

## **ASEAN PLUS THREE COOPERATION WORK PLAN 2023 – 2027**

The ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation Work Plan 2023-2027 serves as a principal guide to enhance APT cooperation over the next five years towards achieving the long-term goal of establishing an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force. Consistent with existing regional mechanisms, APT recognises ASEAN Centrality as the driving force in the evolving regional architecture. Building on the achievements of the previous APT Work Plan, this Work Plan will help ASEAN realise the goals of its Community Vision 2025 as well as its successor document. This Work Plan is also aimed to further strengthen the APT partnership in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), as well as the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

### **I. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

#### **1.1 Deepen political and security dialogue and cooperation through:**

- (a) The annual APT Summit in conjunction with the ASEAN Summit and high-level consultations;
- (b) Strengthening cooperation to promote good governance, rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights;
- (c) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD (“Phnom Penh Statement”);
- (d) Exchange of information and practices on regional efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN;
- (e) Active participation of the APT countries at the relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS) with the view to ensuring peace, security, and stability in the region;
- (f) Enhancing cooperation in the United Nations, Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), as well as in other international and regional mechanisms, on issues of mutual interests;
- (g) Enhancing multilateral and regional cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and their means of delivery and related materials.
- (h) Promoting awareness on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda among the APT countries to enhance the welfare and participation of women in all aspects of peacebuilding and protect them from armed conflict and violent extremism; and
- (i) Promoting cooperation and support in mainstreaming the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda through relevant mechanisms, and encourage

APT countries in crafting and executing their respective action plans on YPS.

**1.2 Combat transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues through:**

- (a) Strengthening dialogue and cooperation in combatting transnational crimes and addressing non-traditional security issues, such as trafficking in persons, people smuggling, cybercrime, and illicit drug trafficking;
- (b) Support for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programmes to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime as guided by the processes and procedures under the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) and its working mechanisms;
- (c) Exchange of visits and enhanced dialogue on law enforcement and security to promote cooperation on ways to tackle aspects of transnational crime of mutual concerns, including through the framework of the AMMTC+3 Consultation;
- (d) Cooperation in:
  - (i) Combating trafficking in persons and support for the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) and other cross-sectoral work plans to combat trafficking in persons;
  - (ii) Protecting children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse, particularly, the proliferation of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) or any other form of online child exploitation;
  - (iii) Combating and suppressing cybercrimes and promoting cybersecurity cooperation to create a peaceful, interoperable, resilient and secure regional cyberspace through:
    - a) Enhancing coordination of incident response procedures among law enforcement agencies and criminal justice authorities to promote timely and effective handling of cybercrime incidents, and
    - b) Increasing law enforcement capacity building and coordination on cybercrime in dealing with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats;
  - (iv) Addressing emerging transnational crimes, such as illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, in accordance with relevant international conventions and with domestic laws and regulations of each APT country; and
  - (v) Strengthening cooperation on border management and immigration matters through the newly established ASEAN Directors-General of

Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Plus Three (DGICM+3) Consultation.

- (e) Cooperation among law enforcement in relation to extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with the domestic laws of APT countries and other relevant treaties;
- (f) Combating illicit drugs under the framework of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters Plus Three (ASOD+3) Consultation to eradicate the scourge of drugs;
- (g) Supporting ASEAN in securing communities against illicit drugs, by promoting communities free of drug abuse, despite the shift in drug policies seen in other parts of the world advocating the de-criminalisation or legalisation of drugs and realising the region's aspiration of a "Drug-Free ASEAN" through a zero-tolerance approach to illicit drugs, due regard to human rights and in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of each APT country; and
- (h) Exploring cooperation between APT and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes while ensuring ASEAN Centrality.

### **1.3 Counter terrorism and violent extremism through:**

- (a) Support for the effective implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism;
- (b) Addressing the root causes of terrorism and conditions to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, including through the effective implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2018-2025 and its corresponding Bali Work Plan 2019-2025;
- (c) Sharing information on terrorists and transnational criminal organisations, including their leaders and members, operational methods and supporting infrastructures, linkages, as well as criminal activities;
- (d) Implementing measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, to better detect, analyse, investigate and prosecute, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s recommendations;
- (e) Working towards the elimination of smuggling of small arms and light weapons, as a major contribution to the national and international efforts of counter-terrorism;
- (f) Enhancing cooperation in the field of border management to help identify terrorist suspects and their supporters as well as deterring the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorism-related funds and materials; and
- (g) Supporting the effective implementation of and the accession to relevant international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism.

**1.4 Enhance maritime cooperation through:**

- (a) Cooperative activities, such as safety of navigation, in accordance with the relevant international and regional treaties and agreements including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as capacity building assistance and technical cooperation projects; and
- (b) Fighting against piracy, armed robbery against ships, hijacking and smuggling, as well as addressing transboundary challenges, in accordance with relevant international laws including through cooperation with relevant regional cooperative frameworks, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of APT countries.

