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## MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : **The OIC-Director**  
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR INPUTS TO THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE  
ASEAN-EU PLAN OF ACTION 2023-2027**

DATE : **27 JAN 2022**

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This has reference to the letter dated 17 January 2022 from Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Espiritu, Office of ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, regarding the Zero Draft ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2023-2027.

This Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership replaces the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) and is adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with the EU. ASEAN and the EU will pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under the International Law, and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

In this regard, we would like to request for your comments/inputs/concurrence on the attached Zero Draft ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2023-2027 to be sent to the email address: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) on or before **03 February 2022**. Further, please provide a short background information on your inputs which will be used by the Philippine Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta during negotiations with ASEAN Member States and then with the EU.

For your information and appropriate action.

  
**GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE**



**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**

**OFFICE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS**

Our Ref. No. : DIV5-014-ASEAN-2022  
Subject : **Zero Draft ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2023-2027**  
Date : 17 January 2022

Dear Mesdames/Sirs,

The Department respectfully transmits a copy of the Zero Draft ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2023-2027, which consolidated the inputs from the Philippines, as country coordinator, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

In view of this, the Department respectfully requests your agency's comments and any additional elements that you would like to include in the Plan of Action. Kindly provide a short background information on your agency's inputs which will be used by the Philippine Permanent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta during negotiations with ASEAN Member States and then with the EU.

The Department would appreciate receiving your inputs on or before 7 February 2022. Advance copies of your inputs may be sent to [asean.div5@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:asean.div5@dfa.gov.ph). Should we not receive your inputs on or before the deadline, please allow us to assume that your agency goes along with the current draft text.

Very truly yours,  
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel R. Espiritu'.

**DANIEL R. ESPIRITU**  
Assistant Secretary

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## **Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027)**

This Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership replaces the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) and is adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 with the EU.

ASEAN and the EU will pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law, and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

### **1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION**

#### **1.1. Enhance strategic dialogue and deepen political and security cooperation**

- a) Convene biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meetings (AEMM), Annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the EU (PMC)+1, supported by regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting, and work towards the convening of regular ASEAN-EU Summits.
- b) Strengthen cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN system, as well as with the Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the G20, and to develop joint positions where appropriate.
- c) Enhance dialogue between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the EU Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to support efforts in advancing the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership.

#### **1.2. Enhance the ASEAN-EU cooperation in the ASEAN-led security architecture**

- a) Support ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving regional architecture in East Asia.
- b) Support the open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based ASEAN-led regional architecture and encourage the interest of the EU in furthering engagement with the region through ASEAN- led processes.
- c) Enhance dialogue and promote cooperation with the EU on defence and security matters, such as in the areas of maritime security, humanitarian

assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, cybersecurity, and counter-terrorism.

- d) Continue to support the exchange of views between security and defence officials including with reference to the APSC Blueprint 2025 and the EU's Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy.
- e) Support the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN as the primary driving force, and support the implementation of the ARF Work Plans.
- f) Cooperate in mediation, reconciliation, confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives in the region through workshops, seminars, exchange of best practices and other capacity-building initiatives with relevant ASEAN platforms such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), in accordance with its TOR.
- g) Explore synergies between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific for mutual cooperation in maritime cooperation, connectivity, economic and related areas, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

### **1.3. Combat terrorism, transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues**

- a) Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025) and implement the ASEAN-EU Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2022-2024) as well as their successors, through regular dialogues and capacity-building activities on various areas of transnational crime involving civil society actors where relevant.
- b) Convene the ASEAN Plus EU Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+EU) Consultations in the margins of the annual SOMTC on a regular basis, in accordance with SOMTC processes, to promote dialogue and cooperation on ways to tackle different aspects of transnational crime of mutual concerns.
- c) Work together and exchange best practices in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

- d) Promote cooperation on the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) as well as on issues related to people smuggling in ASEAN and the EU.
- e) Strengthen cooperation on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols thereto.
- f) Promote interaction between national law enforcement agencies of the ASEAN Member States and EUROPOL, aimed at strengthening the cooperation among them by providing mutual support as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices and expertise in the areas of mutually agreed interests.
- g) Work together with a view of supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs (2016-2025).
- h) Promote cooperation on capacity building to develop a more efficient and effective border management system in the ASEAN Member States with an integrated and cross-border approach in the fight against transnational crime.
- i) Enhance regional cooperation and build ASEAN Member States' capacities to detect, prevent and repress illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other relevant convention and agreements.
- j) Jointly build on the work accomplished since the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999), of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2462 (2019), as well as on the collective international experience developed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), Financial Stability Board (FSB), International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), and continue to develop the capacity of financial intelligence/authorised units and other relevant agencies involved in anti-money laundering/counter- terrorism financing efforts, to better detect, analyse and investigate the laundering of proceeds of crime, through capacity building workshops and seminars to combat International Economic Crime, such as on money laundering and proliferation financing.

#### **1.4. Enhance maritime security cooperation**

- a) Exchange of experience and best practices in maritime-related issues including through the regular conduct of the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation, and within the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security as well as sharing knowledge and expertise in the sustainable joint management of marine resources.
- b) Enhance cooperation in promoting respect for the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, promoting marine sustainability, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, promoting maritime connectivity and commerce, strengthening marine scientific research in accordance with 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).
- c) Strengthen cooperation on maritime security such as in combatting sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, human trafficking, hijacking and arms smuggling, including through the enhancement of maritime law enforcement cooperation, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law and the 1982 UNCLOS.
- d) Strengthen cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), including by exchanging best practices on the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, through activities such as exchange of information, technological cooperation, capacity building projects, and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and EU officials.
- e) Encourage cooperation in addressing maritime-related issues in a comprehensive manner, including exploring projects through a cross-sectoral approach on marine finance, maritime connectivity, marine science and technology, enhancing maritime domain awareness, marine environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, and building resilience and mitigating the impact of climate change on the marine and coastal environment.

#### **1.5. Promote disarmament and non-proliferation**

- a) Cooperate in areas of disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as arms control, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

including through exchanges of views within the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD).

- b) Cooperate in combating illegal transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in accordance with the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
- c) Explore efforts to regulate or improve the regulation of international trade in conventional arms.
- d) Enhance cooperation in mitigating risks associated with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials building on the achievement of the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence (CoE) Initiative.
- e) Explore regional cooperation on dual use export control in accordance with respective laws and policies.

#### **1.6. Promote the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

- a) Mainstream gender in cross-cutting areas of ASEAN-EU cooperation and promote collaboration to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.
- b) Enhance cooperation to build the institutional capacity for and commitment to WPS, especially capacity-building for women as key players and agents of peace, through knowledge-building exercises, sharing of best practices, regional dialogues, and international engagement.
- c) Raise awareness of the WPS agenda among policy-makers as well as the general public, and encourage inter-regional discussions on issues of critical importance to the WPS agenda.

