Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1. Continue regular dialogues between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and India to explore and realise ways to further deepen trade and investment ties in areas of mutual interest;
- 2.1.2. Substantially conclude the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) through targeted initiatives and timelines, for practical cooperation for implementing its outcomes to make the agreement more effective, user-friendly, simple, and trade-facilitative for businesses as well as to foster mutually beneficial trade, support sustainable and inclusive growth while aligning it with current global trading practices promoting mutually beneficial arrangements and strengthening economic cooperation between ASEAN and India;

- 2.1.3. Explore the possibility to initiate discussions on the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement, based on a mutually agreed timeline;
- 2.1.4. Explore the possibility of exchanging trade administration documents through ASEAN Single Window (ASW) and India's National Single Window System (NSWS). The aim is to promote paperless trade, reduce trade transaction costs and time, and to further maximise the utilisation of the current AITIGA;
- 2.1.5. Promote diverse, secure, transparent and resilient supply chains while facilitating the exchange of information to identify and proactively address potential risks in supply chains within areas of mutual interest, thereby promoting sustainable development;
- 2.1.6. Enhance cooperation between ASEAN and India businesses through activities conducted by the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) and the ASEAN-India Business Summit to explore and leverage trade and investment opportunities, as well as to maximise the private sector's involvement in promoting two-way trade and investment; as well as encourage and facilitate consultation and engagements between AIBC and relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
- 2.1.7. Promote linkages of Indian chambers of commerce and industry with ASEAN Business Advisory Council;
- 2.1.8. Continue to support the business development, particularly for Micro, Small, Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups, including youth and women-owned businesses in ASEAN and India, focusing on digital economy, sustainable development, resilient supply chain, healthcare development, and food security;
- 2.1.9. Work closely to remove trade barriers, refrain from introducing unnecessary trade-restrictive measures, and simplify the procedures for importing goods in order to create the most favourable conditions for import and export activities of the two sides' business community;

2.2. Finance

- 2.2.1. Strengthen cooperation on the development of sustainable financial infrastructure and capital market to create strong and robust economic and financial fundamentals for sustainable and balanced growth;
- 2.2.2. Promote greater financial inclusion through sharing of knowledge and best practices in areas of regulation, financial technology, and digitalisation;

2.3. Energy

- 2.3.1. Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and the realisation of the ASEAN Power Grid;
- 2.3.2. Continue to utilise the ASEAN-India Green Fund and ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund to launch new projects on green economy including clean and renewable energy, regional power transmission and other areas of interest;
- 2.3.3. Continue to promote best practices and strengthen energy regulatory frameworks and technical standards, consistent with the APAEC, as well as technology transfer and capacity building programmes to realise multilateral power trade in the ASEAN Power Grid and greater integration of renewables into the grid;
- 2.3.4. Continue to pursue opportunities for capacity building and pilot demonstration of clean energy and decarbonisation technologies, such as on hydrogen and ammonia as well as carbon capture utilisation 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;
- 2.3.5. Continue to pursue cooperation on civilian nuclear energy for peaceful purposes 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 small modular reactor and the regulatory matters related to nuclear and radiation safety;
- 2.3.6. Strengthen collaboration on energy security and power grid connectivity, including grid deployment of clean, renewable, and low-carbon energy, cross-border subsea power inter-connection and decarbonisation technologies in line with the APAEC and India's renewable energy priorities such as bio-circular-green development;
- 2.3.7. Explore collaboration on bioenergy (bioethanol and biodiesel) to enhance ASEAN's evolving energy landscape, in parallel with efforts to support the achievement of APAEC;

2.4. Transport

- 2.4.1. Continue to enhance inclusive transportation infrastructure, networks and operations, including air, maritime, road and rail to improve ASEAN-India trade and tourism-related transport connectivity, including through supporting the implementation of the ASEAN-Transport Sectoral Plan 2026-2030;
- 2.4.2. Deepen cooperation on technical, economic and regulatory matters of aviation;
- 2.4.3. Strengthen maritime transport cooperation between ASEAN and India, and encourage potential private sector participation in the development of seaports, maritime logistics network and maritime services to enhance connectivity and maritime trade between ASEAN and India;
- 2.4.4. Promote the utilisation of coastal and regional trade vessels to improve accessibility to a wider network of ports, particularly those with draft and infrastructure limitations, to enhance maritime trade efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and strengthen supply chain resilience between ASEAN and India.
- 2.4.5. Continue to work towards the early completion and operationalisation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway while looking forward to its eastward extension to Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam;

