

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership (2021-2025)

This Plan of Action is to implement the shared ambition for a deeper, stronger and mutually beneficial ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership, with a focus on areas where ASEAN and New Zealand have expertise and mutual interests.

Building on 45 years of Dialogue Partnership and 5 years of Strategic Partnership, and to continue the progress made under the 2010-2015 and 2016-2020 Plans of Action, this Plan of Action will continue to implement the ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Partnership, including through the Peace, Prosperity, People and Planet partnership programmes which are in line with the three pillars of ASEAN Community, namely Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community.

ASEAN and New Zealand are fully committed to supporting ASEAN integration as well as its efforts in realising ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN, including by narrowing the development gap and enhancing ASEAN Connectivity, as well as enhancing New Zealand's engagement with ASEAN in various ASEAN-led fora and mechanisms.

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

1. POLITICAL-SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1. Political and Security Dialogue

- 1.1.1 Continue to support ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and to promote principles of international law as well as shared norms and values, including those enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, in the UN Charter, and in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), thereby reinforcing the importance of a transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture with open markets and adherence to international law and which contributes towards maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond;
- 1.1.2 Strengthen existing mechanisms for consultation and cooperation in areas of mutual interest between ASEAN and New Zealand, including ASEAN-New Zealand Summits, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences with New

Zealand (PMC+1), ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogues and ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meetings;

- 1.1.3 Deepen dialogue and cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus);
- 1.1.4 Work closely to strengthen the EAS, with ASEAN as the driving force, as the region's premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political, and economic issues of common interest and concern, with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity and integration in the region;
- 1.1.5 Continue regular engagement among EAS Ambassadors in Jakarta on the implementation of Leaders' decisions as well as exchange information on regional development cooperation initiatives and security policies and initiatives;
- 1.1.6 Continue dialogue and practical defence cooperation to address global and regional challenges, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus, as well as through mutual visits, training and capacity-building programmes, and participation in other regional and global initiatives as appropriate;
- 1.1.7 Continue to promote a two-way exchange of high-level visits, as well as inter-Parliamentary dialogue and cooperation to raise the profile of ASEAN-New Zealand relations, and to enhance political momentum for cooperation;

1.2. Strengthening Peace and Stability

- 1.2.1. Support the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and New Zealand's priorities for the Indo-Pacific, including by exploring possible cooperation in the key areas identified in the AOIP, in order to build the region's resilience and contribute to the maintenance of peace, freedom and prosperity in the region;
- 1.2.2. Strengthen cooperation to prevent and combat transnational crimes including but not limited to illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, people smuggling, money laundering, arms smuggling, piracy, terrorism, cybercrime, international economic crime and illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, including by utilising existing regional and international institutions and agreements such as the ASEAN Plus New Zealand Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC + New Zealand) Consultations;

- 1.2.3. Explore cooperation on border management as appropriate to combat transnational crimes, in accordance with respective domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies, as well as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and explore the use of relevant technologies to manage borders more effectively to stem the flow of terrorists and criminals;
- 1.2.4. Explore cross-sectoral work to combat trafficking in persons, taking into account ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Declaration and ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement in Enhancing Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia, ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA), and including in the context of ongoing engagement in fora such as the Bali Process;
- 1.2.5. Further enhance cooperation between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including through the United Nations and ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF, and by promoting cooperation between ASEAN and New Zealand on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, including by sharing best practices and experiences on the implementation of the two respective Treaties;
- 1.2.6. Promote cooperation in addressing humanitarian aspects of land mines and other explosive remnants of war issues in the region, in accordance with applicable treaties, conventions and instruments, and respective domestic laws and policies including through regional institutions such as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) and ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action (EWG on HMA);
- 1.2.7. Deepen cooperation on cyber security to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful cyber space, including the promotion of cyber confidence building measures and exploring further cooperation to combat cyber threats including cybercrime as well as raising awareness of these threats, through relevant ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF, the ADMM-Plus and SOMTC Consultations;
- 1.2.8. Promote cooperation in confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region, including through engagement with, where appropriate, regional mechanisms and institutions such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR), and implementation of the ARF Work Plans;

