

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

This Plan of Action (POA) builds upon the significant achievements made in the relations between ASEAN and Canada and the successful implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership (2021-2025), the establishment of Strategic Partnership in 2023 and the joint statements adopted by the Leaders of ASEAN and Canada during the past five years. It will serve as a guiding document to further strengthen ASEAN-Canada cooperation in areas of mutual interest, bringing tangible 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, including the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045: Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic and People-Centred ASEAN and its Strategic Plans, and the strengthening of the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership and cooperation. This POA also affirms Canada's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora.

This POA calls for strengthening existing ASEAN-Canada cooperation through coordination, monitoring, and review processes, as appropriate, to continue to ensure the effective and timely implementation of its action lines.

ASEAN and Canada hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in the following priority areas through the corresponding activities, in accordance with their obligations under international law and consistent with ASEAN Member States' and Canada's domestic laws, regulations and policies, on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity for ASEAN and Canada.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1. Cooperation on Political, Regional Peace and Stability

- 1.1.1. Continue to engage through existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation between ASEAN and Canada, including convening regular ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with Canada (PMC+1), the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue, as well as the ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting;
- 1.1.2. Continue to promote shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the friendly conduct of relations among states and reaffirming ASEAN Centrality including deepening dialogue and cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), in accordance with the objectives and principles laid out in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear

Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP);

- 1.1.3. Continue high-level engagements and encourage constructive dialogue and cooperation activities;
- 1.1.4. Promote collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations (UN);
- 1.1.5. Continue existing cooperation with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR);
- 1.1.6. 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) to address both traditional and emerging challenges;
- 1.1.7. Encourage inter-Parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, including engagement with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA);
- 1.1.8. Promote the purpose and principles of the TAC as well as the importance of all High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to fulfil, in good faith, their obligations assumed 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 activities such as the Conference of the HCPs to the TAC;

1.2. Security Cooperation

- 1.2.1. Further increase engagement and constructive dialogue through the existing ASEAN-led regional mechanisms to promote peace and security in the region including through the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) Observership Programme;
- 1.2.2. Continue to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the ARF including cooperation in ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) and defence official dialogues, as well as support ASEAN's central role in the ARF, including by strengthening confidence building measures as well as promoting preventive diplomacy activities and conflict resolution initiatives, such as through capacity building and sharing of experience;
- 1.2.3. Further promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of landmines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region through exploring cooperation with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC);

1.3. Nuclear Security, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

- 1.3.1. Encourage further constructive dialogue and cooperation activities on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in line with relevant international conventions and treaties under the UN framework to which ASEAN Member States and Canada are parties;
- 1.3.2. Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and consistent with the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty);
- 1.3.3. Strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, advance nuclear disarmament as stipulated in Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and explore opportunities to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy as set forth in NPT Article IV and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocol, including through capacity building and sharing of best practices;

1.4. Transnational Crime

- 1.4.1. Enhance cooperation in preventing and combatting transnational crime types as defined by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime Areas of Cooperation, including those endorsed under the SOMTC + Canada Work Plan, by leveraging existing regional and international institutions and agreements;
- 1.4.2. Continue to hold regular ASEAN Plus Canada Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + Canada) Consultation and support the development and effective implementation of practical initiatives under the SOMTC + Canada work plan on cooperation to combat transnational crime, to further strengthen cooperation in combatting transnational crime including online scam operations and scam centres;
- 1.4.3. Support ASEAN's effort in promoting cooperation on border management while keeping abreast of current and emerging challenges of transnational crime in the region that may affect ease of movement of people and goods in the region. Such effort would be carried out in accordance with respective domestic laws and human rights principles, as well as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the ASEAN Member States;
- 1.4.4. Continue to enhance cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (TIP), including through support for the implementation of the ASEAN

Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combatting Trafficking in Persons Caused by the Abuse of Technology, and ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan against TIP 2023-2028 (Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0) and future cross-sectoral work to combat TIP;

- 1.4.5. Continue to enhance cooperation against terrorism including through the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, 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, and deepen cooperation to implement the ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2024-2026 and its successor documents, as well as the 2019 ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism;
- 1.4.6. Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in combatting transnational crime;
- 1.4.7. Support studies by think-tanks, universities and other relevant academic institutions to identify new and transboundary challenges arising from non-traditional security issues;
- 1.4.8. Continue to enhance cooperation on combatting illicit drug, precursor chemical and synthetic drug trafficking, and other drug crimes, including through the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs and its successor document;