#### **1.7. Promote peace-building initiatives**

- a) Promote initiatives on peace-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation including through the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR).
- b) Support initiatives to promote the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, especially in leveraging the ASEAN-led mechanisms and entities.

#### **1.8. Promote Cooperation on human rights and good governance**



- a) Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with relevant international and regional human rights instruments to which all ASEAN and EU Member States are parties.
- b) Continue to hold ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogues on Human Rights.
- c) Strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) through training, regional dialogues, awareness raising activities, exchange of best practices and other capacity building initiatives to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- d) Strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the EU to implement relevant UN conventions and instruments on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms which all ASEAN Member States are parties to, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD.
- e) Promote capacity building for and support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening democracy, good governance, rule of law, and judiciary systems, through sharing of experiences and best practices.
- f) Promote further cooperation in accordance with the respective domestic laws and policies on combating corruption through, inter alia, encouraging the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption. In this respect, also promote the sharing of best practices.

### **1.9. Strengthen Institutional Relationships**

- a) Promote linkages between the ASEAN Member States' Parliaments and the EU Parliament through exchanges of members of the parliament (MPs), parliamentary secretariat personnel and best organizational practices to enhance operational effectiveness and inter parliamentary relationships.
- b) Encourage exchanges and dialogues between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER).

## **2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

### **2.1. Expand trade, business and investment**

- a) Convene regular ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations, and regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Economic Officials (SEOM-EU).
- b) Encourage further dialogue and cooperation in the field of economic policy and social policy, with a view to contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth, social cohesion, and labour market stability including decent work and core labour standards.
- c) Intensify work towards the timely resumption of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, and create a roadmap to guide the negotiations and help identify milestones that can be achieved for optimal benefits to all parties, noting the status of bilateral FTAs between several ASEAN Member States and the EU.
- d) Strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States through mechanisms that could facilitate the creation of a region to region free trade agreement, including the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) under the EU ARISE+ program and its potential synergies with the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), and the Trade Experts Study and Dialogue under the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) programme.
- e) Support the effective implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, among others, by supporting relevant AEC sectoral bodies to effectively address the findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review, including sectoral and cross-sectoral recommendations.

## **2.2. Strengthen the role of the private sector and Public-Private Partnership**

- a) Encourage public-private sector dialogue and business-to-business engagement, with the aim of effectively representing both ASEAN and EU business interests.
- b) Share best practices between EU Member States and ASEAN Member States on Public Private Partnership (PPP) in support of regional integration.
- c) Encourage continued private sector engagements between ASEAN and the EU, in particular through the ASEAN-EU Business Summit and the ASEAN-EU Health Summit, and support the implementation of their recommendations.

### **2.3. Strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

- a) Promote cooperation and exchange best practices and experience in financing and developing resilient and competitive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and encourage further exchanges on policy and regulatory frameworks including in digital economy.
- b) Enhance cooperation by exchanging best practices on improving market access for MSMEs and on the findings of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025 and its Strategic Goals.

### **2.4. Strengthen Cooperation in Transport, Energy and ICT**

- a) Strengthen cooperation and exchange best practices on regional transport issues including with reference to the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025.
- b) Implement the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA), the first ever region to region agreement, with a view to enhancing air connectivity between ASEAN and the EU.
- c) Promote jointly the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market including the enhancement of aviation safety, security, and air traffic management consistent with the ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices.
- d) Strengthen ASEAN-EU cooperation by sharing best practices on promoting energy access, energy security and multilateral measures to support competitive global energy markets alongside the development of Phase II of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025, and in accordance with the recommendations of its Mid Term Review in 2018.
- e) Cooperate to promote energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) measures and technologies, renewable energy and other clean energy programmes including research; promote the development of alternative energy and cooperate on civilian nuclear safety, as well as promote public awareness and capacity building in this area.
- f) Cooperate in the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, digital data governance, governance in the use of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, sustainable development of digital services, digital services to connect business and to facilitate cross-border trade as well as other ICT priorities as mutually agreed.

- g) Promote further cooperation in ASEAN digital transformation agenda, especially in the area of digital economy integration, as guided by the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap on ASEAN Digital Transformation and the Work Plan for the Implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce 2021-2025.

**2.5. Enhance cooperation in sectors on food, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry**

- a) Enhance cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters of mutual interests, including, but not limited to, exchange of best practices in aspect of inspections and the implementation of the precautionary principle.
- b) Strengthen fisheries cooperation, including among others, supporting efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, promote sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development, improve the management of aquatic animal health, promote climate resilient aquaculture/fisheries technologies and approaches, protection of habitats, marine mammals, and endangered threatened and protected (ETP) species, disaster risk prevention and management and climate change adaptation, and address marine debris in the context of fisheries.
- c) Continue cooperation on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade (FLEGT).
- d) Promote cooperation in addressing illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber in accordance with relevant international conventions such as the CITES.
- e) Promote cooperation by sharing best practices on improving the circularity of agriculture, including the applications of nature-based solutions in agriculture and forestry.
- f) Support the development and implementation of decarbonisation measures in the food, agriculture and forestry sector.

**2.6. Enhance cooperation on research and innovation, Science and Technology**

- a) Continue dialogue between the ASEAN Committee on Science, and Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and the EU to promote cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

- b) Continue cooperation in promoting the findings of the Mid-Term Review in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 as a building block for ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation.
- c) Enhance cooperation of Science and Technology (S&T) centres of excellence and other S&T stakeholders, including through the EU's Framework Programme and relevant ASEAN mechanisms as well as national programmes in the EU and ASEAN, in areas of mutual interest.
- d) Continue cooperation in promoting the exchange and mobility of scientists and researchers between ASEAN and the EU through exchange programmes and other appropriate arrangements in accordance with the respective laws, rules, regulation, and national policies.
- e) Support the implementation of the EU-ASEAN Dialogue on "GreenTech and Innovation Mapping" (GreenTech Project), particularly on its pilot implementation of plastic waste management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- f) Encourage dialogue in the area of space cooperation between ASEAN and the EU through knowledge exchange and technology transfer programmes.

## **2.7. Enhance cooperation on Competition Policy and Consumer Protection**

- a) Share best practices and experience in enforcing competition law and consumer protection law and foster engagements between the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition, the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection, and the EU.
- b) Continue to promote secondments of ASEAN competition officials to the EU Commission or competition authorities of the EU Countries.
- c) Explore the possibility of secondments of ASEAN consumer protection officials to the EU Commission and the consumer protection authorities of the EU Countries.