- 1.2.9. Encourage engagement between ASEAN and New Zealand think-tanks, universities, and other relevant academic institutions, including on new and transboundary challenges arising from non-traditional security issues;

1.3. Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

- 1.3.1. Work together to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, taking into account ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018 - 2025), and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism;
- 1.3.2. Strengthen practical cooperation and enhance capacity building on counter terrorism and violent extremism, including terrorist use of the internet through existing mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism (EWG on CT), ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (ISM on CTTC), and the SOMTC + New Zealand Consultation;
- 1.3.3. Encourage cooperation on promoting social inclusivity and building resilient communities able to resist violent extremism of all kinds, including where appropriate through inter-faith, and inter-cultural dialogues;

1.4. Maritime Cooperation

- 1.4.1. Enhance maritime cooperation, including cooperation on maritime safety and security, through appropriate ASEAN-led mechanisms including the EAS, the ARF, the ADMM-Plus, the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and where appropriate, promote technical cooperation, capacity-building, exchange of best practices and sharing of knowledge and expertise;
- 1.4.2. Promote maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce, mutual trust and confidence, the exercise of self-restraint, the non-use of force or of the threat to use force, and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the relevant Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the relevant instruments and conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

1.5. Good Governance and Human Rights

- 1.5.1. Promote cooperation among representatives from governments, private sector organisations, and other relevant stakeholders in society to embed principles of good governance, and foster transparent, accountable, participatory and effective governance in the region;
- 1.5.2. Support the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN, taking into account the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), including by encouraging cooperation and the sharing of best practices between New Zealand's human rights institutions and relevant ASEAN bodies including, but not limited to, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR);
- 1.5.3. Increase exchanges and capacity building in public sector leadership, with a focus on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable groups, and the promotion of gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes;

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1. Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA)

- 2.1.1. Work to upgrade the AANZFTA, taking into consideration the different levels of development among ASEAN Member States, Australia and New Zealand, and ensure the Agreement remains modern, high-quality and relevant, and that it adds greater commercial value to businesses and takes into account developments in other fora including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and AANZFTA's existing built-in agenda items;
- 2.1.2. Utilise the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Programme (AECSP), and its successor programme, to enhance parties' capacity to negotiate and implement the upgraded AANZFTA, and to contribute to economic integration and trade facilitation in the AANZFTA region, including through economic cooperation and capacity building and development by means of sharing expertise, knowledge and best practices;
- 2.1.3. Continue to ensure close engagement with businesses and other relevant

stakeholders, as part of the strategy to implement the AANZFTA Business Engagement Strategy, and the Guiding Principles and Enabling Framework for Stakeholder Engagement;

2.2. Regional Economic Integration and Resilience

- 2.2.1. Support a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial RCEP Agreement, including through its implementation following its entry into force;
- 2.2.2. Continue to build on engagement between ASEAN Member States' and New Zealand's Ministers responsible for Economic and Trade matters, including through the AEM-CER Consultations and EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, as well as mutual visits, in order to support regional economic integration;
- 2.2.3. Cooperate to advance the prosperity and capacity of ASEAN and New Zealand in areas of mutual interest, including reducing the cost of doing business, improving the regulatory and legal environment, strengthening the resilience of supply chains, providing technical assistance, enhancing qualifications frameworks, and exploring new projects to support trade facilitation, including through the ASEAN Single Window;
- 2.2.4. Continue to promote and raise awareness of business opportunities by promoting relevant business networks and outreach activities; pursuing two-way trade and investment missions where appropriate; and strengthening links between government and the private sector, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and interaction between the ASEAN-New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC) and ASEAN business communities;
- 2.2.5. Enhance the region's digital transformation and support human capital development to address the challenges and seize the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), e-commerce, and digital trade, through possible ASEAN-New Zealand capacity building programmes and exchanging information and best-practice, including in the context of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement;
- 2.2.6. Build understanding of regional economic trends and integration through capacity building programmes for ASEAN economic officials and through Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues, as well as through engagement with the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA);