1.5. Maritime Cooperation

- 1.5.1. 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 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 1.5.2. Explore the possibility to cooperate in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), and support ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of

Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea and oil spill preparedness, including through technical cooperation, training exercises and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and Canadian officials;

- 1.5.3. Promote maritime cooperation through appropriate ASEAN mechanisms, such as the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security, where Canada was admitted as an observer for the 2024-2027 cycle, and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity building, exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and expertise, including but not limited to enhancing maritime domain awareness and information;
- 1.5.4. Enhance cooperation on research and development regarding sustainable ocean management and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in accordance with international law including the 1982 UNCLOS, and addressing unprecedented biodiversity loss by protecting vulnerable/sensitive/important ecosystems and advancing sustainable fisheries management, including by reducing the use of plastic fish aggregating devices, through technical assistance and support related to these issues. Also support cooperation with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and explore cooperation to promote responsible fishing practices and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including through initiatives such as the ASEAN Network for Combatting IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) and Canada's Shared Ocean Fund;

1.6. Good Governance and Human Rights

- 1.6.1. Promote collaboration in protecting (ASEAN) human rights in ASEAN by supporting the implementation of key regional and international instruments, including the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in accordance with national laws. Foster cooperation and dialogue between relevant ASEAN bodies—such as AICHR, ACWC, ACW, and ACMW—and Canada, including through information sharing, consultations, and continued support for initiatives like the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour;
- 1.6.2. Support the promotion of good and effective governance principles and innovation in public service management among governments, private sector and other stakeholders;
- 1.6.3. Promote cooperation in combatting corruption, including through the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

- 1.6.4. Exchange best practices in promoting democracy and democratic institutions, including lessons learned from mechanisms such as the Bali Democracy Forum;
- 1.6.5. Promote cooperation with ASEAN in strengthening the rule of law and good governance, including through capacity building, support for research, and sharing of experiences and best practices in mutually agreed areas;

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1. Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1. Strengthen economic ties by encouraging trade, investment and innovation partnership in key sectors and supporting capacity building and technical assistance aligned with ASEAN priorities, particularly in the areas of digital transformation, sustainability, agriculture, and food security, climate action, and inclusive sustainable economic growth, including women's economic empowerment, a stronger and more resilient ASEAN Economic Community for both ASEAN and Canada, as well as promoting both private sector and state-owned enterprise engagement;
- 2.1.2. Pursue the effective implementation of the Work plan to implement the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) , its successor document, and a commercially meaningful ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement (ACAFTA) following the conclusion of the negotiations;
- 2.1.3. Continue regular dialogues and engagement between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Canada's Minister of International Trade and their Senior Officials to explore ways and means to further deepen the tradeand investment linkages, as well as private sector and industry engagement;
- 2.1.4. Maintain ASEAN-Canada business engagement through activities conducted by the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council to explore mutual investment, commercial opportunities and collaboration to increase two-way trade and investment, and boost investors' confidence in Canada and ASEAN;
- 2.1.5. Strengthen ASEAN's economic resilience and competitiveness and increase ASEAN Member States' ability to benefit fully from international trade and investment with Canada, by leveraging the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action (ACPOA) Trust Fund and other

initiatives;

2.2. Regional Economic Integration

- 2.2.1. Enhance cooperation to strengthen and work towards necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which is at the core of the non- discriminatory, free, fair, open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system that underpins regional and global prosperity;
- 2.2.2. Continue to support the ASEAN economic integration and capacity building initiatives including but not limited to the sectors of customs, digital trade, digital integration, supply chain resilience, support to MSMEs, as well as start-ups, and further technical capacity building, in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, and other guiding documents, on the basis of equal benefit and opportunity for all;
- 2.2.3. Collaborate, where appropriate, with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) and other relevant Business Councils, and Think Tanks to orient their policies and research activities towards the priorities and concerns of ASEAN and Canada;
- 2.2.4. Support ASEAN's ongoing efforts on regulatory improvement through dialogue and sharing of best practices;

2.3. Finance

- 2.3.1. Support regional financial development and integration through initiatives that promote greater financial stability and deepen the understanding of capital market development in ASEAN Member States, including strengthening the capacity of financial regulators in relevant areas;

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

- 2.4.1. Promote fair competition through effective enforcement of competition laws and regulations, alongside capacity building initiatives between ASEAN and Canada, as well as other relevant international initiatives where appropriate. Endeavour to strengthen consumer protection against misleading and deceptive business practices, empowering consumers and facilitating cross-border transactions;