## **2.8. Enhance cooperation in the development of official statistics**

- a) Support statistical cooperation and capacity building for ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN Secretariat including in institutional strengthening and

enhancing data collection, processing and dissemination to achieve better availability and quality ASEAN statistics.

### **3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION**

#### **3.1. Enhance people-to-people mobility**

- a) Promote and strengthen people-to-people mobility between ASEAN and the EU, including student, faculty and researcher mobility, and internships, and support the development and implementation of regional and inter-regional frameworks, tools and mechanisms to strengthen capacity of ASEAN Member States.
- b) Maximise cooperation on student and youth exchange and mobility in ASEAN and the EU through the EU's programme for education, science, technology, information technology and the 4IR, energy, biodiversity, medicine and health, maritime studies, disaster management, sports, women, education, space technology, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), cultural conservation, media and information, engineering, finance, sustainable development, and increasing educational exchanges through Erasmus+ program, as well as national programmes in EU Member States and ASEAN countries.
- c) Support and develop initiatives for the provision and recognition of educational services, academic and professional qualifications.
- d) Strengthen collaboration between international educational organisations in ASEAN Member States and the EU to enhance the quality of education in areas in line with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025.
- e) Promote initiatives and programmes that enhance cultural understanding and awareness between ASEAN and the EU, as well as the regular exchange of experience and expertise on public policy and its implementation in the field of culture.
- f) Strengthen the collaboration between EU higher education associations and institutions with the ASEAN University Network (AUN).
- g) Explore the possibility of establishing a Network of ASEAN-EU of Think Tanks.
- h) Explore cooperation in the field of creative industry, including gaming and animation.

**3.2. Enhance cooperation to address health priorities, including public health emergencies and pandemics**

- a) Enhance cooperation on health priorities related to promoting healthy lifestyles, responding to all hazards and emerging threats, strengthening health systems and access to care.
- b) Strengthen coordination and cooperation in addressing the challenges of communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics; and potential health threats or outbreak due to disasters.
- c) Support a network of existing agencies to enhance the effectiveness of regional surveillance and response towards Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID), including tropical diseases, for better preparedness against major disease outbreaks.
- d) Strengthen both regions' preparedness for, and capacity to respond effectively to, current and future public health emergencies.
- e) Encourage the EU to continue supporting the ASEAN's pandemic response and recovery efforts, including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Implementation Plan, ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies, ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases and other COVID-19 related initiatives.
- f) Reaffirm continued support for vaccine security and self-reliance in the region, including vaccine multilateralism and fair, equitable, timely and affordable access to safe and effective vaccines under the multilateral COVAX Facility.
- g) Enhancement of cooperation in health systems strengthening towards Universal Health Care and mental health.

**3.3. Promote gender equality, well-being, rights and welfare of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrant workers**

- a) Collaborate with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), and ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to promote gender equality as well as the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, 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, in line with their respective mandates and work plan.

- b) Support exchange of experience and best practices on policies and programmes on gender mainstreaming to promote gender analysis and women's perspectives in regional initiatives across sectors, including initiatives on decent work, social protection, building resilience, economic empowerment of women, and WPS.
- c) Strengthen cooperation in capacity building, research and raising awareness in areas of safe migration, labour and employment, gender and criminal justice dimension of trafficking in persons towards the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.
- d) Promote dialogue and exchange of best practices, in addressing migration, including children in migration, and enhance cooperation on issues related to migration in the UN and other multilateral contexts, as appropriate.
- e) Support cooperation to promote and mainstream the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, particularly targeting poor and vulnerable groups and those suffering from multiple disabilities.
- f) Support cooperation and sharing of best practices on social protection and social welfare, particularly for migrants and other vulnerable groups in society.
- g) Share best practices and measures for addressing the health needs for migrant workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for the protection of caregivers, medical frontliners, and seafarers, including, but not limited to: the non-discriminatory access to health care and vaccines for migrants, regardless of immigration status; and free movement of migrants that does not discriminate based on vaccines received.

#### **3.4. Enhance cooperation on Crisis and Disaster Management**

- a) Enhance dialogue and cooperation between EU and ASEAN to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme.
- b) Support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) including through capacity building activities organised with the support of the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanism (EU SAHA project) and through the consolidation of increased operational links with



the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) as well as by identifying areas of joint cooperation reflected in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

**3.5. Address regional and global environmental challenges and promote sustainable development**

- a) Regularly conduct ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development as a platform to discuss development issues and sustainability issues and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD).
- b) Conduct ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change as a platform to strengthen policy dialogue and advance ASEAN-EU cooperation on environmental, climate change, and sustainable development issues.
- c) Enhance cooperation through existing relevant initiatives such as the Team Europe Green Initiative for South-East Asia/ASEAN, to contribute to the European Green Deal and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- d) Exchange best practices in the areas of poverty reduction and rural development, and support the development and the implementation of ASEAN Master Plan on Rural Development.
- e) Support the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through technical assistance and capacity building.
- f) Strengthen cooperation to address the challenges posed by climate change through support to the implementation of relevant strategic priorities of ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE), ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) Action Plan, and Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others.
- g) Strengthen cooperation to address climate change and climate-related issues such as water and air pollution, sea level rise, adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), climate finance and long-term strategy.

- h) Explore collaboration to address environmental challenges in the framework of Copernicus, in accordance with the respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.
- i) Strengthen support for ASEAN's efforts in the full and effective implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) to effectively address land and forest fires in the region, such as through the ASEAN-EU Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA).
- j) Strengthen cooperation to address inter alia issues such as marine litter, focusing efforts in particular on prevention, through support to the implementation of ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States.
- k) Enhance cooperation and support on the concept of circular economy and encourage sustainable consumption and production models by exchanging experiences and best practices, strengthening knowledge management and stakeholder engagement, and raising public awareness on measures covering the entire product life cycle: from production to consumption, waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.
- l) Continue promoting sub-regional cooperation to support social-economic development and sustainable water management, including the Lower-Mekong region and the Sulu-Sulawesi seascape, drawing out from relevant EU experience and promote the sustainable use of inland waters, coastal and marine environment.
- m) Strengthen cooperation on biodiversity conservation and management and support the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity while continuing biodiversity initiatives in the region, in particular through ASEAN-EU cooperation on natural capital and the ASEAN-EU Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP), and its follow-up projects, framing cooperation in biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use, and mainstreaming across pillars, within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- n) Enhance dialogues and exchange experiences to strengthen sustainable, inclusive, and responsible business practices.