2.3. Agriculture

- 2.3.1. Promote closer cooperation and support the efforts of ASEAN in implementing sustainable agricultural practices to encourage economic growth and sustainable agricultural productivity, food security, and accessibility of ASEAN and New Zealand products to regional and global markets through capacity-building, technology transfer, education and training, food safety and standards, agriculture innovation, and facilitating agribusiness and agriculture trade;
- 2.3.2. Promote responsible fishing practices and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in order to sustain fishery resources, ensure food security, alleviate poverty, and to optimise benefits to the people and economies in the region, aligning with our shared commitment to intensify discussions to conclude the WTO Fisheries Subsidies negotiations, in line with Sustainable Development Goal target 14.6;
- 2.3.3. Strengthen capacity-building programme focused on skills and development in agriculture;

2.4. Renewable Energy

- 2.4.1. Explore cooperation in renewable energy for power generation, energy efficiency and conservation, and power supply reliability, through exchanging experiences and best practices, capacity building, and technical assistance in renewable and clean energy, in line with efforts under programme areas 4 and 5 of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 to increase the use of renewable energy and to reduce energy intensity in the ASEAN region;

2.5. Transport

- 2.5.1. Explore cooperation to support the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan 2016-2025, especially through enhancing aviation cooperation and air services linkages between and beyond ASEAN and New Zealand through the conclusion, signature, and entry into force of the regional Air Services Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of New Zealand;

2.6. Tourism

- 2.6.1. Encourage cooperation on tourism, including by sharing experiences and best practices on issues such as, but not limited to, sustainable tourism, domestic tourism, and tourism flows between ASEAN and New Zealand;

3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1. Human Capacity Building for Public Administration and Governance

- 3.1.1. Promote cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices on public sector leadership, including through human capacity building programmes for government officials in ASEAN;
- 3.1.2. Encourage institutional capacity building programmes to support the promotion of good governance and an agile ASEAN civil service in a modern economy, with a particular focus on civil service modernisation, e-government, and the importance of a whole-of-government approach, as well as other areas of mutual interest;

3.2. Education and Leadership

- 3.2.1. Enhance stronger people-to-people connections and build greater awareness of and links between ASEAN and New Zealand business communities, including through supporting opportunities for people-to-people exchanges and capacity-building programmes for young leaders in business, such as the Young Business Leaders Initiative;
- 3.2.2. Continue to implement the Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme by inviting fellows from ASEAN Member States to visit New Zealand as guests of the Prime Minister of New Zealand to undertake a familiarisation programme for a better understanding of New Zealand and the ASEAN-New Zealand relationship;
- 3.2.3. Continue the English Language Training for Officials (ELTO) programme, ensuring that the programme meets priorities of ASEAN Member States and New Zealand;
- 3.2.4. Support mutually beneficial Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in ASEAN Member States and New Zealand to enhance productivity, including by promoting life-long learning and digital education and contribute to socio-economic development;

- 3.2.5. Continue to support skills training on diplomatic and international engagement for young ASEAN diplomats, including through regular study activities;
- 3.2.6. Strengthen academic links and enhance mutual knowledge and understanding between various stakeholders in New Zealand and ASEAN, including through mechanisms such as Track II engagement;
- 3.2.7. Continue to promote the New Zealand-ASEAN Scholarships and training to tertiary students and officials from ASEAN Member States, with particular focus on areas of mutual interest to both ASEAN and New Zealand, and for ASEAN Member States to consider providing scholarships to New Zealand students;

3.3. Disaster Management

- 3.3.1. Continue cooperation on disaster management initiatives, including in collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), to enhance disaster awareness and to strengthen respective capabilities in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, prevention, preparedness and response, and recovery, taking into account the priorities of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, and the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, where appropriate;

3.4. Health

- 3.4.1. Explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation, where appropriate, on the prevention and management of animal and zoonotic diseases, communicable diseases, and emerging infectious diseases, including sharing information on and enhancing access to vaccines, treatment and diagnostics, to enable collective, coordinated and comprehensive responses to regional and global health events, such as by promoting the importance of a whole-of-government approach;
- 3.4.2. Exchange experiences and best practices on the management of regional and global health events, including their social and economic consequences, and on respective approaches to strengthening health systems, including through engagement in bilateral and regional mechanisms;

