

**Plan of Action  
to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership  
(2016-2020)**

This Plan of Action implements the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-Canada Enhanced Partnership, adopted by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and Canada at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with Canada on 22 July 2009 in Phuket, Thailand. It will continue to pursue the goals set forth in the Joint Declaration for the second five-year period (2016-2020), building upon the encouraging achievements made in the implementation of the previous Plan of Action (2010-2015).

This Plan of Action lays out priorities and measures to be undertaken by both sides to further deepen and enhance their political-security, economic and socio-cultural ties as well as to realise the full potential of the ASEAN-Canada partnership in all areas of common interests. Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, ASEAN and Canada will also work towards supporting the ASEAN Community building and integration process, including the ASEAN Community's post-2015 Vision, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN, and narrowing the development gap. Both sides will also further promote cooperation in addressing common and emerging challenges and enhance coordination in other international fora on issues of common concern to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of their respective regions.

**1. Political and Security Cooperation**

**1.1. Political Cooperation**

- 1.1.1. Enhance cooperation to support ASEAN's efforts in peace and reconciliation in the region through relevant mechanisms, including the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR);
- 1.1.2. Further promote shared values and norms, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) to contribute to maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.3. Strengthen existing mechanisms under the framework of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations, including through the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with Canada, the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue, as well as the ASEAN-Canada Joint Coordination Committee;
- 1.1.4. Increase the engagement between Canada's dedicated Ambassador and the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR);

- 1.1.5. Promote collaboration and coordination in other multilateral frameworks and fora, including the United Nations, on issues of common interest and concern, and support the implementation of the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) Plan of Action (2013-2017);

## **1.2. Security Cooperation**

- 1.2.1. Increase engagement and encourage further constructive dialogue and cooperation activities through the existing ASEAN-led regional mechanisms to promote peace and security in the region;
- 1.2.2. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or the threat to use force, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant standards and recommended practices by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO);
- 1.2.3. Strengthen cooperation within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) including cooperation in ARF Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) on Disaster Relief and the biannual ARF DiREX, and ISMs on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Maritime Security, and Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and support ASEAN's central role in the ARF;
- 1.2.4. Support the effective implementation of the ARF Work Plan on Preventive Diplomacy with a view to establishing appropriate preventive diplomacy measures for the ARF;
- 1.2.5. Support the implementation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as an effective instrument in promoting and strengthening nuclear non-proliferation and note the ongoing efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the nuclear weapon States to resolve outstanding issues, pertaining to the signing and ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty;
- 1.2.6. Further explore cooperation in strengthening nuclear security, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards through capacity building and sharing of experience and best practices;
- 1.2.7. 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 Centre (ARMAC);
- 1.2.8. 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 United Nations framework to which ASEAN Member States and Canada are parties;

### **1.3. Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights**

- 1.3.1. Support ASEAN's efforts in enhancing human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN through regional dialogue, education and awareness raising activities, continuing support for workshops, seminars or conferences, capacity-building initiatives as well as exchanges of best practices and information among ASEAN Member States and relevant stakeholders. This includes support for the promotion, dissemination and implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the adoption of the AHRD, relevant ASEAN Declarations and instruments, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international instruments pertaining to human rights to which all ASEAN Member States are parties, and engagement on human rights issues of mutual interest;
- 1.3.2. Support the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), in accordance with their respective mandates and work plans;
- 1.3.3. Support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including through capacity building, support for research, and sharing of experiences and best practices in mutually agreed areas;
- 1.3.4. Explore cooperation against corruption and promote the universalisation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

### **1.4. Promotion of Moderation**

- 1.4.1 Support the implementation of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates to promote peace, security, upholding rule of law, sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony;
- 1.4.2 Encourage cooperation on interfaith and intercultural dialogues and further contribute internationally and regionally to the promotion of tolerance and understanding through initiatives, including the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and promote moderation and uphold human dignity as core values in countering extremism and acts of violence in all aspects;

### **1.5. Transnational Crime and Counter-Terrorism**

- 1.5.1 Enhance cooperation in preventing and combating transnational crimes such as illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, money laundering, arms smuggling, sea piracy, terrorism including foreign terrorist

fighters, international economic crime, cybercrime and financing of terrorism, by utilising existing regional and international institutions and agreements;

- 1.5.2 Continue to hold regular Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) + Canada Consultations to further strengthen cooperation in combatting transnational crime;
- 1.5.3 Ensure the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and deepen cooperation to implement the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime and its successor documents;
- 1.5.4 Promote training programmes to enhance investigation and interrogation techniques along with the examination and analysis of the evidence relating to Transnational Crime and Counter-Terrorism;