#### **4. CROSS PILLAR COOPERATION**

#### **4.1. Connectivity Cooperation**

- a) Continue policy dialogue to enhance connectivity in ASEAN, and between ASEAN and the EU, including through the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and relevant EU counterparts, as well as sub-regional arrangements.
- b) Enhance joint-cooperation in the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and its successor document, including through exchange of best practices and support to capacity building activities across the strategic areas of sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility as well as strengthening synergies with the EU Connectivity Strategy.
- c) Encourage cooperation to spur sustainable investments and recognise the role of the public-private partnerships and multilateral as well as regional development banks to facilitate financing of sustainable connectivity.
- d) Exchange lessons learned and best practices from the EU on the development of sub-regional and trans-regional connectivity initiatives, including the Mekong sub-region, Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

#### **4.2. Smart Cities Cooperation**

- a) Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building a network of smart cities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected, using various means including technology to improve the lives of people in the region in an inclusive and sustainable manner, including through implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, and the EU's Smart Green ASEAN Cities programme.

#### **4.3. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Cooperation**

- a) Promote cooperation on the 4IR through existing strategies and mechanisms within ASEAN and the EU, including support the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the 4IR for ASEAN.

#### **4.4. Cybersecurity Cooperation**

- a) Enhance cooperation on issues related to cyber security, including in combating cybercrime and pursuing efforts to implement the 2019 ASEAN-EU Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, Norms of Responsible State

Behaviour in Cyberspace, as agreed in the reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, through information exchange, capacity building, confidence building and dialogue, including through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technology.

#### **4.5. Circular Economy**

- a) Support efforts for cross-pillar implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community, through sharing of expertise and best practices, and coordination of existing initiatives on circular economy across the ASEAN Community Pillars.
- b) Support the development of an ASEAN Platform on Circular Economy as part of a joint initiative between ASEAN and the EU in facilitating the sharing of good circular economy practices across ASEAN and accelerating a circular economy transition in ASEAN Member States.

#### **4.6. The Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Development Gap In ASEAN**

- a) Continue to contribute towards narrowing the development gaps among ASEAN Member States through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and its successor document, as well as taking into account existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks.
- b) Exchange expertise and best practices with the EU on sustainable development in the Lower Mekong sub-region, on the basis of strong commitment by ASEAN, building on the EU's relevant programmes and experiences and the data provided by the Mekong River Commission.
- c) Exchange expertise and best practices with the EU on sub-regional cooperation, building on the ASEAN and the EU's relevant programmes and experiences on sustainable development.

### **5. FOLLOW-UP OF THE PLAN OF ACTION**

- a) ASEAN and the EU shall regularly review this Plan of Action through the appropriate existing mechanisms comprising ASEAN and EU officials, including through the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-

EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat, on the basis of mutual consent.

- b) Progress report of the implementation of the Plan of Action could be submitted to the biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.
- c) The implementation of the present Plan of Action is a shared responsibility of ASEAN and the EU. It will be jointly taken forward by ASEAN and the EU.
- d) The Plan of Action (2023-2027) does not, nor is it intended to create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

Version	Date	Status	Author
0.0	10/1/2022	Zero Draft	ASEC and Country Coordinator

## Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027)

This Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership replaces the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) and is adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 with the EU.

ASEAN and the EU will pursue cooperation in conformity with their obligations under international law, and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.

### 1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

#### 1.1. Enhance strategic dialogue and deepen political and security cooperation

- a) Convene biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meetings (AEMM); Annual ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference with the EU (PMC)+1; supported by regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting; and work towards the convening of regular ASEAN-EU Summit.
- b) Strengthen cooperation in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations and other bodies within the UN system, as well as with the Asia – Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the G20, and to develop joint positions where appropriate.
- c) Enhance dialogue between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the EU Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta to support efforts in advancing the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership.
- d) ~~Encourage exchanges and dialogues between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER).~~

#### 1.2. Enhance the ASEAN-EU cooperation in the ASEAN-led security architecture

- a) Support ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving regional architecture in East Asia.

**Commented [ERD21]:** ASEC propose to delete this action line as the status of this action line has been "proposed" since 2018. In addition, the last meeting between the CPR and COREPER was held in 2014. However, should AMS prefer to retain this action line, we propose to move to 1.9. Strengthen Institutional Partnerships.

- b) Support the open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based ASEAN-led regional architecture and encourage the interest of the EU in furthering engagement with the region through ASEAN- led processes.
- c) Enhance dialogue and promote cooperation with the EU on defence and security matters, such as in the areas of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, cybersecurity, and counter-terrorism.
- d) Continue to support the exchange of views between security and defence officials including with reference to the APSC Blueprint 2025 and the EU's Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy.
- e) Enhance Support the role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN as the primary driving force, and support the implementation of the ARF Work Plans.
- f) Cooperate in mediation, reconciliation, confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, conflict management, conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives in the region through workshops, seminars, exchange of best practices and other capacity-building initiatives with relevant ASEAN platforms such as the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), in accordance with its TOR.
- g) Explore synergies between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific for mutual cooperation in maritime cooperation, connectivity, economic and related areas, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

**1.3. Combat terrorism, transnational crimes, address other non-traditional security issues**

- a) ~~Work towards~~ Support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025) and implement the ASEAN-EU Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2022-2024) as well as their successors, through regular dialogues and ~~on counter terrorism, including prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and countering terrorism financing, as well as conduct of capacity-building activities on various areas of transnational crime, P/CVE involving civil society actors where relevant.~~

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**Commented [ERD22]: Comment from ASEC Desk Officers:** Reformulation of the sentence is based on the area of cooperation identified under the ASEAN-EU Work Plan to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime (2022-2024), which are not limited to terrorism, but also include illicit trafficking (drugs, human beings, small arms, wildlife and timber), piracy and armed robbery at sea, cybercrime and international economic crime. In addition, SOMTC's work plans with Dialogue Partners are also implemented in support of the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime, which covers various areas of transnational crime.

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- b) Convene the ASEAN Plus EU Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+EU-EU) Consultations in the margins of the annual ASEAN SOMTC on a regular basis, in accordance with SOMTC processes, to promote dialogue and cooperation on ways to tackle different aspects of transnational crime of mutual concerns.
- c) Work together and exchange best practices in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT) and the 2017 ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2018-2025) in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.
- d) Promote cooperation on the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA) as well as on issues related to people smuggling in ASEAN and the EU.
- e) Promote-Strengthen cooperation on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols thereto.
- f) Promote interaction between national law enforcement agencies in of the ASEAN Member States and EUROPOL, aimed at strengthening the cooperation among them by providing mutual support as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices and expertise in the areas of mutually agreed interests.
- g) Work together with a view of facilitating supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs (2016-2025).
- ~~h) Enhance cooperation on issues related to cyber security, including in combating cybercrime and pursuing efforts to implement the 2010 ASEAN EU Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, Norms of Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace, as agreed in the reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, through information exchange, capacity building, confidence building and dialogue, including through the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technology.~~
- i) Promote cooperation on capacity building to develop a more efficient and effective border management system in the ASEAN Member States with an

**Commented [ERD23]: Comment from ASEC Desk Officers:** While the EU has not yet engaged the AMMD and its subsidiary mechanisms, it could play a supporting role in the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan.