- 2.4.2. Promote an effective IP ecosystem that will promote mutually beneficial trade and investment and provide an appropriate balance between IP rights holders and the legitimate interest of users in AMS and Canada, through enhanced enforcement system and continued cooperation to support the utilization and protection of Intellectual Property rights. And to promote innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technology to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technology knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations in AMS and Canada;
- 2.4.3. Support the successful implementation of strategic measures under the ASEAN Action Plans on Competition, Consumer Protection 2025 and ASEAN IPR Action Plan and their successor documents to cultivate an environment conducive to regional economic integration, driving mutual innovation, competitiveness, prosperity and sustainable growth for ASEAN and Canada;

2.5. Energy

- 2.5.1. Enhance the cooperation on energy security through regional power integration and interconnectivity, and the development of renewable and alternative energy sources as well as promotion of clean energy technologies and energy efficiency and conservation practices in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), while encouraging engagement with relevant stakeholders such as private sectors, including by building on the connections forged through the Team Canada Trade Missions in ASEAN member states;
- 2.5.2. Advance the application of carbon management technologies, such as carbon capture utilisation (CCU), carbon capture and storage (CCS), and carbon dioxide removal (CDR), as a part of the portfolio of technologies needed for decarbonising industry, resources sector and reducing environmental and climate change impacts;
- 2.5.3. Promote best practices on energy regulation and technical standards, by exploring ways to support the implementation of the APAEC 2016-2025 Phase II: 2021-2025 and its successor document, through technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and capacity building support for the programme area to realise the ASEAN Power Grid vision;
- 2.5.4. Strengthen cooperation on new, secure and diversified clean energy supply chains and promote clean energy technologies to support the global energy transition including through Canadian cleantech demonstration projects and by developing our workforces' skills and

capabilities through technical studies and capacity-building programmes;

- 2.5.5. Explore cooperation in oil and gas production, exchange information, best practices, experience and technology on the development of conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources, as well as promote LNG trade and explore cooperation on Oil and Gas Connectivity for greater energy security and sustainability;
- 2.5.6. Explore cooperation on knowledge exchange in ASEAN for civilian nuclear energy utilisation including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), in line with the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation;

2.6. Minerals

- 2.6.1. Support the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals Development Vision (AMDV) and the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP), including but not limited to sustainable minerals development; capacity building for mineral governance; knowledge exchange, experience sharing and best practices in mining operations;
- 2.6.2. Enhance cooperation between ASEAN and Canada to encourage investment promotion in the exploration, extraction and processing of minerals, including but not limited to dialogues, conferences and business matching that will promote both Canada and ASEAN as attractive destinations for sustainable minerals development;

2.7. Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.7.1. Explore collaboration with ASEAN in their implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture through the Action Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN, which includes, among other initiatives, promoting use of climate-resilient farming practices that enhance adaptive capacity and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, leveraging cutting-edge technology, and fostering public-private partnerships that enhance the ecosystem and resilience of the sector in a sustainable and comprehensive manner;
- 2.7.2. Collaborate to strengthen food security, resilience and nutrition in response to crises and enhancing cooperation to ensure long-term resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems, while recognising the diversity of agricultural production practices and environmental conditions as reaffirmed in the ASEAN-Canada Joint Leaders' Statement on Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises;
- 2.7.3. Strengthen ASEAN-Canada cooperation on food security to promote trade, investment and innovation and refrain from imposing restrictive measures that are inconsistent with the WTO Agreement, to prevent

disruption to food trade;

- 2.7.4. Advance technical cooperation by sharing best practices and capacity building in research and development on agricultural product, digital agriculture and agri-food innovation as well as support infrastructure development in the agricultural sector to support long-term, reliable trade relationships and a stronger supply chain;
- 2.7.5. Promote and strengthen the role of rural communities in food security systems by encouraging enhanced access to resources, markets, and technology, to ensure stable food production and long-term resilience;
- 2.7.6. Continue to encourage collaboration between ASEAN and Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-food Office to strengthen cooperation on food security and promote mutual trade objectives in the agriculture sector;

2.8. Blue Economy

- 2.8.1. Explore collaboration to support the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy and the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework;

2.9. Transport

- 2.9.1. Explore further transport cooperation in areas such as maritime, road, and rail transport infrastructure networks that are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities, including inland waterways and civil aviation through capacity building and exchange of best practices;
- 2.9.2. Explore cooperation, including through relevant strategic actions, programmes or activities to support the implementation of the ASEAN Transport Sectoral Plan 2026-2030;