## **2. Economic Cooperation**

### **2.1 Trade and Investment**

- 2.1.1 Pursue the effective implementation of the ASEAN-Canada Joint Declaration on Trade and Investment (JDTI) and its 2016-2020 work plan with a view to enhancing trade and investment ties by promoting and facilitating greater involvement of the private sector, particularly in the area of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and sharing best business practices for inclusive and sustainable development;
- 2.1.2 Continue regular dialogues and engagement between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and Canada's Minister of International Trade and their Senior Officials to explore ways to further deepen the trade and investment linkages;
- 2.1.3 Continue to support ASEAN's economic integration agenda, including through the provision of training and working in partnership with other development agencies in ASEAN;
- 2.1.4 Explore cooperation in the field of intellectual property, including the provision of support for ASEAN to implement the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Action Plan (2016-2025);
- 2.1.5 Support ASEAN initiatives towards attaining inclusive and sustainable growth pursuant to the ASEAN Framework for Equitable Economic Development;
- 2.1.6 Enhance coordination in areas of mutual interest at regional and multilateral fora such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);

- 2.1.7 Strengthen coordination and cooperation on G-20 related matters, including support for the continued participation of the ASEAN Chair in future G-20 Summits, and, where appropriate, its related Meetings;
- 2.1.8 Provide assistance and capacity building for less developed countries to effectively integrate into regional and global trading system;
- 2.1.9 Support the regional economic integration process to enhance prosperity, economic stability and resilience of the region;

## **2.2 Finance**

- 2.2.1 Strengthen cooperation on financial infrastructure development and capital market development with a view to promoting sustainable growth;
- 2.2.2 Support regional financial development and integration through initiatives that promote greater financial stability and strengthen the capacity of financial regulators;
- 2.2.3 Encourage increased access to financing and other available funding support mechanisms for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including the development of innovative financing mechanisms and new investment opportunities to increase SME growth, stimulate trade, and create employment towards achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

## **2.3 Energy**

- 2.3.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016 – 2020 under the theme “Enhancing Energy Connectivity and Market Integration in ASEAN to Achieve Energy Security, Accessibility, Affordability and Sustainability for All”, which was endorsed by the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Vientiane, Lao PDR;
- 2.3.2 Explore cooperation to pursue energy security through research, development, production, technology transfer and use of renewable and alternative energy sources, as well as promote the development of cleaner energy technologies and energy efficient technologies;
- 2.3.3 Explore cooperation in oil and gas production, exchange information, experience and technology on the development of conventional and unconventional oil and gas resources, as well as promote LNG trade and support the implementation of the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) project for greater energy security and sustainability;

## **2.4 Transport**

- 2.4.1 Continue to support the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Transport Plan 2011-2015 and its successor documents for the post-2015 period;

- 2.4.2 Support and explore means to improve ASEAN-Canada transport connectivity, including air and maritime connectivity;

## **2.5 Food, Agriculture and Forestry**

- 2.5.1 Facilitate dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation between ASEAN Member States and Canada that enhances agricultural trade to encourage interactions relating to food and nutrition and agricultural innovation while acknowledging regulations based on relevant scientific evidence and international standards in order to promote global food security and regional economic development;
- 2.5.2 Support and enhance cooperation in implementing the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework, the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS) 2015-2020, and the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the High Level Taskforce on World Security Crisis, in accordance with the ASEAN Statement on Food Security in the ASEAN Region;
- 2.5.3 Explore the possibility for cooperation with the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF), Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF), and other related Working Groups;
- 2.5.4 Strengthen cooperation on food security and nutrition, in particular to promote trade and investment, capacity building, sharing of experience and best practices, research and development, agricultural products and agro-food innovation as well as infrastructure development in the agricultural sector;
- 2.5.5 Explore the possibility to support the implementation of the “ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC)”;
- 2.5.6 Collaborate through the exchange of knowledge and experience as well as technology transfer including capacity building and vocational training courses on sustainable agriculture and forest management practices, including but not limited to, economic diversification, climate change, and governance;
- 2.5.7 Enhance cooperation on research and development on food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including technical assistance and support related to these activities, as well as explore possible cooperation to promote responsible fishing practices and to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;
- 2.5.8 Explore the exchange of knowledge and experience in Integrated Pest Management (IPM);

