



PRESS STATEMENT

Special Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (SOCA) on Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and SOCA Retreat

24-25 February 2020, Da Lat City, Viet Nam

The Special Meeting of the Senior Officials' Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (SOCA) on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 was successfully convened back-to-back with the SOCA Retreat in Da Lat City, Viet Nam on 24-25 February 2020.

The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Ha Thi Minh Duc, as Viet Nam SOCA Leader, and participated by SOCA Leaders and delegates from ASEAN Member States, H.E. Dr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and staff of the ASEAN Secretariat.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Duc and H.E. Kung Phoak emphasised that the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), as the people-pillar of ASEAN, continues to sustain the positive impacts of regional integration and the betterment of people's lives. The effective implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 will ensure that progress is made towards sustainable development, strengthened partnerships, and raised public awareness of the ASEAN Community and ASEAN Identity. It is then crucial to have a robust monitoring and evaluation system to keep track of the Blueprint and its tangible outcomes.

The discussions in the Meeting underlined the following:

1. The ASCC Blueprint 2025 contains ASEAN's vision of an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic ASEAN Community that engages and benefits people. To achieve these objectives, an efficient Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will make sure the work of sectoral bodies under the ASCC are measurable and on track. Regular monitoring will be conducted, including a Mid-Term Review (MTR), for the period of 2016-2020; and End-of-Term Review, for 2021-2025.
2. The MTR will track the progress of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation and, where applicable, evaluate the impact of the

Blueprint's achievements. The system uses these five dimensions of assessment: 1. attribution and 2. effectiveness of activities to the Blueprint objectives; 3. institutional mechanisms of the implementation at sectoral and cross-cutting issues; 4. means of the implementation; 5. and availability and efficacy of resources. On the basis of these assessments, the MTR Report will provide recommendations for further enhancement of the ASCC's work beyond 2025.

3. The meeting discussed strategies that will be used in conducting the MTR, including the data collection methodology, the analytical approach, and the implementation of MTR in the inception and implementation phases. The MTR methodology will use both quantitative and qualitative design and will tap various data sources. The analytical approach will adopt a holistic approach to improve the credibility of the MTR findings, through the convergence of multiple information from different sources.
4. During the SOCA Retreat, the Meeting exchanged views on SOCA-ASCC events and priorities for 2020, as well as how to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of SOC-COM and SOCA to achieve the pillar's priorities.
5. The Meeting expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of Viet Nam, through the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, for its excellent chairmanship, warm hospitality, and impeccable arrangements for Special Meeting of SOCA on MTR of the Implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and the SOCA Retreat.

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