2.5. Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.5.1. Support ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Action Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN including through building capacity in low-carbon farming practices, adopting digital agriculture technologies and promoting natural and bio-based control solutions for plant and animal pest and disease management;
- 2.5.2. Strengthen networking and cooperation between government authorities concerned, together with agriculture and food experts, scientists and laboratories, and agriculture and food-related academic institutions, farmers including farmers' organisations and communities, and traders of ASEAN and India;
- 2.5.3. Strengthen cooperation on food security and nutrition, through promoting trade and investment, capacity building, including through the ASEAN-India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences,

research and development, climate-resilient technologies and innovation, sustainable management, infrastructure development and sharing of information, experience and best practices in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors;

2.5.4. Encourage financing of climate-friendly technologies, in partnership with Multilateral Development Banks and development finance institutions on ASEAN-India mutually agreed terms, and adopt a climate-smart approach based on agricultural system models for sustainable agricultural production;

2.5.5. 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;

2.6. Blue Economy

2.6.1. Promote cooperation in Blue Economy in the areas of sustainable development of marine resources, marine biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, combating climate change and marine pollution, promoting green and efficient maritime transport and developing new and renewable energy including marine-based renewable energy, among others, and to support the implementation of ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy and the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;

2.6.2. Enhance responsible fishing practices and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fisheries resources and promote inland fisheries and aquaculture best practices to ensure food security, eradicate poverty and to optimise the benefit of to the people and economies in the region;

2.7 Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

2.7.1. Promote further ICT cooperation through relevant mechanisms, including capacity building and knowledge sharing, in areas such as e-commerce, Artificial Intelligence, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Internet of Things (IoT) & 5G, ICT in Disaster Management, Creating smart societies through ICT, Cyber Forensics, Next Generation Transmission Technologies,

Future Trends in Mobile Communication, Advanced Satellite Communication and Regulatory and Policy issues;

- 2.7.2. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity by increasing digital trade, fostering entrepreneurship, preparing MSMEs for digital transformation entering e-commerce, and developing a digital-ready workforce equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- 2.7.3. Strengthen cooperation in digital economy, and ICT infrastructure and the application of ICT and digital technologies through capacity building and knowledge sharing;
- 2.7.4. Further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation in the space sector including through the Tracking, Data Reception/Data Processing Station in Viet Nam and Indonesia, by encouraging cooperation between ASEAN and Indian space industry players such as SMEs and startups via industry networking events; and continue the 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;
- 2.7.5. Further utilise the ASEAN-India 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 scholarships scheme under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Nalanda University;

2.8. Tourism

- 2.8.1. Enhance consultations between ASEAN and India to promote tourism cooperation, such as in the areas of joint marketing and promotion, sharing of best practices and expertise related to human resource development, practicing sustainable and responsible tourism, tourism information exchange, crisis communications, tourism investment, joint promotion in the areas of niche markets and promotion of tourism standards;
- 2.8.2. Enhance connectivity between ASEAN and India with a focus on air, maritime and land transport by, inter alia, supporting the development of Cruise Tourism. Support the Action Roadmap for Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN by exploring joint projects aimed at promoting activities that advance sustainable tourism, cultural heritage preservation, and community-based tourism. Strengthen people-to-people ties through

enhanced capacity-building initiatives under the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027;

- 2.8.3. Enhance engagement between private sectors from ASEAN and India, through the participation in the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF), ASEAN TRAVEX in order to create more opportunities for joint promotion of integrated tourism markets and joint investment;
- 2.8.4. Strengthen ASEAN-India capacity building programmes in the tourism sector through seminars, workshops, trainings and language courses for tourism professionals;
- 2.8.5. Further strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the ASEAN tourism sector by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023-2027, the ASEAN Guidelines on Hygiene and Safety for Professionals and Communities in the Tourism Industry, and the ASEAN Safe Travel Stamp “Safe and Warm”, and the Action Roadmap on Sustainable Tourism Development in ASEAN;