## **2.6 Tourism**

- 2.6.1 Explore the possibility of joint tourism cooperation for the benefit of ASEAN and Canadian tourism sectors;
- 2.6.2 Encourage private sector participation in the annual ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF);

## **2.7 Information Communication Technology (ICT)**

- 2.7.1 Promote cooperation and information sharing on ICT, including broadband and mobile telephone connectivity and e-commerce, with support for the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015 and its successor documents;

## **2.8 Industrial Cooperation**

- 2.8.1 Enhance cooperation in information exchanges relating to industrial cooperation such as laws and regulations, natural resources management policy, infrastructure and industrial development policy, regional value chain promotion, industrial skilled workers development, supporting to access financial sources, and technology transfer among ASEAN-Canada member countries;
- 2.8.2 Jointly conduct research to identify the potential areas and modalities on industrial cooperation to be applied in order to accommodate industrial economic integration of the two regions;
- 2.8.3 Explore cooperation to strengthen transparency in the extractive sector, in particular capacity building and sharing of best practices and experiences;

## **2.9 Science, Technology, and Innovation**

- 2.9.1 Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2015-2020 and encourage cooperation in science technology and innovation (STI), through capacity building, talent mobility, joint research and development, technology transfer, commercialisation and entrepreneurship, networking of Centres of Excellence and policy dialogues in mutually agreed STI areas including the initiatives under the Grand Challenges Canada;
- 2.9.2 Encourage collaboration and cooperation among research centres as well as exchange of experts and mobility of scientists and researchers in conducting joint research programmes, including, where possible, through the support of Grand Challenges Canada;
- 2.9.3 Support the application of science, technology, and innovation for green growth and sustainable development, including through the implementation of collaborative projects to support green growth;

- 2.9.4 Support science, technology and innovation capacity building programmes through the provision of Canadian scholarships, expertise exchange programmes and specialised training programmes;

### **3. Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

#### **3.1. Disaster Management and Emergency Response**

- 3.1.1. Realise ASEAN's vision for disaster-resilient nations and safer communities in the region by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme Phase 2 (2013-2015) and its successor documents and the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre);
- 3.1.2. Continue to support the development of an ASEAN-wide disaster risk assessment system through hazard and vulnerability mapping as well as support the establishment of regional networks for disaster risk management, including through the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Fund (IDRMF);
- 3.1.3. Encourage regular consultations between the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and Canada to facilitate synergy among multilateral cooperation mechanisms on disaster management;

#### **3.2. Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity**

- 3.2.1. Promote, where feasible, cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices including capacity building in environmental protection, waste management and pollution control, environmental monitoring and environmental law enforcement;
- 3.2.2. Promote the exchange of knowledge and experience on climate change through exchange of experts and conducting joint research activities;
- 3.2.3. Adopt a cautious approach in dealing with engineering technologies with any significant potential negative impact on the environment;
- 3.2.4. Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change;
- 3.2.5. Strengthen ASEAN regional cooperation on biodiversity conservation to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including by mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into sectoral policies, plans and programmes, as appropriate, promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences, and support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB);

- 3.2.6. Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution;
- 3.2.7. Explore potential cooperation among business communities with the aim of promoting their involvement in biodiversity conservation;
- 3.2.8. Support efforts to control illegal transboundary trade in wild fauna and flora through the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and through national initiatives in support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- 3.2.9. Explore cooperation and support for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the development of domestic legislative, administrative, or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, to address poverty and to promote environmental sustainability;
- 3.2.10. Promote the sustainable use and development of coastal and marine resources through the use of Integrated Coastal Management;
- 3.2.11. Explore continued development and operations of the South East Asia Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) and a Regional Fire Early Warning System (EWS) to complement FDRS for ASEAN Member States through collaborative activities/programmes, such as, technology transfer, enhance awareness and capacity building of regional networks to provide early warning for anticipated fires and transboundary haze pollution;
- 3.2.12. Encourage cooperation to provide the peoples of ASEAN access to clean water, clean air, basic health care, and other social services, so that they may lead healthy and productive lives and thereby contribute to ASEAN and the global community.