3.5. Environment and Climate Change

- 3.5.1. Promote cooperation to further our common aspirations on effective climate change action to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the implementation of the Paris Agreement, domestic policy action, and the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) Action Plan where appropriate;
- 3.5.2. Explore cooperation and best practices on the use of green technologies to maximise sustainable economic growth, while promoting environmental protection and sustainability, including cooperation on addressing marine plastic debris, and promoting climate-smart agriculture throughout the region;
- 3.5.3. Explore cooperation initiatives which support capacity building and governance on climate change responses; underscore the importance of climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and disaster resilience; and promote biodiversity conservation and management in the region; as well as facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences on environmental policy issues - including in collaboration with relevant bodies such as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy, and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, where appropriate;
- 3.5.4. Explore opportunities for regional and international cooperation on waste related issues including efficient waste management;
- 3.5.5. Work with the international community to enhance cooperation in preventing illegal traffic of transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and wastes in line with, and as appropriate, agreed international frameworks such as the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention, and the Montreal Protocol as well as internationally agreed upon systems such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);
- 3.5.6. Explore cooperation which strengthens capabilities in conservation and sustainable management of land and forests;

3.6. Arts, Culture, and Sports

- 3.6.1. Enhance cooperation in the areas of culture, arts and heritage, and sports including through cultural festivals, arts and crafts exhibitions, film cooperation, entertainment and media exchanges in both ASEAN Member States and New Zealand, to foster understanding, awareness, appreciation and appropriate preservation of cultural heritage, arts and sports between ASEAN Member States and New Zealand;

3.7. Social Welfare and Rights

- 3.7.1. Explore cooperation, including through dialogue and capacity-building, to promote social welfare and rights in the region, including through relevant multilateral and regional fora, frameworks, conferences and mechanisms, such as but not limited to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- 3.7.2. Explore opportunities to promote the social rights and participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and vulnerable groups in platforms that contribute to human development and social protection (including as leaders in business and in the community), including where appropriate through exchanging policy ideas and best practices, through public sector leadership opportunities, and through engagement in regional and multilateral forums;

4. CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION

4.1. Connectivity

- 4.1.1. Strengthen cooperation on the ASEAN Connectivity agenda through participation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, especially in areas of mutual interest such as seamless logistics and ensuring resilient supply chains;

4.2. Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing the Development Gap (NDG)

- 4.2.1. Continue to support ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap within and between ASEAN Member States, through the implementation of IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) as well as alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development in order to realise the ASEAN Community and regional integration;
- 4.2.2. Continue to support CLMV countries in their development, in order to further regional integration, including through coordination with sub-regional and regional frameworks and organisations that work to enhance cooperation in the Mekong sub-region;

4.3. Smart Cities

- 4.3.1. Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) to build communities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected towards achieving smart and sustainable development, including exploring the possibility of partnerships with ASCN and ASCN cities in areas of mutual interest;

4.4. Sustainable Development Cooperation

- 4.4.1. Strengthen cooperation to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the promotion of complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Complementarities Initiative) as well as the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap 2020-2025;
- 4.4.2. Enhance cooperation in areas that help to facilitate sustainable development in the region, including through exploring engagement with relevant ASEAN institutions such as the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) as well as through discussions on Trade and Sustainable Development in AANZFTA, including in the context of the AANZFTA upgrade;

4.5. Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat

- 4.5.1. Continue to support the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat, including by extending opportunities where appropriate for Secretariat officials to participate in training and capacity-building programmes, particularly in research and analysis as well as management and monitoring skills;

5. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

5.1.1. This Plan of Action will be reviewed through existing mechanisms, including the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue and the ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (ANZJCC) Meeting(s); and

5.1.2. Annual progress reports on the implementation of this Plan of Action will be submitted to the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) session with New Zealand.