**II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

**2.1 Promote trade and investment through:**

- (a) Promoting the full implementation and effective utilisation of ASEAN Plus One FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (b) Promoting the use of technology-based trade facilitation through the possible upgrading of the ASEAN Plus One FTAs with China and the Republic of Korea and through economic cooperation under the ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA), ASEAN-Korea FTA (AKFTA), and the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) Agreement;
- (c) Strengthening cooperation for effective implementation and full utilisation of the ACFTA, AKFTA, AJCEP and RCEP Agreement to deliver benefits to businesses, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and people in the region, including the possibility of collaboration with East Asia Business Council (EABC) on relevant promotions and capacity-building activities;
- (d) Strengthening collaboration and cooperation between APT Countries in the areas of economic and financial resilience, trade facilitation, investment, digital trade, MSMEs, green recovery, sustainable economy, and in securing sustainable, resilient, and inclusive regional supply chains, connectivity and digital empowerment, inclusion and transformation, amongst others, as well as preparing the region for future challenges, and achieving post-pandemic economic recovery;
- (e) Support for the implementation of the ACRF and its Implementation Plan which serve as a consolidated strategy for ASEAN to emerge more resilient and stronger from the COVID-19 crisis, giving due consideration to the hardest hit sectors and vulnerable groups;
- (f) Cooperative measures and actions for promoting attractive environment

for investment including capacity building activities, and sharing of best practices to enhance investment flows;

- (g) Promoting an open, fair, free, inclusive, transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core; and enhancing the efficiency of free flow of goods, supply chain connectivity and services, and to remove unnecessary barriers to trade or disruptions of global and regional supply; and avoiding unilateral and protectionist measures inconsistent with WTO rules and other applicable trade agreements;
- (h) Promoting cooperation on WTO reform to enhance its effectiveness, transparency and resilience in addressing global economic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (i) Enhancing customs procedures and expediting customs clearance and release, utilising digital technologies and platforms such as the ASEAN Single Window as a basis;
- (j) Enhancing collaboration among government and regional research institutions and think-tanks, to support the APT research needs, and further encouraging to identify joint activities that can be undertaken to promote business linkages among APT Countries;
- (k) Enhancing the participation and role of ASEAN in the activities and projects of ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre and encouraging the more active presence of these institutions in ASEAN Member States with the view to further in promote trade and investment in the context of the APT cooperation;
- (l) Encouraging collaboration among the East Asia Business Council (EABC), the ASEAN-China Centre, the ASEAN-Japan Centre, and the ASEAN-Korea Centre to promote trade and investment in the APT context;
- (m) Encouraging cooperation between the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), the ASEAN+1 Business Councils, the EABC, Joint Business Councils (JBC) and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat to promote deeper business-to-business engagement with a view to further regional integration among the private sector; and
- (n) Promoting facilitative and conducive trade and investment environment which will expedite the process of economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and vulnerable economic sectors.

## **2.2 Maintain financial market stability in the region through:**

- (a) Strengthening the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) as an essential part of the regional financial safety net;
- (b) Supporting the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) to

realise its vision to be an independent, credible and professional international organisation acting as a trusted advisor to ASEAN+3 members in line with the performance of its core functions of regional economic surveillance, provision of support to the CMIM, and conduct of technical assistance for its members; as well as in its support for crisis response and policy recommendation; encouraging AMRO to update and implement its Strategic Direction to be aligned with the fast-changing landscape and increasing demands from ASEAN+3 members, including the build-up of a regional think-tank network to strengthen AMRO's role as a Regional Knowledge Hub;

- (c) Supporting the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region including scaling up green and sustainable bond markets for infrastructure development in APT countries;
- (d) Promoting the issuance of government and corporate bonds denominated in local currency and strengthening the functions of the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF);
- (e) Supporting the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), the regional platform that aims to build the region's financial resilience against climate shocks and disasters; and
- (f) Supporting the innovative development of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation, including in fields of infrastructure financing, Macro-structural Instruments, Disaster Risk Financing, and Fintech, as well as those under the Financial Digitalization and Transition Finance Initiative.

### **2.3 Promote sustainable tourism and people-to-people connectivity through:**

- (a) Implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the Plus Three Countries on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation;
- (b) Strengthening dialogue and cooperation on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism through the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 and supporting the Final Study Report for Its Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan for ASEAN Tourism;
- (c) Exploring the possibility of the expansion of the ASEAN Travel Corridor Arrangement Framework to the Plus Three countries to facilitate safe movement of people during COVID-19 and future public health emergencies;
- (d) Enhancing the information sharing mechanisms on tourism statistics and investment opportunities, economic data and tourism-related risk management, information and best practices regarding the policy implementation, travel advisory, mitigation and crisis communication, as well as the involvement of private sector in tourism in the region;

- (e) Strengthening tourism education, capacity building and personnel training to achieve a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient tourism;
- (f) Conduct of joint tourism marketing and promotion programmes, including with relevant private sector in the APT countries; and
- (g) Enhancing the role of the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and ASEAN-Korea Centre in marketing and promoting tourism offerings of the APT countries and as well as capacity building programmes, as appropriate.