### **3.3. Health and Pandemic Preparedness and Response**

- 3.3.1. Work together to enhance ASEAN's preparedness and capacity in responding to communicable and emerging human or animal infectious diseases including pandemics and other potential public health and biological threats. Preparedness planning, prevention efforts and capacity building would include, among others, strengthening cooperation in areas of disease surveillance, laboratory networking, human resource capacities and information sharing;

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

- 3.4.1. Explore cooperation between senior officials in the field of education with an emphasis on expanding access to education for all, improving the quality of education and ensuring equity;

- 3.4.2. Explore cooperation on exchanges of knowledge and experience in lifelong learning in different forms, including long-distance learning for the underprivileged and those in remote areas;
- 3.4.3. Explore academia's interest to promote mutual recognition in support of educational institutions' possible cooperation on credit transfer, quality assurances, and implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework;
- 3.4.4. Promote greater awareness of both ASEAN and Canada through the implementation of educational exchanges and people-to-people activities, especially among the youth;
- 3.4.5. Explore support to ASEAN capacity building programme through provision of scholarship programmes, professional exchanges of academics, joint research, and educational partnerships, in collaboration with the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and other education institutions;
- 3.4.6. Provide technical assistance programmes, including training for teaching staff and staff exchange, so as to promote the quality of education at all levels including technical, vocational and skills training education in ASEAN. This may include sharing of skills-related best practices by Canadian community colleges and institutes of technology;
- 3.4.7. Enhance awareness and understanding of each other's culture, customs and faiths, including through regular people-to-people and cultural exchange activities such as cultural festivals, exhibitions, film festivals, youth camps and media exchanges;

### **3.5. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers**

- 3.5.1. Encourage efforts to promote and protect the rights of ASEAN migrant workers, subject to the applicable national laws, regulations and policies of the respective ASEAN Member States relating to migrant workers, taking into consideration the Cebu Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Cebu, Philippines and the works of the ASEAN Committee on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers;

### **3.6. Promotion of Sustainable Mining Development**

- 3.6.1. Promote responsible and sustainable development of minerals through exchange of information on regulatory and policy approaches to address economic, environmental and social challenges, including through the framework of the Inter-governmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development; support the implementation of the ASEAN Minerals

Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP) 2016-2020 in particular in areas of capacity building, joint research, and technology transfer;

- 3.6.2. Explore the possibility to improve competitiveness in the mineral sector through capacity building and technology transfer;
- 3.6.3. Explore convening consultations between ASEAN Senior Official on Minerals and Canada, including on the appropriate regulatory setting to encourage investments in the mineral industries and promote sustainable development of mineral resources through exchange of information and sharing of best practices;

### **3.7. Social Protection**

- 3.7.1. Cooperate and provide support in implementation the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, including through sharing of best practices and capacity building initiatives;
- 3.7.2. Collaborate on the promotion and protection of women and children's rights as well as gender equality across the ASEAN pillars, including support for the promotion and dissemination of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children in ASEAN, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the economic empowerment for women;
- 3.7.3. Provide support for financial and technical assistance programmes, including training for the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, and sharing best practices and experience on working with vulnerable and marginalised groups;

## **4. Connectivity**

- 4.1.1 Enhance cooperation on ASEAN Connectivity in its three key dimensions, namely physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, including through capacity building, outreach, research and resource mobilisation for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the post-2015 agenda for ASEAN Connectivity;
- 4.1.2 Support the development of an ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP) development agenda;
- 4.1.3 Encourage Public-Private Partnership in infrastructure development and other modalities to mobilise private sector investment for the implementation of the MPAC and its successor document;

- 4.1.4 Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and sharing of knowledge, technology and experience in infrastructure development, to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as increased community resilience;

## **5. Development Cooperation**

- 5.1.1 Continue to support the realisation of development goals under the three ASEAN Community Pillars;
- 5.1.2 Support ASEAN's integration efforts and equitable economic development, particularly in accelerating the socio-economic development of the less developed countries and the development of sub-regional areas, through capacity building, information sharing and open and informed dialogue;

## **6. Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)**

- 6.1.1 Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gaps through the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II and its successor documents, as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;

## **7. Strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat**

- 7.1.1 Continue to support ASEAN's efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat by enhancing ASEAN Secretariat's capacity, and explore providing training and capacity building courses for ASEAN Secretariat staff;

## **8. Implementation Mechanism**

- 8.1.1 The measures provided under this Plan of Action may be implemented with the appropriate funding support from the governments of Canada and ASEAN Member States;
- 8.1.2 Regularly review the progress of implementation of this Plan of Action through the existing mechanisms of the ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations, including the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue;
- 8.1.3 Submit progress reports of the implementation of the Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with Canada; and
- 8.1.4 This Plan of Action acknowledges that both sides intend to collaborate to further deepen and enhance their political-security, economic and socio-cultural ties, as noted above, as well as to realise the full potential of the ASEAN-Canada partnership in all areas of common interest.

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