2.9. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

- 2.9.1. Further strengthen cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in science and technology, inter alia through joint research and development projects, and support implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026-2035;
- 2.9.2. Further enhance cooperation on STI, including through Start-up Festival and Scale Hub, Grassroot Innovation Forum, Women Scientists Conclave, and other programmes and projects under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF), ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future (AIFDF), and any other new programmes mutually agreed to be implemented;
- 2.9.3. Strengthen the research and development capacity in Science and Technology, ASEAN-India Collaborative Research and Development (AICRD) programme and continue the annual ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF) programme; as well as strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing in the transformation of digital government, high-performance computing, quantum technologies, e-service development and technology infrastructure;

2.10. Digital Transformation

- 2.10.1. Strengthen cooperation in the areas covered under the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation;
- 2.10.2. Share knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the development, implementation, and governance of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and explore ways to leverage DPI, including through India Stack, for regional development and integration across sectors through the ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future (AIFDF);

2.11. Cybersecurity

- 2.11.1. Expand cybersecurity cooperation as cybersecurity is a key enabler of digital economy, with a view to ensuring the inter-operability, security and resilience of digital infrastructure and services;
- 2.11.2. Strengthen cooperation, capacity building, and policy coordination on cybersecurity, including but not limited to personal data protection, online safety, and support the implementation of the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy (2026-2030) by engaging relevant ASEAN mechanisms and institutions;
- 2.11.3. Continue the biennial Track 1 ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue to explore cooperation in cybersecurity, including cyber capacity-building;

2.12. Artificial Intelligence

- 2.12.1. Cooperate on emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain technology, IoT, Robotics, Quantum Computing, 6-G technology, building and strengthening of startups ecosystem with special emphasis on digital connectivity, and financial technology;
- 2.12.2. Collaborate on the development of necessary knowledge, skills, infrastructure, risk management frameworks and policies to effectively and responsibly leverage AI technologies and applications to harness the potential of AI advancements;
- 2.12.3. Collaborate for democratisation of AI resources for social good in accordance with respective national laws, rules and regulations;
- 2.12.4. Collaborate in capacity building on AI education initiatives, develop AI-focused vocational training programs, and create platforms for knowledge exchange to prepare the workforce for the future job market;

- 2.12.5. Collaborate to develop studies on governance, standards and tools to support and assess the achievement of fairness, robustness, equitable access and other mutually agreed principles of responsible AI to promote trustworthiness in artificial intelligence systems, including promotion, development and safety testing of multilingual AI models;

3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1. Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- 3.1.1. Support the work of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ASEAN's disaster management and emergency response instruments, including cooperating on ASEAN's efforts on the provision of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) through ASEAN-led mechanisms;
- 3.1.2. Encourage regular consultations between the ACDM and India to facilitate synergy among multilateral cooperation mechanisms on disaster management;
- 3.1.3. Promote stronger collaboration in disaster management through the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2026-2030 particularly collaboration in enhancing climate change adaption in disaster risk reduction, strengthening climate modelling and forecasting capacities, and strengthening risk communication and public dissemination platforms of ASEAN, while further developing an enabling framework for sustainable resilience;
- 3.1.4. Encourage full implementation of the Memorandum of Intent between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the National Disaster Management Agency of India (NDMA) in all areas of collaboration, including through sharing of knowledge and best practices, capacity building, technical assistance, and supporting the roles of the AHA Centre during large scale disaster situations;

3.2. Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 3.2.1. Promote the exchange of knowledge and experience on environmental management, climate change and biodiversity through the exchange of experts, information and best practices, joint research activities, and the provision of training courses, and provide technical and financial

assistance and capacity building for ASEAN Member States, as well as relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions and action plans, including, where applicable, through the ASEAN-India Green Fund;