#### **2.4 Enhance cooperation in food, agriculture and forestry through:**

- (a) Exchanging information, enhancing capacity building, and sharing best practices in key areas of mutual interests;
- (b) Supporting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS), 2021-2025, the ASEAN Food Safety Policy (AFSP) and ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF);
- (c) Ensuring food security within the region, particularly in the post-pandemic period, including through the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement and the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) as well as through exploring the strengthening of APTERR mechanism;
- (d) Exchanging information on major food commodities in emergencies, in addition to the ongoing efforts under normal circumstances through the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS);
- (e) Enhancing cooperation to achieve innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food systems to ensure sufficient, safe, nutritious, and accessible food for all, including through support for the development and implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture;
- (f) Convening conferences or workshops on food security cooperation;
- (g) Creating opportunities for ASEAN farmers, including, where applicable, young farmers, women, indigenous people, and marginalised groups and those engaged in agribusiness to learn and develop more efficient farming practices and management skills;
- (h) Implementing activities under the APT Bioenergy and Food Security Framework 2015 – 2025 to ensure sustainable, food-secure and climate-friendly bioenergy;
- (i) Deepening cooperation and collaboration to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including capacity building, exchange of information and sharing of best practices;
- (j) Strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) towards enhancing

productivity and quality in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors;

- (k) Bolstering continued support for the implementation of ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies in the Food and Agriculture Sectors aimed at enhancing resilience of food supply chain in ASEAN;
- (l) Sharing new and appropriate technologies, best practices, and resource management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the aquaculture, sustainable forest management (SFM), livestock and horticulture sub-sectors, as well as food safety management system;
- (m) Promoting the sharing of climate-smart agriculture models;
- (n) Strengthening support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry (2016-2025);
- (o) Strengthening forest law enforcement and governance, promoting trade and consumption of legally harvested wood products in a sustainable manner;
- (p) Enhancing community livelihood through the development of agroforestry;
- (q) Promoting climate change resilient agricultural production including through relevant mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APT EMM), bearing in mind their differing mandates;
- (r) Support for the cooperation of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy Framework on Food, Agriculture and Forestry (APTCS) 2016 - 2025 as well as related cooperation under AMAF Plus Three;
- (s) Encouraging discussion on the Non-tariff Measures imposed by APT's trading partners on fish and fishery products and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each APT country; and
- (t) Promoting international research collaborations, taking note of aspects such as particularities which the Monsoon Asia region shares with regards to agricultural production.

## **2.5 Enhance energy security and cooperation through:**

- (a) Support for the implementation of activities and programmes in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase 2: 2021-2025 and its successor plan, COP26 and RCEP Programme;
- (b) Support for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy and the work programmes on ASEAN energy cooperation and integration; and support for the work programmes on energy integration of renewable energy;



- (c) Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and joint research on alternative, new, renewable, and low-carbon energy technologies;
- (d) Enhancing APT cooperation on standardisation in the field of renewable energy, including exploring efforts to harmonise relevant energy standards for sustainable development;
- (e) Efforts to create a more favourable market environment for efficient and resilient energy markets, regional energy production and trade, investments in energy infrastructure and facilities;
- (f) Efforts to enhance the gas and liquified natural gas (LNG) market and promote a competitive, transparent and flexible market of natural gas including LNG, facilitate infrastructure investment and promote new natural gas demand for the benefit of all, securing energy security and creating growth opportunity in the region and supporting the implementation of APAEC 2016-2025 and its successor;
- (g) Promotion of energy efficiency, resiliency, conservation, e-mobility, and energy management in the residential, commercial, transportation and industrial sectors;
- (h) Promotion of greater cooperation and market transparency, including through the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI), exchange of energy data, where possible, and sharing of national energy policies on a voluntary basis;
- (i) Exploring ways to supporting the national rural electrification programmes of concerned ASEAN Member States;
- (j) Capacity building on the improvement of energy safety management systems;
- (k) Conduct of collaborative activities to exchange best practices, share experiences and build capacity on the use of clean and environmentally-friendly energy technologies;
- (l) Enhance efforts to promote the integration of renewable energy, energy efficiency, resiliency and digitalization in the energy sector;
- (m) Phasing down on unabated coal power and strengthening facilitation and engagement on Clean Coal Technology (CCT) and Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)/carbon recycling between the government and private sector, including through Plus Three countries' support for the operationalisation of the ASEAN Centre of Excellence for the CCT, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement as well as the decisions including the Glasgow Climate Pact;
- (n) Accelerating realistic energy transition, building a mutually beneficial cooperation on a resilient and secure energy supply chain, while taking into consideration the APT countries' domestic policies in energy supply, encouraging the creation of green jobs, and improving resource efficiency;

- (o) Exploring the conduct of high level policy dialogue on energy policy development and pathways to decarbonisation;
- (p) Continuing information sharing and strengthening regional cooperation on energy security policies, measures, and best practices amongst APT towards low-carbon economy;
- (q) Capacity building and improving public awareness on nuclear energy; and
- (r) Support the role of low-carbon and renewable hydrogen and its derivatives such as ammonia in the decarbonisation of natural gas infrastructure and for zero-emission thermal power generation.

**2.6 Enhance cooperation in minerals through:**

- (a) Support for the continual improvement strategy to promote ASEAN as a minerals investment destination to boost domestic and international investment in all components of the minerals value chain, including through among others joint mining cooperation forum and exhibitions, seminars and workshops, as well as provision of up-to-date information of mining industry in ASEAN to the Plus Three countries;
- (b) Support for the development and adoption of regional principles for sustainable minerals development to progressively improve governance and economic, social and environmental outcomes such as through the conduct of technical discussions and experience sharing between the Plus Three countries and ASEAN to facilitate progressive adoption;
- (c) Promoting human, institutional and technical capacity building in minerals governance across priority aspects of ASEAN minerals development such as exploration, processing and rehabilitation, and in areas that involve innovative technologies such as digitalization or green and resource-efficient technologies;
- (d) Support for the development and implementation of new strategies and effective tools to collect and process minerals data and information to enhance the ASEAN minerals information system; and
- (e) Support for the implementation of plans and programmes in coordination with and supportive of the strategic measures under the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP–III) Phase 2: 2021-2025 and the APT Minerals Cooperation Work Plan 2022-2025 as well as the succeeding plans of the ASEAN minerals cooperation sector.