**Commented [ERD24]:** ASEC propose to move this action line to the Cross-Pillar section on Cybersecurity.



integrated and cross-border approach in the fight against transnational crime, ~~including managing humanitarian crises induced movements across borders.~~

**Commented [ERD25]:** ASEC suggests to delete this sentence and propose for a more general action plan on border management to allow wider scope of cooperation without reference to specific issues.

- j) Enhance regional cooperation and build ASEAN Member States' capacities to detect, prevent and repress illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna ~~on Fauna~~ and Flora (CITES) and other relevant convention and agreements.
- k) Jointly build on the work accomplished since the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999), of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2462 (2019), as well as on the collective international experience developed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), Financial Stability Board (FSB), International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), and continue to develop the capacity of financial intelligence/authorised units and other relevant agencies involved in anti-money laundering/counter- terrorism financing efforts, to better detect, analyse and investigate the laundering of proceeds of crime, through capacity building workshops and seminars to combat International Economic Crime, such as on money laundering and proliferation financing.

#### 1.4. Enhance maritime security cooperation

- a) Exchange of experience and best practices in maritime-related issues including through the regular conduct of the ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation, ~~and within the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security~~ as well as sharing knowledge and expertise in the sustainable joint management of marine resources.
- b) Enhance cooperation in promoting respect for the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful resolution of disputes, promoting marine sustainability, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, promoting maritime connectivity and commerce, strengthening marine scientific research in accordance with 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).
- c) Strengthen cooperation on maritime security such as in combatting sea piracy, armed robbery against ships, human trafficking, hijacking and arms smuggling,

**Commented [ERD26]: Comment from ASEC Desk Officers:** If the ARF ISM on MS is included as a means of cooperation between ASEAN and the EU, would AMS wish to apply the same rationale for other ARF areas of cooperation? If not, we propose to delete reference to the ARF ISM on MS as this is not the only mechanism addressing maritime security cooperation.

including through the enhancement of maritime law enforcement cooperation, in accordance with relevant universally agreed principles of international law and the 1982 UNCLOS.

- d) Strengthen cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue (SAR), including by exchanging best practices on the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, through activities such as exchange of information, technological cooperation, capacity building projects, and exchange of visits of relevant ASEAN and EU officials.
- e) Encourage cooperation in addressing maritime-related issues in a comprehensive manner, including exploring projects through a cross-sectoral approach on marine finance, maritime connectivity, marine science and technology, enhancing maritime domain awareness, marine environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, and building resilience and mitigating the impact of climate change on the marine and coastal environment.

#### **1.5. Promote disarmament and non-proliferation**

- a) Cooperate in areas of disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as arms control, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including through exchanges of views within the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ISM on NPD).
- b) Cooperate in combating illegal transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in accordance with the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.
- c) Explore efforts to regulate or improve the regulation of international trade in conventional arms.
- d) Promote Enhance cooperation in mitigating risks associated with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials building on the achievement of the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence (CoE) Initiative.
- e) Explore regional cooperation on dual use export control in accordance with respective laws and policies

#### 1.6. Promote the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

- a) Mainstream gender as a in cross-cutting issue across areas of ASEAN-EU cooperation and deepen promote collaboration to advance the women, peace and security Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda to better support the empowerment of women and girls in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, and post-conflict peacebuilding.
- b) Enhance cooperation to build the institutional capacity for and commitment to WPS ensure women's meaningful participation in all processes of prevention, management and resolution of armed conflicts and decision-making especially capacity-building for women as key players and agents of peace, through knowledge-building exercises, sharing of best practices, regional dialogues, and international engagement.
- c) Raise awareness of the ASEAN approach to WPS agenda among policy-makers as well as the general public, and encourage inter-regional discussions on issues of critical importance to the WPS agenda. among people and civil societies, etc.

**Commented [A7]:** Mission proposed to delete this phrase taking into consideration the broad WPS agenda, as contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution S/RES/1325 (2000).

**Commented [A8]:** Mission noted that ASEC's inputs have changed the thrust of PH inputs on the paragraph and moved to delete ASEC's inputs and to retain PH original inputs.

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#### 1.7. Promote peace-building initiatives

- a) Promote initiatives on peace-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation initiatives, including through the work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR).
- b) Support initiatives to promote the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, especially in leveraging the ASEAN-led mechanisms and entities.

#### 1.8. Promote Cooperation on human rights and good governance

- a) Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with relevant international and regional human rights instruments to which all ASEAN and EU Member States are parties.
- b) Continue to hold ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogues on Human Rights.
- c) Strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) through training, regional dialogues, awareness raising activities, exchange of best practices and other capacity building initiatives to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- d) ~~Promote~~ Strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the EU to implement relevant UN conventions and instruments on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms which all ASEAN Member States are parties to, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD.
- e) Promote capacity building for and support ASEAN's efforts in strengthening democracy, good governance, rule of law, and judiciary systems, through sharing of experiences and best practices.
- f) Promote further cooperation in accordance with the respective domestic laws and policies on combating corruption through, inter alia, encouraging the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption. In this respect, also promote the sharing of best practices.

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#### 1.9. Strengthen Institutional Relationships

- a) Promote linkages between the ASEAN Member States' Parliaments and the EU Parliament through exchanges of members of the parliament (MPs), parliamentary secretariat personnel and best organizational practices to enhance operational effectiveness and inter parliamentary relationships.
- b) Encourage exchanges and dialogues between the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER).

Commented [ERD29]: Moved from 1.1 d

## 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### 2.1. Expand trade, business and investment

- a) Convene regular ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations, and regular meetings of the ASEAN-EU Senior Economic Officials (SEOM-EU).
- b) Encourage further dialogue and cooperation in the field of economic policy and social policy, with a view to contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth, social cohesion, and labour market stability including decent work and core labour standards.

- c) Intensify work towards the timely resumption of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, and create a roadmap to guide the negotiations and help identify milestones that can be achieved for optimal benefits to all parties, noting the status of bilateral FTAs between several ASEAN Member States and the EU.
- d) Strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States through mechanisms that could facilitate the creation of a region to region free trade agreement, in particular including the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS) under the EU ARISE+ program and its potential synergies with the ASEAN Single Window (ASW), and the Trade Experts Study and Dialogue under the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) programme.
- e) Support the effective implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 ~~by ensuring that the findings of its Mid-Term Review are addressed~~ , among others, by supporting relevant AEC sectoral bodies to effectively address the findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review, including sectoral and cross-sectoral recommendations.