2.10. Information Communications Technology (ICT), Digital Integration and E-Commerce

- 2.10.1. Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICT, including through engagement between ASEAN and Canada at the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials Meeting (ADGSOM) and through the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), with support for the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 and its successor document;
- 2.10.2. Enhance cooperation in key sectors such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Cybersecurity, digital trade, 5G, Internet of Things (IoT) and other emerging technologies, aiming to connect ASEAN and Canadian companies, including MSMEs and the ASEAN's digital transformation agenda, including the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap for mutual benefits;

- 2.10.3. Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity through increasing digital trade, e-commerce, and entrepreneurship, preparing MSMEs for digital transformation and developing a digital-ready workforce equipped for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;
- 2.10.4. Enhance cooperation on digital integration, including e-commerce, with support for the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce, the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan, and the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement;

2.11. Science, Technology and Innovation

- 2.11.1. Support partnerships in Science, Technology and Innovation by striving to increase research and development collaborations, and encourage new initiatives among research institutes, higher education institutes and enterprises to promote science, education technology, technology and innovation development in the region through capacity-building, technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and sharing of best practices on advanced and relevant technology and commercialization to support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science Technology and Innovation (APASTI 2026-2035);
- 2.11.2. Exchange on potential opportunities for innovative business-oriented partnerships between Canadian and ASEAN MSMEs;

2.12. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

- 2.12.1. Promote ASEAN-Canada economic cooperation that facilitates greater integration of MSMEs into global value chains, enhances MSMEs' access to both ASEAN and Canadian markets, and encourages private sector participation in trade and investment;

3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1. Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

- 3.1.1. Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ASEAN's disaster management and emergency response instruments;
- 3.1.2. Continue cooperation on the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030, as well as ASEAN's efforts on the provision of humanitarian assistance through ASEAN-led mechanisms;
- 3.1.3. Jointly develop and implement various cooperative projects in disaster management, such as the PRIME and BRACE initiatives with the AHA

Centre, to strengthen protection, resilience, and inclusion for multi-hazard emergencies. This includes building regional resilience through climate-adaptive anticipatory action and supporting civil society to enhance preparedness and response capacities including by exploring opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Sustainable Resilience;

- 3.1.4. Continue to collaborate for the enhancement of ASEAN's capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters, including through strengthening capabilities of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), as the operational engine of AADMER and coordinator for the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in The Region and Outside the Region to promote effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) in the region and beyond; continue to collaborate on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief through Canada's observership on the ADMM-Plus HADR Experts' Working Group from 2024–2027;

3.2. Environment

- 3.2.1. Enhance cooperation by establishing networks that include public-private partnership for exchanging experience, sharing best practices, research, and innovative solutions in areas such as environmental protection, water resource management, and waste management, through training programmes, capacity building and adoption of clean technologies;
- 3.2.2. Promote cooperation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine environment, including its restoration of degraded and fragile ecosystems, as well as capacity building for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through cooperation and coordination with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and implementation of the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030;
- 3.2.3. Continue to promote nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and sustainable management of forests, water, coastal, and marine environment and resources via regular capacity building for ASEAN Member States through seminars, workshops, joint training courses, joint research, exchange of expertise and best practices, transfer of technology on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and sharing knowledge, including through cooperation on promoting the interlinkages of ocean and climate nexus to strengthen climate action

in ASEAN Member States;

- 3.2.4. Strengthen implementation of the integrated water resources management programmes through, public participation and awareness raising, partnership and cooperation, knowledge exchange and best practices, and capacity building to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of water resources management, including support for the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Water Resource Management and ASEAN Working Group on Water Resource Management, and encouraging engagement with the Mekong River Commission;
- 3.2.5. Explore opportunities for cooperation to combat marine pollution and contribute to the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combatting Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combatting Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States (2021-2025) and its successor plan, as well as the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Blue Economy;
- 3.2.6. Explore cooperation, including in innovation, technology, and knowledge sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, to anticipate and mitigate the effects of climate change such as more frequent drought and other extreme weather events including wildfires. Also explore collaboration to mitigate transboundary haze pollution arising from land and forest fires by implementing the ASEAN Haze-Free Roadmap 2023-2030, the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2023-2030, the ASEAN Investment Framework for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management, (ASEAN) and cooperation with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACCTHPC), and the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC);