**2.7 Promote sustainable development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through:**

- (a) Regular Joint Consultations between the ASEAN SME Agencies and SME Agencies of the Plus Three countries to strengthen the exchange of information and best practices among the relevant authorities and

institutions of SMEs, encourage market expansion, discuss investment opportunities, and identify new areas of cooperation;

- (b) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (2016-2025), including sharing of best practices, experiences, on the development of MSMEs as well as convening of capacity building programmes, seminars, workshops, and symposiums;
- (c) Policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities, including relevant stakeholders on MSMEs and MSMEs cooperation, and assisting ASEAN Member States in the development of enabling ecosystem for start-ups;
- (d) Cooperation in traditional areas, including trade, agriculture and tourism, and relevant new areas conducive to economic growth such as environment, energy, Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), digital economy, circular economy framework, financial technology, human resource development, education, science and technology;
- (e) Support for future initiatives aimed at preparing MSMEs for the advent of the 4IR;
- (f) Explore the proposal for an APT SMEs service alliance in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies;
- (g) Enhancing MSMEs' competitiveness through facilitating better access to financing and markets, digital infrastructure and use of technologies as well as other relevant means of support;
- (h) Work towards building MSMEs' capacity for sustainable development and inclusive approaches: promote financial literacy in MSMEs, provide capacity-building programmes to help MSMEs digitalize their business in the context of Industry 4.0, provide digital support to MSMEs to strengthen their capacity through technology and knowledge transfer mechanisms from multinational and high-tech companies on mutual agreement and, develop digital capabilities among MSMEs;
- (i) Promoting capacity in pursuing specialisation and innovation in MSMEs to facilitate sustainable development, embrace low and zero-carbon energy technologies and environmentally friendly business practices; and
- (j) Recognising the importance of providing greater access to MSMEs to regional/global value chains through deepening cooperation between MSMEs and large enterprise/multinational corporations on productivity, quality and standard; improving MSMEs' access to markets and global value chains by promoting and facilitating partnerships among businesses; strengthening the competitiveness of economies in the regional market by increasing investment in the creation and application of digital technologies, especially among MSMEs.

**2.8 Strengthen cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (STI) through:**

- (a) Exploring cooperation in human resource development as well as development of technical and vocational skills and networking on STI, and promotion of public-private partnership;
- (b) Fostering an open, equitable and environment for the development of STI, including by effectively protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR);
- (c) Exploring joint capacity building activities, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices in areas of mutual interest such as STI policies, technology transfer, commercialisation, products and scientific standards, technical regulations, productivity, investment and intellectual property rights (IPR) management;
- (d) Promotion of research and technology development in areas with potential for commercial applications such as robotics and automation, next-generation automobile, technology, and novel food, biotechnology, food technology, new materials, microelectronics and information technology, marine resources, new and renewable energy, climate change, life science, medical devices and technology, and space technology;
- (e) Cooperation in meteorology addressing climate information and prediction services, weather observations and climate change; and
- (f) Promotion and/or participation in relevant STI events, for example, the APT Centre for the Gifted in Science (ACGS), the APT Young Scientists Collaborative Innovation Forum and innovation youth camps and awards.

## **2.9 Promote development of the digital economy through:**

- (a) Exploring cooperation and partnership activities, particularly in the areas of bridging the digital divide, further developing digital infrastructure, facilitating the growth of e-commerce and digital transactions, improving business environment to one that is secure, resilient, open, fair and inclusive, and investment in digital connectivity;
- (b) Supporting the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) for ASEAN, the ASEAN Digital Integration Framework Action Plan (2019-2025), ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM2025), the Work Plan on the implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce (2021-2025), and Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (BSBR) for the negotiations on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) by 2025;
- (c) Enhancing the capacity of ASEAN Plus Three countries through an exchange of information, capacity building, sharing of best practices, seminars, workshops, and dialogue in key areas of mutual interests in order to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation, online consumer protection and facilitation of cross-border data flow;
- (d) Recognising the importance of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth in trade and digital economy by leveraging digital technologies, and innovation as an effective way to respond to COVID-19 and its socio-

economic impacts;

- (e) Enhancing the digital economy in promoting inclusive economic growth, fostering digital transformation, bridging the digital divide, enhancing digital human resource development skills, supporting global trade and business, and promoting regional collective efforts towards the post-pandemic economic recovery;
- (f) Promoting best practices in regulations to effectively embrace the digital economy and harness technological transformation;
- (g) Addressing barriers to digital transformation, including narrowing digital divide in areas such as digital skills, financial skills, access to market, innovative entrepreneurship/capacity of MSMEs, logistics, infrastructure connectivity;
- (h) Promoting e-governance with supports on institutional capacity building and on exploring well-fit mechanisms to adopt digitalization in civil service, and combating cybercrime and enhancing cybersecurity;
- (i) Supporting collaboration between public and private sectors in technologies and innovations to provide enterprises with digital services and solutions on business operations;
- (j) Promoting digital financial services and payment connectivity and support APT participating countries on financial literacy and Financial Technology (FinTech), including by leveraging the work of the Working Group on Enhancing Policy Coordination for Technological Advancement under the ASEAN+3 Finance Process; and
- (k) Encouraging participation of MSMEs in the digital economy including through promoting of digital upskilling and market access for MSMEs.