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## 2.2. Strengthen the role of the private sector and Public-Private Partnership

- a) Encourage public-private sector dialogue and business-to-business engagement, with the aim of effectively representing both ASEAN and EU business interests.
- b) Share best practices between EU Member States and ASEAN Member States on Public Private Partnership (PPP) in support of regional integration.
- c) Encourage continued private sector engagements between ASEAN and the EU, in particular through the ASEAN-EU Business Summit and the ASEAN-EU Health Summit, and support the implementation of their recommendations.

## 2.3. Strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

- a) Promote cooperation and exchange ~~Share best practices and experience in financing and developing resilient and competitive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and encourage further exchanges on policy and regulatory frameworks for including in digital economy.~~
- b) ~~Exchange~~ Enhance cooperation by exchanging best practices on improving market access to MSMEs ~~with the EU, and particularly on the findings of the~~

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Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025 and its Strategic Goals.

#### 2.4. Strengthen Cooperation in Transport, Energy and ICT

- a) Promote Strengthen cooperation and exchange best practices on regional transport issues including with reference to the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan) 2016-2025.
- b) Implement the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (AE CATA), the first ever region to region agreement, with a view to enhancing air connectivity between ASEAN and the EU.
- c) Promote jointly the development of the ASEAN Single Aviation Market including the enhancement of aviation safety, security, and air traffic management consistent with the ICAO's Standards and Recommended Practices.
- d) Strengthen ASEAN-EU cooperation by sharing best practices on promoting energy access, energy security and multilateral measures to support competitive global energy markets alongside the development of Phase II of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025, and in accordance with the recommendations of its Mid Term Review in 2018.
- e) Cooperate to promote energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) measures and technologies, renewable energy and other clean energy programmes including research; promote the development of alternative energy and cooperate on civilian nuclear safety, as well as promote public awareness and capacity building in this area.
- f) ~~Jointly explore ways to develop transparent, coherent, ICT regulatory framework~~ Cooperate in the implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, digital data governance, governance in the use of 4IR technologies, ~~sustainable ICT~~ **sustainable development of digital services**, digital services to connect business and to facilitate cross-border trade ~~as well as other ICT priorities as mutually agreed.~~
- g) Promote further cooperation in ASEAN digital transformation agenda, especially in the area of digital economy integration, as guided by the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap on ASEAN Digital Transformation and the Work Plan for the Implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce 2021-2025.

**Commented [A10]:** While "sustainable ICT," as suggested by ASEC, may be commonly used within ICT sectors, the phrase has never been reflected in ASEAN documents. Mission recommended the phrase "sustainable development of digital services" as used in the ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025.

## 2.5. Enhance cooperation in sectors on food, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry

- a) Enhance cooperation in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters of mutual interests, including, but not limited to, exchange of best practices in aspect of inspections and the implementation of the precautionary principle.
- b) Strengthen fisheries cooperation, including among others, supporting efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and promote sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development, improve the management of aquatic animal health, promote climate resilient aquaculture/fisheries technologies and approaches, protection of habitats, marine mammals, and endangered threatened and protected (ETP) species, disaster risk prevention and management and climate change adaptation, and address marine debris in the context of fisheries.

**Commented [A11]:** Mission included these elements from the 12 fisheries policy to include PH priorities.

- ~~e) Explore cooperation for the possible development of an ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP)~~

**Commented [ERD212]:** ASEC suggests to delete 2.5 c) and propose to consider expanding 2.5 b) to include some elements from the 12 fisheries policy.

- d) Promote Continue cooperation on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Trade (FLEGT).
- e) Promote cooperation in addressing illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber in accordance with relevant international conventions such as the ~~Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)~~.
- f) Promote cooperation by sharing best practices on improving the circularity of agriculture, including the applications of nature-based solutions in agriculture and forestry.
- g) Support the development and implementation of decarbonisation measures in the food, agriculture and forestry sector.

**Rationale:** At the Special SOM-42nd AMAF held on 23 August 2021, Thailand requested the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries to consider developing an action plan to analyse existing regional policies and identify gaps resulting from policy implementation. The 43rd AMAF held on 27 October 2021 adopted ASWGFI's Recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study, **which is not to develop an AGFP but to focus on the full implementation of the existing twelve (12) policy frameworks with the inclusion of marine debris.**

Fisheries Policy Frameworks:

- i. sustainable marine fisheries resources management
- ii. International trade
- iii. sustainable inland fisheries resources management
- iv. animal health and biosecurity
- v. sustainable management of aquaculture
- vi. fisheries data collection and sharing
- vii. combatting IUU fishing
- viii. protection of habitats, marine mammals, and endangered threatened and protected (ETP) species
- ix. fisheries research and science
- x. support for small-scale fisheries
- xi. food safety
- xii. disaster risk prevention and management and climate change adaptation

## 2.6. Enhance cooperation on research and innovation, Science and Technology

- a) Continue dialogue between the ASEAN Committee on Science, and Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and the EU to promote cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.

- b) Continue cooperation in promoting ~~Promote the findings of the Mid-Term Review in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 as a building block for ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation.~~
- c) Enhance cooperation of Science and Technology (S&T) centres of excellence and other S&T stakeholders, including through the EU's Framework Programme and relevant ASEAN mechanisms as well as national programmes in the EU and ASEAN, in areas of mutual interest.
- d) Continue cooperation in promoting ~~Promote the exchange and mobility of scientists and researchers between ASEAN and the EU through exchange programmes and other appropriate arrangements in accordance with the respective laws, rules, regulation, and national policies.~~
- e) ~~Support the development of an ASEAN Platform on Circular Economy as part of a joint initiative between ASEAN and the EU in facilitating the sharing of good circular economy practices across ASEAN and accelerating a circular economy transition in ASEAN Member States.~~
- f) Support the implementation of the EU-ASEAN Dialogue on "GreenTech and Innovation Mapping" (GreenTech Project), particularly on its pilot implementation of plastic waste management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- g) ~~Promote cooperation on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) through existing strategies and mechanisms within ASEAN and the EU, and to further its development within related mechanisms such as free trade agreements among others.~~
- h) Encourage dialogue in the area of space cooperation between ASEAN and the EU through knowledge exchange and technology transfer programmes.

**Commented [ERD213]:** ASEC proposes to move this action line under Cross Pillar cooperation

**Commented [ERD214]:** ASEC suggests to keep cooperation on 4IR broad as cross-pillar initiative and propose to move under Cross-Pillar Cooperation section. In addition, the FTA ASEAN-EU does not yet exist and the works towards FTA discussed under 2.1.c) and 2.1.d)

## 2.7. Enhance cooperation on Competition Policy and Consumer Protection

- a) Share best practices and experience in enforcing competition law and consumer protection law and foster engagements between the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition, the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection, and the EU.
- b) Continue to promote secondments of ASEAN competition officials to the EU Commission or competition authorities of the EU Countries.