- 3.2.2. Strengthen collaboration on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine environment, including its restoration of degraded and fragile ecosystems, in cooperation and coordination with existing institutions such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the ASEAN Flyway Network;
- 3.2.3. Strengthen efforts to protect, restore and sustainably manage the marine environment, as well as explore opportunities for regional cooperation to encourage resource circularity and address waste-related issues including marine debris, in line with the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States, and the ASEAN Declaration on Plastic Circularity;
- 3.2.4. Enhance collaboration to support the implementation of the Second Roadmap for ASEAN Cooperation on Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap) 2023-2030, the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2023-20230, the Chiang Rai 2017 Plan of Action, and encourage collaboration and cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC) and the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC);
- 3.2.5. Support for the effective and full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its 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;
- 3.2.6. 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 ecosystem-based

approach nature-based solutions, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to transition into low carbon development;

3.3. Public Health

- 3.3.1. Promote sharing of best practices in the field of public health, medicine, health education and disease prevention (due to epidemic-prone communicable disease) relevant to the health priorities of the ASEAN Health Sector under the clusters of promoting healthy lifestyles; responding to all hazards and emerging threats; strengthening health systems and access to care; and ensuring food safety;
- 3.3.2. Strengthen health systems by enhancing collaboration on public health including, inter alia, in the areas of research and development (R&D), public health emergency preparedness, sharing of best practices, training of healthcare professionals in new technologies and programmes, medical technology, counter-measures development and production, as well as general and traditional medicine;
- 3.3.3. Promote cooperation on strategic priorities of ASEAN Post-2025 health development agenda and work programmes of ASEAN Health Clusters, including work plans to implement ASEAN Leaders' declarations and commitments related to nutrition, mental health, healthy and active ageing, noncommunicable diseases, vaccine security and self-reliance, among others;
- 3.3.4. Promote cooperation in strengthening regional health security through the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED); the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (ARRMS) and relevant mechanisms related to disaster health management, disease surveillance, strengthening laboratory capacity, or emergency coordination and management, including through faculty exchanges, study tours, among others;

3.4. Education, Youth, Culture and People-to-People Exchange

- 3.4.1. Continue to enhance cooperation in educational exchanges, particularly in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and sharing of knowledge, focusing on women, children and youth to promote greater awareness and appreciation of ASEAN-India relations and people-to-people ties;
- 3.4.2. Strengthen the promotion of women and youth leadership and active participation in programmes or projects that contribute to human

development, digital and soft skills development, education, social protection, and addressing gender issues, promoting women's economic empowerment and inclusivity and gender-responsive policies, especially in local governance as well as in natural and human-induced disasters;

- 3.4.3. Continue to support ASEAN capacity building and digital transformation of education, including in TVET that are aligned with industry needs, through Indian scholarship programmes, short-term courses and training, the exchange of teachers, lecturers, skills trainers, instructors, researchers, joint researches, as well as university and think tank partnerships, in collaboration with ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other regional higher education networks;
- 3.4.4. To continue fellowships for ASEAN students/researchers under various programmes including scholarship programme offered by Nalanda University, ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU), ASEAN-India Collaborative Research & Development (R&D);
- 3.4.5. Continue cooperation on the promotion of the civilisational and historical links between ASEAN and India by providing platforms for knowledge exchanges among policy-makers, and the academicians concerned with tangible and intangible cultural heritage; intensify efforts to preserve, protect and restore cultural and historical symbols and structures which are of mutual interest in reflecting the ASEAN-India cultural and historical connection, including through the feasibility study of the envisaged ASEAN Cultural Heritage List (ACHL) led by the Senior Officials' Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA);
- 3.4.6. Further promote understanding of cultures and people-to-people initiatives of ASEAN and India through Leadership Programme for Young Leaders from the ASEAN countries and India, ASEAN-India Youth Summit and ASEAN-India Youth Awards, ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme, ASEAN-India Artist's Camp and Exhibition, and AINU Faculty Exchange Programme (FEP), ASEAN-India Music Festival and the Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks, as well as other initiatives under ASEAN-India Centre;
- 3.4.7. Strengthen cooperation, capacity building and exchanges, through inclusive projects initiatives and policies governing the arts, cultural heritage, and local communities, the creative and cultural industries, and cultural administration and management, as well as inter-cultural dialogue;
- 3.4.8. Promote cooperation and capacity building programmes for social workers and social service workforce, including through the ASEAN Social Work