### **III. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

#### **3.1 Protect and conserve the environment and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources through:**

- (a) Closer cooperation in the following areas:
  - (i) Support ASEAN efforts in the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, particularly marine and coastal pollution, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and transboundary haze pollution through implementation of ASEAN agreements and decisions;
  - (ii) Support APT environment cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (APT SOME) and ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (APT EMM);
  - (iii) Support ASEAN Plus Three Marine Plastic Debris Cooperative

Action Initiative, particularly activities of the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris (RKC-MPD) of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to address marine plastic issues in complementarity with the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris (2021 – 2025);

- (iv) Conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity and natural resources, and mainstreaming biodiversity in relevant sectors and cross-sectoral issues, in line with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including through support for the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity;
  - (v) Application of advanced and environment-friendly technologies and best practice;
  - (vi) Ensuring sufficient and sustainable water resource management, including integrated water resources and groundwater management to sustain food security and clean water access, as well as to prevent water-related hazards;
  - (vii) Sustainable management of coastal and marine environment, especially to tackle marine plastic debris originating from land-based activities, urban resilience, as well as surveillance against illegal desludging and disposal of tanker sludge at sea;
  - (viii) Participatory and integrated approaches in urban planning and management for sustainable urbanisation towards a clean and green ASEAN, building a future of life in harmony with nature;
  - (ix) Public awareness and Education for Sustainable Development including environmental education and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);
  - (x) Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular climate change, biodiversity, chemical and chemical waste-related conventions; and
  - (xi) Economic empowerment of communities in coastal areas, including through, but not limited to: sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices as well as coastal tourism and heritage conservation;
- (b) Capacity building through:
- (i) exchanges of information, best practices and experiences between and among government authorities, institutions and experts;
  - (ii) provision of training courses and scholarships and dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and conferences;
  - (iii) conducting joint research and development and networking among research/academic institutions; and
  - (iv) exploring possible technology transfers;
- (c) Promotion of 5Rs (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle) and

environmentally sound management of waste;

- (d) Promotion of sustainable development to reduce negative impacts of development on the environment;
- (e) Promotion of the development of circular economy action plans, and biodiversity strategies to protect and restore biodiversity; and
- (f) Support for the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2018-2025.

### **3.2 Address the impact of climate change through:**

- (a) Closer cooperation among APT countries and in multilateral forums on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as development, transfer and diffusion of technologies to raise ASEAN Member States' capacity to respond to climate change and fulfil their international commitments, including the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achieving a low-carbon future, in particular their respective net zero carbon emissions targets;
- (b) Promotion of sharing of experiences, including community-based mitigation and adaptation, in addressing socio-economic impacts of climate change and extreme weather and slow onset events, particularly on vulnerable groups;
- (c) Promoting cooperation related to adaptation and mitigation under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, particularly on implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the APT countries and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+);
- (d) Closer cooperation among APT countries to promote greater public awareness on climate change;
- (e) Promoting greater protection of the environment, addressing the challenge of climate change, and sustainable management of natural resources, including soil, water and forest resources;
- (f) Promoting APT cooperation, policy consultation and capacity building to support ASEAN Member States on the research and participation in carbon markets under article 6 of the Paris Agreement; and
- (g) Support the promotion of nature-based solutions, and facilitate collaborative scientific research to enhance the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **3.3 Promote Climate Change resilient agricultural production through:**

- (a) Working toward the mobilisation of resources and implementation of actions mentioned in the Updated NDC for 2030 goals, which includes development of NDC tracking system to monitor the implementation progress; identification of supports needed for implementation; and ensure that climate change is well integrated and mainstreamed in those

actions through the development of relevant climate indicators for each action;

- (b) Bolstering continued support for the integration and mainstreaming of climate resilient agricultural production into agricultural sector strategic development plan and other national and sub-national agricultural development plans;
- (c) Facilitating resources mobilization to support the piloting and scaling-up of research and innovation of climate resilient agricultural production through innovation grants from available funding mechanisms, such as the APT Cooperation Fund;
- (d) Promoting capacity building and institutional strengthening for Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector, including approaches that strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale farmers and rural communities to respond to climate changes; and
- (e) Promoting the development of climate-friendly agriculture.