- c) Explore the possibility of secondments of ASEAN consumer protection officials to the EU Commission and the consumer protection authorities of the EU Countries.

### 2.8. Enhance cooperation in the development of official statistics

- a) Support statistical cooperation and capacity building for ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN Secretariat including in institutional strengthening and enhancing data collection, processing and dissemination to achieve better availability and quality ASEAN statistics.

### 3. SOCIO-CULTURAL COOPERATION

#### 3.1. Enhance ~~cooperation in education, academic and cultural exchanges~~ people-to-people mobility

- a) b) Maximise cooperation on students' and Youth's youth exchange and mobility in ASEAN and the EU through the EU's programme for education, science, technology, information technology and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), energy, biodiversity, medicine and health, maritime studies, disaster management, sports, women, youth, education, space technology, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), cultural conservation, media and information, engineering, finance, sustainable development, and increasing educational exchanges through Erasmus+ program, as well as national programmes in EU Member States and ASEAN countries.

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Commented [A15]: Mission moved to rephrase and broaden the subheading in view of the contents of the sub-paragraphs.

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- ~~b) Explore the possibility of encouraging European students to study in ASEAN via appropriate counterpart programs, a) Promote & and strengthen people-to-people mobility between ASEAN & Europe and the EU, including student, faculty and researcher mobility, and internships, and support the development and implementation of regional and inter-regional frameworks, tools and mechanisms to strengthen capacity of ASEAN Member States.~~

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- c) Support and develop initiatives ~~to enhance inter-regional, between ASEAN and Europe, for the~~ provision and recognition of educational ~~(including TVET and higher education)~~ services, academic and professional qualifications.

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- d) Strengthen collaboration between international educational organisations in ASEAN Member States and the EU to enhance the quality of education in areas in line with the ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025.

e) Promote initiatives and programmes that enhance cultural understanding and awareness between ASEAN and the EU, as well as the regular exchange of experience and expertise on public policy and its implementation in the field of culture.

f) Strengthen the collaboration between ~~European Higher Education Associations~~ EU higher education associations and institutions with the ~~Facilitate interaction~~ Facilitate interaction between EU Member States and ASEAN University Network (AUN).

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g) Explore the possibility of establishing a Network of ASEAN-EU of Think Tanks.

h) Explore cooperation in the field of creative industry, including gaming and animation.

**3.2. Enhance cooperation to address health priorities ~~matters, including~~ public health emergencies and pandemics**

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a) Enhance cooperation on health priorities related to promoting healthy lifestyle, responding to all hazards and emerging threats, strengthening health systems and access to care, and enhancing food safety.

b) Strengthen coordination and cooperation in addressing the challenges of communicable diseases and emerging infectious diseases including pandemics; and potential health threats or outbreak due to disasters.

c) ~~Develop~~ Support a network of existing agencies to enhance the effectiveness of regional surveillance and response towards Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID), including tropical diseases, for better preparedness against major disease outbreaks.

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d) ~~Recognise the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirm the shared commitment to~~ Strengthen both regions' preparedness for, and capacity to respond effectively to, current and future public health emergencies.

e) Encourage the EU to continue to supporting the ASEAN's pandemic response and recovery efforts, including the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Implementation Plan, ASEAN Strategic Framework for Public Health Emergencies, ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases and other COVID-19 related initiatives.

f) Reaffirm continued support for vaccine security and self-reliance in the region, including vaccine multilateralism, ~~the World Health Organization and fair,~~ equitable, timely and affordable access to safe and effective vaccines under the multilateral COVAX Facility.

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g) Enhancement of cooperation in health systems strengthening towards Universal Health Care, ~~which focuses on all aspects of health, including and~~ mental health.

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### 3.3. Promote gender equality, well-being, rights and welfare of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrant workers

a) Collaborate with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), and ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) to promote gender equality as well as the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children, 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, in line with their respective mandates and work plan.

b) Support exchange of experience and best practices on policies and programmes on gender mainstreaming to promote gender analysis and women's perspectives in regional initiatives across sectors, including initiatives on decent work, social protection, ~~and building resilience,~~ women economic empowerment, and women and peace and security.

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c) ~~Promote, where applicable,~~ Strengthen cooperation in capacity building, research and raising awareness in areas of safe migration, ~~and~~ labour and employment, gender and criminal justice dimension of trafficking in persons towards the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers.

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d) Promote dialogue and exchange of best practices, in addressing migration, including children in migration, and enhance cooperation on issues related to migration in the UN and other multilateral contexts, as appropriate.

e) ~~Enhance cooperation on issues related to migration in the UN and other multilateral contexts, as appropriate.~~

Commented [ERD216]: ASEC proposed to merge 3.3. e) with 3.3. d)

- f) Support cooperation to promote and mainstream the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, particularly targeting poor and vulnerable groups and those suffering from multiple disabilities.
- g) Support cooperation and sharing of best practices on social protection and social welfare, particularly for migrants and other vulnerable groups in society.
- h) Share best practices and measures for addressing the health needs for migrant workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for the protection of caregivers, medical frontliners, and seafarers, including, but not limited to: the non-discriminatory access to health care and vaccines for migrants, regardless of immigration status; and free movement of migrants that does not discriminate based on vaccines received.

#### **3.4. Enhance cooperation on Crisis and Disaster Management**

- a) Enhance dialogue and cooperation between EU and ASEAN to support the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme.
- b) Support the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) including through capacity building activities organised with the support of the Integrated Programme in Enhancing the capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanism (EU SAHA project) and through the consolidation of increased operational links with the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) as well as by identifying areas of joint cooperation reflected in the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.

#### **3.5. Address regional and global environmental challenges and promote sustainable development**

- a) Regularly ~~conduct~~ **Conduct ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development as a platform to discuss development issues and sustainability issues and the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and support the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD).**
- b) Conduct ASEAN-EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change as a platform to strengthen policy dialogue and advance ASEAN-EU

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cooperation on environmental, climate change, and sustainable development issues.