Consortium (ASWC) and the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW);

3.5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

- 3.5.1. Foster partnerships that promote gender equality, enhance women's empowerment and strengthen social inclusion for people in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, older persons, rural women and youth, among others through but not limited to capacity-building initiatives, policy support, and inclusive economic development;
- 3.5.2. Leverage collective expertise, resources and shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive development to reduce poverty, enhance livelihood and promote transformative rural development, including but not limited to the implementation of the Regional Framework and Action Plan to Implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development, and the ASEAN Villages Network;

3.6. Civil Service

- 3.6.1. Enhance good governance and innovation in civil service management and development between ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) and India's counterpart;
- 3.6.2. Enhance human resources management and development on civil service matters through trainings, workshops, study visits, conferences and other activities, mutual learning and sharing best practices, experiences and innovation related to good governance, e-governance, productivities in the public sector, research and other areas of mutual interests among ASEAN and India;

4. CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION

4.1. ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)

- 4.1.1. Further mainstream and increase practical cooperation of concrete AOIP projects and activities through workstreams under the four priority areas of the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, economic and other possible areas of cooperation, as well as ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region, including through the relevant ASEAN-led

mechanisms and to work with other partners to promote a future-ready ASEAN and an ASEAN-centred, open, transparent, resilient, inclusive stable, prosperous, rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law;

4.2. Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Development Gap

- 4.2.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan V (2026 -2030) as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;
- 4.2.2. Continue regular dialogues through annual Consultation Meetings of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force and ASEAN Partners;
- 4.2.3. Continue to support the ASEAN Member States, particularly the CLMV Countries, in broader areas, among others, human resources development, rural household electrification programmes, information technology curriculum and IT teacher trainings, and further increase the number of fellowships and scholarships;
- 4.2.4. 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), and 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;

4.3. Connectivity

- 4.3.1. Strengthen cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, including through regular consultation and dialogue with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies;
- 4.3.2. Develop joint projects and capacity building programmes, and share best practices in the areas of sustainable infrastructure, smart and sustainable

- urban development, digital innovation, seamless logistics and supply chain, regulatory excellence and cooperation, and people-to-people connectivity under the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP);
- 4.3.3. Promote quality, sustainable and transparent infrastructure development of robust standards to achieve a seamlessly connected and integrated ASEAN and to ensure sustainable socio-economic growth and development;
- 4.3.4. Enhance connectivity between ASEAN and India in line with the “Connecting the Connectivities” and the AOIP, by exploring synergies between the ACSP and India’s connectivity initiatives in the region under India’s Act East Policy and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision to ensure seamless connectivity in the Indo-Pacific by collaborating for sustainable and resilient infrastructure and enhancing cooperation in transport in land, air, and maritime domains;

4.4. Smart Cities

- 4.4.1. Explore cooperation with the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and ASCN cities, including through city-to-city partnerships facilitated by the Smart City Mission of India by fostering exchanges of best practices, capacity-building, and collaboration between city authorities, academic institutions, private investors and businesses to help build cities that are resilient, innovative, well-connected, and technologically advanced;

4.5. Sustainable Development Cooperation

- 4.5.1. Strengthen dialogue and research and cooperation on sustainable development as an area of cooperation under the AOIP and in support of 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;
- 4.5.2. Support and strengthen ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including but not limited to the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) in Thailand and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE) in Myanmar;

4.6. Support to Timor-Leste

- 4.6.1. Continue to support Timor Leste in its fulfilment of the objective and criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN;

4.7. Building Capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat

- 4.7.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to implement measures aimed to build capacity in the ASEAN Secretariat;
- 4.7.2. Contribute towards ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its institutions by supporting various initiatives, including through the ASEAN-India Fund;

5. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND MONITORING

- 5.1.1. This Plan of Action may be implemented under appropriate funding support through the governments of ASEAN Member States and India, including the ASEAN-India Fund, the ASEAN-India Green Fund, ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund, and ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future;
- 5.1.2. Regularly review the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations; and
- 5.1.3. Submit progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Session with India.