**3.4 Forge closer cooperation in poverty alleviation for sustainable development through:**

- (a) Supporting and, where relevant, assessing the progress of the implementation of the Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2025;
- (b) Building knowledge, skills and capacities on the thematic areas of rural economic growth, social protection and social safety nets, development of infrastructure and human resources in rural and peri-urban areas; resilience of the poor and vulnerable groups to economic and environmental risks, public-private-people partnerships;
- (c) Strengthening public-private-people partnerships through capacity building and technical exchange programme for village and/or community leaders from APT Countries; and
- (d) Advancing cooperation in promoting people-oriented and people-centred sustainable, inclusive and innovative development, based on the human security approach, as well as in strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**3.5 Strengthen social protection and development through:**

- (a) Recognising the principles as enshrined in the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, which, among others, stipulate that everyone, especially those who are poor, at risk, persons with disabilities, older people, out-of-school youth, children, migrant workers, and other vulnerable groups, are entitled to have equitable access to



social protection, that is a basic human right, and based on a rights-based/ needs-based, life-cycle approach and covering essential services as needed;

- (b) Fostering concrete actions towards improved quality, coverage, and sustainability of social protection in ASEAN Member States, which include but not limited to building and strengthening the networking and partnerships with Dialogue Partners and other stakeholders in providing adequate resources and effectively implementing the commitments reflected in the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection;
- (c) Development of human and economic potential of vulnerable groups through capacity and capability development;
- (d) Strengthening the resilience of families, and caregivers in societies, and enhancing the participation and social responsibility of stakeholders;
- (e) Promotion of the use of ICTs for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, to enhance building social and economic community;
- (f) Promoting and strengthening demographic policy by sharing information, experience, best practices, conducting joint research and supporting capacity development to respond to the demographic trends, especially low birth rate, ageing population, and migration; and
- (g) Enhancing visibility and solidarity of the social work profession and social workers in the ASEAN Plus Three countries through implementation of existing ASEAN commitments, documents, and sectoral work plans, which include but not limited to, the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW), Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work for Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community and its Road Map, SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 and ASWC Work Plan 2021-2025.

### **3.6 Promote Active Ageing through:**

- (a) Promotion of healthy, active, and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment, towards implementing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN and its Regional Plan of Action, and the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Active Ageing;
- (b) Sharing information and experiences of the ageing in APT and exploring how APT can conduct regional cooperation involving non-governmental organisations and the private sector;
- (c) Strengthening the capacities of governments, corporate bodies, civil society organisations, communities and stakeholders in delivering adequate care for older persons, including the development of human capital and expertise;

- (d) Promoting the role of and supporting capacity development for the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI);
- (e) Development of older people's associations and other forms of networking;
- (f) Promotion of age-friendly communities and cities through sustainable and accessible infrastructures;
- (g) Cooperation in sharing of expertise on designing senior-friendly environment;
- (h) Support for ASEAN's effort in developing an ASEAN regional action plan on ageing to develop capacities of ASEAN Member States in effectively addressing issues arising from ageing society; and
- (i) Promotion of collaboration in research and development on elderly health issues identified as priorities by APT countries.

**3.7 Promote women empowerment and gender equality through:**

- (a) Enhancement of regional cooperation to improve the protection and empowerment of women, especially those in vulnerable situations including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced persons, and women at risk or victims of gender-based violence;
- (b) Promotion of the leadership of women in the political, cultural and economic spheres and the public and private sectors;
- (c) Enhancement of the economic empowerment of women, women entrepreneurs, including young women and especially those in the micro-small- and medium-enterprises as well as in the informal sector;
- (d) Promotion of gender mainstreaming in primary, secondary and tertiary levels in public schools, achieving women's equal access to quality education, decent work, healthcare services, and raising understanding and awareness of media practitioners on gender equality;
- (e) Mainstreaming of gender analysis and women's perspectives in national and regional initiatives, including those on ensuring decent work, social protection, and resilience building;
- (f) Support for the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA-EVAW) Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RPA-VAC), Regional Plan of Action for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (ASEAN RPA on COEA), and Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration (ASEAN RPA on CCM), as well as initiatives to promote and protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities and children in the ACWC Work Plan;

- (g) Capacity building for women law enforcers in protecting children from all forms of online exploitation and abuse, particularly the proliferation of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) or any other form of online child exploitation;
- (h) Promoting gender mainstreaming throughout the innovation cycle and ensure that women benefit equally from innovation;
- (i) Enhancing women's digital inclusion, strengthening women's digital skills and capabilities through education and training, and supporting women's full participation in the digital economy;
- (j) Strengthening engagement and expanding opportunities for women in STI, including in research and development; and
- (k) Support for the implementation of ASEAN declarations, statements, and regional plan of actions clustered under key thematic areas that contribute to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### **3.8 Build capacity of civil service through:**

- (a) Exchange of experiences and best practices on key areas within public administration and reform, enhancement of human resource capabilities and productivity in the public sector, promotion of effective and efficient civil service, public accountability, good governance and competency in digital administration;
- (b) Sharing expertise and know-how in civil service matters and capacity development for civil servants in both national and local levels among APT countries on promotion of civil service modernisation and digitalization, including e-governance, and research and innovation related to human resource management in the civil service; and
- (c) Support for the efficient and effective implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3) Work Plan 2021-2025.

### **3.9 Promote cooperation on labour and migrant workers through:**

- (a) Support for the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers' Work Programme and Work Plans of SLOM-WG, ASEAN-OSHNET and ACMW for 2021-2025 and the SLOM+3 Work Plan 2021-2025;
- (b) Support efforts to protect and promote labour rights, including the rights of migrant workers, promote occupational safety and health, promote progressive labour practices taking into account relevant international instruments and each country's national circumstances, and raise awareness about labour to community and local authority, as appropriate;
- (c) Closer cooperation in raising awareness and capacity building for government officials, community and school students, and other stakeholders, where appropriate in the thematic areas of gender

mainstreaming of labour sector, labour dimension of sustainable development, functional social dialogue, and emerging labour trends;

- (d) Closer cooperation to improve workforce competitiveness, productivity, and productive employment by, among others, supporting the implementation of the Roadmap of ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work and ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Competitiveness, Resilience and Agility of Workers for the Future of Work and strengthening digital awareness among stakeholders;
- (e) Promotion of harmonious, safe and progressive workplace with adequate social protection with special attention on vulnerable groups; and
- (f) Encourage discussion on regular pathways for labour migration, the mobility of labour and its influence on economies and other related issues, taking into account the respective circumstances of each country. Meanwhile, enforce the existing laws as well as exploring the development of new regulation on migration and labour, as necessary.