3.3. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- 3.3.1. Enable long-term cooperation between ASEAN and Canada on climate change, for global and regional harmonisation of climate actions, including through collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC), in the focus areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate finance and technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms;
- 3.3.2. Advance regional cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including implementing of the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, engaging the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC), the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), empowering communities and strengthening

ecosystems to be adaptive and resilient, identifying nature-based solutions, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to transition into low carbon development;

- 3.3.3. Strengthen collaboration for the effective and full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, the decisions negotiated upon in previous Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, and the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), noting that the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, and in the context of relevant goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3.4. Health Security and Public Health Emergencies

- 3.4.1. Deepen collaboration to strengthen health security in the region through the Mitigation of Biological Threats Programme and other related initiatives, to prevent, detect and respond to all manner of biological threats, whether natural, accidental or deliberate in origin in the ASEAN region, through strengthening biosafety and biosecurity, disease surveillance, laboratory capacities and networks, public health emergency prevention, preparedness and response, and health security interface at national and regional levels, and bolster health security capabilities by building on existing support to the ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Network, and the ASEAN Biological Threats Surveillance Centre (ABVC), and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED) as well as operationalization of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity;
- 3.4.2. Strengthen coordination and collaboration across sectors responsible for public health, animal health, wildlife management, plant health, environmental protection and food safety in addressing zoonotic disease threats (natural, accidental or deliberate in origin), antimicrobial resistance, food hazards and health-related impacts or challenges of climate change. This includes advancing biosafety and biosecurity through ASEAN-led mechanisms, among others the ASEAN Network on Biosafety and Biosecurity, the ASEAN One Health Network and the ASEAN One Health Joint Plan of Action 2023-2030. ASEAN and Canada will continue to promote integrated, multisectoral approaches aligned with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and Canada's strategic objectives in Southeast Asia, building on shared commitments to health resilience;

- 3.4.3. Enhance collaboration and promote multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation, share information and updates on strategic health priorities and health issues identified by ASEAN and Canada, particularly those related to promoting healthy lifestyles including mental health, physical activity and nutrition and reducing health risk factors. Support responses to all hazards and emerging threats by strengthening health systems and inclusive access to health care and improving food safety and nutrition as reflected in the post-2025 health development agenda and other health initiatives. These efforts aim to strengthen regional prevention, preparedness, detection and response capabilities for emergencies and disasters; address emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases; tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases, and reduce the double burden of malnutrition including through joint research and development;

3.5. Education

- 3.5.1. Continue to enhance ASEAN's capacity through the provision of scholarship programmes, professional exchanges of academics, scientists, and researchers, joint research, and Technical and Vocational Education and Skills Training (TVET) partnerships, particularly in science and technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, in collaboration with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other educational institutions;
- 3.5.2. Strengthen engagement between ASEAN's and Canada's education institutions, education personnel, educators, teachers and students, including through the Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development-2 (SEED-2) programme in as well as other scholarships in primary, secondary, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and awards programmes;
- 3.5.3. Enhance inclusiveness and quality of early childhood care and education (ECCE), primary, secondary, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and higher education through sharing of best practices, and capacity building with regard to education curricula and syllabuses, teaching pedagogies, and resource development;
- 3.5.4. Enhance cooperation on digital transformation in education, including to improve access to safe digital learning opportunities, foster digital, media, and information literacy, and develop transferable skills among all ASEAN Member States; as well as to address challenges from the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and enhance the digital readiness of education systems and institutions;

3.6. People-to-People Links, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture

- 3.6.1. Explore opportunities to support education, sports, skills and development, arts, youth, emerging leaders, media and volunteering and other community building activities, capacity building, scholarship, cultural exchange, entrepreneurship and leadership, and possible internship and other related exchange programmes between ASEAN and Canada, including through but not limited to the SEED programme and other scholarships and awards programmes, to enrich social, business, cultural and creative industries linkages, and strengthen people-to-people ties between ASEAN and Canada;

3.7. Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender

- 3.7.1. Collaborate across the breadth of ASEAN's pillars, to promote and protect the rights of women and children, achieve gender equality, remove barriers to women's full, meaningful, and equal participation and leadership in political, economic, and public life, promote the care economy, and eliminate all forms of gender based violence including through support for AICHR, ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), as well as the mainstreaming of gender across ASEAN-Canada cooperation, including through the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (AGMSC). Support the elimination of child labour especially its worst forms, and forced labour;
- 3.7.2. Enhance cooperation on women's economic empowerment, including in, but not limited to, entrepreneurship, digital economy and e-commerce, financial inclusion, international trade and the energy sector – promoting gender equality through the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN) in line with the implementation of the Declaration on Building a more Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Future: Unlocking Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN;
- 3.7.3. Support programmes and projects for persons and groups in vulnerable situations, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, older people, youth, women, children, undernourished, victims of disasters, victims of violence against women and girls, rural communities, and migrant workers;

4. CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION

4.1. ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

- 4.1.1. Further promote and mainstream the implementation of concrete AOIP projects and activities, including through workstreams under the four priority areas of the AOIP, undertaking AOIP-related initiatives in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in the AOIP such as the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum to Implement the AOIP and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific Seminars, as well as explore further cooperation through the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms, centres and institutions on topics that reflect the complementarity of the AOIP and Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy;
- 4.1.2. Work with other partners to promote an ASEAN-centred, open, transparent, resilient, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law and to enhance engagement in the wider Indo-Pacific region;

4.2. Connectivity

- 4.2.1. Strengthen cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda, including through regular consultations and dialogue with the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, as well as through outreach activities in relevant fora and mechanisms in support of the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP) and the AOIP;
- 4.2.2. Provide technical and consider financial support for the implementation of the ACSP and AOIP, such as in the areas of sustainable infrastructure, smart and sustainable urban development, digital innovation, seamless and resilient logistics and supply chains, regulatory excellence and cooperation, and people-to-people connectivity;
- 4.2.3. Encourage robust public and private sector investments in climate-resilient infrastructure projects in ASEAN, including through regional project preparation facilities and providing targeted technical assistance and capacity building in sustainable infrastructure, in line with the objectives of the ACSP as well as Connectivity as one of the areas of cooperation of the AOIP;

4.3. Cybersecurity

- 4.3.1. Promote an open, secure, resilient, stable, accessible, interoperable and peaceful ICT environment;
- 4.3.2. Promote a rules-based cyberspace based on international law,

cooperative capacity building, practical confidence building measures, and voluntary and non-binding norms of responsible behaviour in cyberspace based on the recommendations in the 2015 Report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE);

- 4.3.3. Cooperate via multilateral structures (regional and global) on national CERT-to-CERT cyber response, efforts and cyber information exchanges especially where cyber incidents have direct impact on ASEAN and Canada, including by leveraging on the ARF Points of Contact Directory on Security of and In the Use of ICTs, the ASEAN Regional CERT and its Information Sharing Mechanism and established contacts in the CERT community;
- 4.3.4. Deepen cooperation in cybersecurity and strengthen the regional cybersecurity posture by collaborating on cyber capacity-building programmes, such as through the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (ASCCE), the ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE), and the BlackBerry Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, to support ASEAN in its critical transition towards the digital economy;

4.4. Smart Cities

- 4.4.1. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building communities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected, and explore collaboration with the ASCN and ASCN cities;
- 4.4.2. Explore further cooperation on smart, sustainable and resilient urban development, in line with the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy;

4.5. Sustainable Development Cooperation

- 4.5.1. Strengthen dialogue and research, and cooperation on sustainable development as an area of cooperation under the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and in support of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including through exchange of best practices;
- 4.5.2. Engage with ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including but not limited to the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy;

4.6. Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing Development Gap

- 4.6.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, including through the implementation of IAI Work Plan V (2026-2030) as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development and gender equality, in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;
- 4.6.2. Further enhance cooperation in support of sub-regional frameworks in the ASEAN region, which would contribute to narrowing the development gap and promoting sustainable and equitable development and inclusive growth across the ASEAN Community by aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN;
- 4.6.3. Continue to support ASEAN Member States, particularly the IAI-eligible countries in alignment with the implementation of the IAI Work Plan through areas such as health, education, and human resource development by supporting scholarships, vocational education, and training programmes;

4.7. Building Capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat

- 4.7.1. Support ASEAN's efforts to build capacity in the ASEAN Secretariat;

4.8. Support for Timor Leste's Post-Accession to ASEAN

- 4.8.1. Continue to support Timor-Leste in its continued implementation of the remaining requirements under the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN in line with the Declaration on the Admission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste into ASEAN;

5. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND MONITORING

- 5.1.1. As appropriate, initiatives under this Plan of Action may be implemented with the appropriate funding from the governments of Canada and ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action Trust Fund;
- 5.1.2. Review of this Plan of Action will be made through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, including the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue;
- 5.1.3. Submit progress reports of the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN PMC+1 with Canada.