### **3.10 Enhance cultural exchange and cooperation through:**

- (a) Capacity building and knowledge-sharing in culture, traditional, historical and contemporary art and heritage conservation and preservation activities;
- (b) Rendering technical assistance and support for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural and historical heritage;
- (c) Human resource development and training in the cultural field, including, but not limited to, exchange of experiences on the hosting of large-scale cultural activities, and trainings to address emerging trends within the cultural and creative industries;
- (d) Promotion of cultural understanding and greater awareness of each other's culture, through research, festivals, exhibitions, dialogues, workshops and other activities and events;
- (e) Promotion of interaction, networking, dialogue and exchange of visits among culture and arts policymakers, among cultural institutions, art galleries, museums, archives and libraries, as well as artists, experts, practitioners in theatre, music, acrobatics, dance, folk art, film, and in other cultural and creative fields;
- (f) Collaboration among cultural, creative and design industries including joint venture and co-production;
- (g) City level dialogue and collaboration between the Culture City of East Asia and the ASEAN City of Culture, where appropriate; and
- (h) Supporting the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three work plan on Cooperation in Culture and the Arts 2022-2025.

**3.11 Enhance cooperation in youth exchanges and sports through:**

- (a) Supporting the implementation of APT Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025 with priorities on:
  - i. Research and policy dialogue on the impact of the fourth industrial revolution and COVID-19 pandemic/other emergencies on youth, including youth with disabilities, with a view to exchanging lessons learned and best practices;
  - ii. Youth exchange programmes, cultural/educational fora and competitions for deeper mutual understanding and forging a sense of commonality;
  - iii. Promotion of the spirit of youth volunteerism to inculcate a stronger ASEAN Plus Three community spirit among ASEAN Plus Three youths by involving them in community development projects;
  - iv. Engagement of youth in mutually beneficial programmes to support youth's health and wellbeing, including mental health;
  - v. Skills development training and leadership programme for youth in the context of the fourth industrial revolution;
  - vi. Promotion of the culture of peace, moderation, and tolerance amongst ASEAN Plus Three youths through intercultural and interreligious dialogues; and
  - vii. Supporting youth participation in digitalization, and youth entrepreneurship to encourage conservation and promotion of local culture and identity;
- (b) Promotion of ASEAN and East Asian traditional games and sports to foster greater understanding of the heritage of such sports, and to enhance closer people-to-people exchanges through sports; and
- (c) Engagement of youth, including youth with disabilities, in mutually beneficial sports exchange programmes.

**3.12 Enhance capacity in information and media through:**

- (a) Cooperation in the area of journalism, including press, radio, and television and social media;
- (b) News exchange and information and knowledge/media persons exchange programmes;
- (c) Consultations, dialogues and forums on media and broadcasting issues and best practices in areas such as, but not limited to, media and digital literacy, digital broadcasting technology, digital inclusivity and accessibility, and media policies;
- (d) Personnel training for the technicians and professionals in the TV, talk shows, radio, and broadcasting sectors, and print and new media journalists; and

- (e) Cooperation in content generation, including digital content, through co-production.

**3.13 Strengthen education systems and improve access to education through:**

- (a) Support the implementation of ASEAN Plus Three Plan of Action on Education 2018-2025 with the following key priorities/strategies:
  - i. Promoting inclusive education through inclusive schools and other education delivery modalities such as alternative learning system, Special Education, and Distance Education;
  - ii. Improving quality of teacher, school leaders and administrators through relevant capacity building programmes;
  - iii. Developing digital learning strategy for students and teachers through the use of technology;
  - iv. Boosting student mobility to improve quality of education, and promote mutual understanding and awareness among APT countries;
  - v. Serving socio-economic community needs through university-industry-community cooperation;
  - vi. Promoting access to education through the use of ICT;
  - vii. Strengthening Inter-Institutional Cooperation to promote networking and research development among institutions and authorities;
  - viii. Strengthening TVET Quality Assurance and Recognition;
  - ix. Promoting the image of TVET; and
  - x. Promoting capacity building for teacher, faculty members, students, educational personnel;
- (b) Cooperation in promoting universal basic education, including improving quality of primary and secondary education and accelerating learning opportunities for out-of-school children and youth;
- (c) Cooperation in promoting peace education;
- (d) Cooperation in research and development among APT higher education institutions and research agencies;
- (e) Encouraging credit transfers and mutual recognition of qualification on voluntary basis between universities in APT countries by sustaining the existing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education, ASEAN Working Group on Higher Education Mobility 2025 and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;
- (f) Encouraging greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility and quality assurance of higher education through the ongoing APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education, ASEAN Working Group on Higher Education Mobility 2025 (AWGHEM) and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education;

- (g) Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development through various approaches such as strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, establishing scholars' networks, promoting multi-disciplinary research, ways such as exchange of teachers, educators and researchers and sharing of good practices; and
- (h) Strengthening cooperation in diplomatic education and training through Annual Meeting of Deans and Directors of diplomatic training institutions of APT countries.

**3.14 Strengthen cooperation in public health through:**

- (a) Enhancing cooperation in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and mitigating its socio-economic impacts, and supporting ASEAN's initiatives in addressing COVID-19 which includes, among others, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies (RRMS), the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, and the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies, encouraging further consultation on the APT Reserve of essential Medical Supplies (APT RMS) for public health emergencies;
- (b) Capacity building, technical assistance and networking among APT countries in the areas as agreed by the APT Health Ministers' Meeting and as stated in the relevant APT Joint Statements;
- (c) Capacity building in public health emergency management and response through whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach;
- (d) Promotion of collaborative research and development and human resources development in the areas related to public health;
- (e) Cooperation at the global and regional levels to prevent, control and reduce the impact of communicable and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics;
- (f) Collaboration, and exchange of experiences on Universal Health Coverage to further strengthen national health systems, and promote regional cooperation and global health architecture;
- (g) Improving ASEAN's emergency preparedness and response to pandemics and other emerging health threats;
- (h) Conduct of activities to improve access to safe, quality, affordable and effective medicines, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostic tools to promote the rational use of medicines including containing anti-microbial drug resistance; enhancing information exchange on price of medicines, where possible;
- (i) Supporting ASEAN in attaining vaccine security and self-reliance in line

with the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance (AVSSR);

- (j) Collaboration in the area of traditional and complementary medicines;
- (k) The implementation of the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation against Antimicrobial Resistance;
- (l) The implementation of the APT Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on Mental Health Amongst Adolescents and Young Children, including through strengthening efforts on promoting awareness on mental health and conducting further collaborative initiatives that aim to ensure basic mental health care services and psychosocial support that are affordable and accessible as a component of Universal Health Coverage;
- (m) Joint efforts in advocating, facilitating, and implementing relevant social and economic interventions in addressing the risk factors of non-communicable diseases including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diet, as well as sedentary lifestyle; and
- (n) Enhancing cooperation to prevent and respond to pandemics through the promotion of biodiversity mainstreaming and biodiversity literacy, and to encourage behaviours that address the root causes of zoonoses and emerging diseases.

**3.15 Promote cooperation in disaster management and emergency response through:**

- (a) Support for the Implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme;
- (b) Support for the realisation of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the Region and outside the Region and implementation of ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan and ICT Roadmap on Disaster Management for 2025 and Beyond;
- (c) Enhance exchange of knowledge, best practices, and capacity-building on different aspects of disaster resilience, including early warning systems;
- (d) Promoting science and technology cooperation amongst APT countries in disaster risk management including through a knowledge sharing platform;
- (e) Enhancing cooperation with international and regional organisations and UN agencies, such as UNDRR in disaster risk reduction to facilitate further sharing of experience and best practices and improve regional disaster management capacity; and
- (f) Utilising the expertise of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in preparing for and responding to natural disasters and emergencies.



#### **IV. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION**

- 4.1 Promote regional connectivity in East Asia, develop links and create synergies between the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and other key connectivity initiatives promoted by China, Japan, and the ROK as outlined in the ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Connecting the Connectivities Initiative;
- 4.2 Strengthen cooperation to implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and its successor, including through co-creating connectivity projects and capacity building programmes;
- 4.3 Enhance APT cooperation to foster the development of sustainable infrastructure, including through support of relevant ASEAN-led initiatives, such as MPAC 2025;
- 4.4 Enhance cooperation on smart and sustainable cities development in the region through ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS); and
- 4.5 Promote digital connectivity with a view to expanding digital infrastructure and communications.

#### **V. SUPPORT FOR INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION**

- 5.1 Provide support for ASEAN to narrow the development gap, accelerate regional integration among its member states through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025); and
- 5.2 Support ASEAN's efforts to promote sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development across the ASEAN Community, including through aligning sub-regional growth with the comprehensive development of ASEAN, while recognising the relevance of subregional development to ASEAN's regional integration and community-building process.

#### **VI. TRACK 1.5 AND TRACK 2 COOPERATION**

- 6.1 Engage various stakeholders to reflect their views in the process of East Asia community building with ASEAN as the driving force; and
- 6.2 Strengthen the East Asia Forum (EAF) and the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT), and consider their recommendations as supplementary sources of inputs for policy formulation that is based on research and inter-sectoral consultations.

#### **VII. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM**

- 7.1 Continue strengthening the APT Cooperation Fund (APTCF);

- 7.2 The ASEAN Secretariat will develop a schedule and time frame for implementation of this Work Plan as means to inform and monitor activities implemented to address measures under this Work Plan;
- 7.3 Develop and implement projects in line with ASEAN's project management framework;
- 7.4 Review the Work Plan through the existing mechanisms, with the ASEAN CPR Plus Three Meeting as the monitoring mechanism;
- 7.5 The ASEAN Coordinator for APT cooperation will prepare concise progress report on the implementation of the Work Plan for submission to the annual APT Summit for notation; and
- 7.6 Encourage ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre, and ASEAN-Korea Centre to exchange ideas, experiences and explore possible joint projects to promote trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contact between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

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