- c) Enhance cooperation through existing relevant initiatives such as the Team Europe Green Initiative for ~~ASEAN/South-East Asia/ASEAN~~, to contribute to the European Green Deal and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- d) Exchange of best practices in the areas of poverty reduction and rural development, and support development as well as implementation of ASEAN ~~M~~master pPlan on ~~r~~Rural dDevelopment.
- e) Support the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through technical assistance and capacity building.
- f) Strengthen cooperation to address the challenges posed by climate change through support to the implementation of relevant strategic priorities of ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE), ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC) Action Plan, and Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others.
- g) Strengthen cooperation to address climate change and climate related issues such as water and air pollution, sea level rise, adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), climate finance and long-term strategy, ~~enhance EU-ASEAN cooperation on global climate change mitigation initiatives.~~
- h) Explore collaboration to address ~~societal~~ environmental challenges in the framework of Copernicus, in accordance with the respective domestic laws, regulations and policies.
- i) Strengthen support for ASEAN's efforts in the full and effective implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) to effectively address land and forest fires in the region, such as through the ASEAN-EU Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) ~~which supports the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (Haze-free Roadmap), specifically through the development of a renewed ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) as well as the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC), ASEAN Programmes on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (APSMPE).~~

**Commented [A17]:** Mission notes that the correct name of the initiative is Team Europe Green Initiative for South-East Asia/ASEAN.

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**Commented [A18]:** ASEC confirmed that it is indeed an ASEAN Document.

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**Commented [A19]:** Mission moved to delete the phrase describing SUPA as proposed by ASEC to simplify the paragraph.

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- j) Strengthen cooperation to address inter alia issues such as marine litter, focusing efforts in particular on prevention, through support to the implementation of ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Member States.
- k) Enhance cooperation and support on the concept of circular economy and encourage sustainable consumption and production models by exchanging experiences and best practices, strengthening knowledge management and stakeholder engagement, and raising public awareness on measures covering the entire product life cycle: from production to consumption, waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.
- l) ~~Promote~~ Continue promoting sub-regional cooperation to support social-economic development and sustainable water management, including the Lower-Mekong region and the Sulu-Sulawesi seascape, drawing out from relevant EU experience and promote the sustainable use of inland waters, coastal and marine environment.
- m) ~~Promote~~ Strengthen cooperation on biodiversity conservation and management and **support the expanded mandate of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity while continuing** biodiversity initiatives in the region, in particular through ASEAN-EU cooperation on natural capital and the ASEAN-EU Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP), **and its follow-up projects, framing cooperation in biodiversity and sustainable use, and mainstreaming across pillars, within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.**
- n) Strengthen dialogues and exchange of experiences to strengthen sustainable, inclusive, and responsible business practices.
- ~~l) Strengthen cooperation in the development of "Smart Cities".~~

**Commented [ERD220]:** Comment from ASEC Desk Officers: we are not clear on what "expanded mandate of ACB" refers to.  
  
PH: Additional inputs from ACB's Dr. Kris Baleva include deletion of reference to the ACB's "expanded mandate", and its replacement with "mainstreaming across pillars" of cooperation in biodiversity and sustainable use. ACB further included BCAMP's "follow-up projects".

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#### 4. CROSS PILLAR COOPERATION

##### 4.1. Connectivity Cooperation

- a) Continue policy dialogue ~~on how to enhance connectivity in ASEAN, and inter-regional connectivity~~ between ASEAN and the EU, including through the

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ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) and relevant EU counterparts, as well as sub-regional arrangements.

- b) ~~Promote Enhance jointly cooperation to the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and its successor document, particularly including through exchange of best practices and support to capacity building activities, in across the strategic areas of sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence and people mobility as well as strengthening synergies with the EU Connectivity Strategy.~~

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- c) Encourage cooperation to spur sustainable investments and recognise the role of the public private partnership and multilateral, regional and European development banks to facilitate financing of sustainable connectivity. ~~d) Explore possibility of e) Exchange lessons learned and best practices from the EU on the development of sub-regional and trans-regional connectivity initiatives, including the Mekong sub-region, Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).~~

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Commented [A21]: Mission moved to retain the paragraph deleted by ASEC in view of the importance of BIMP-EAGA and other sub-regional initiatives to ASEAN's development.

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#### 4.2. Smart Cities Cooperation

- a) Support the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) in building a network of smart cities that are resilient, innovative and well-connected, using various means including technology to improve the lives of people in the region in an inclusive and sustainable manner, including through implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, and the EU's Smart Green ASEAN Cities programme.

#### 4.3. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Cooperation

- a) Promote cooperation on the ~~Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)~~ through existing strategies and mechanisms within ASEAN and the EU, including support the implementation of the Consolidated Strategy on the 4IR for ASEAN.

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#### 4.4. Cybersecurity Cooperation

- a) Enhance cooperation on issues related to cyber security, including in combating cybercrime and pursuing efforts to implement the 2019 ASEAN-EU Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, Norms of Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace, as agreed in the reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, through information exchange, capacity building, confidence building and dialogue, including through the ARF Inter-Sessional

Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technology.]

Commented [ERD222]: Moved from 1.3 h)

#### 4.5. Circular Economy

- a) Support efforts for cross-pillar implementation of the Framework for Circular Economy for the ASEAN Economic Community, through sharing of expertise and best practices, and coordination of existing initiatives on circular economy across the ASEAN Community Pillars.
- b) Support the development of an ASEAN Platform on Circular Economy as part of a joint initiative between ASEAN and the EU in facilitating the sharing of good circular economy practices across ASEAN and accelerating a circular economy transition in ASEAN Member States.]

Commented [ERD223]: Moved from 2.6 e)

#### 4.4. The Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Narrowing the Development Gap In ASEAN

- a) Continue to contribute towards narrowing the development gaps ~~within and between~~ among ASEAN Member States through the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and its successor document ~~of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)~~, as well as taking into account existing sub-regional cooperation frameworks.
- b) ~~Exchange expertise and best practices with the EU on sustainable development in the Lower Mekong sub-region, on the basis of strong commitment by ASEAN, building on the EU's relevant programmes and experiences and the data provided by the Mekong River Commission.]~~
- c) Exchange expertise and best practices with the EU on sub-regional cooperation, building on the ASEAN and the EU's relevant programmes and experiences on sustainable development.

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Commented [ERD224]: ASEC proposed to delete point 4.4 b), as this point is similar with 4.4 c) that provide the same objective in a more generic sense. PH moved to retain the paragraph in view of the importance of sub-regional arrangements in ASEAN's development.

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#### 5. FOLLOW-UP OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

- a) ASEAN and the EU shall regularly review this Plan of Action through the appropriate existing mechanisms comprising ASEAN and EU officials, including through the ASEAN-EU Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and the ASEAN-EU Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), with the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat, on the basis of mutual consent.



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ASEC inputs in red and strikethrough

- b) Progress report of the implementation of the Plan of Action could be submitted to the biennial ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.
- c) The implementation of the present Plan of Action is a shared responsibility of ASEAN and the EU. It will be jointly taken forward by ASEAN and the EU.
- d) The Plan of Action (2023-2027) does not, nor is it intended to create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

Version	Date	Status	Author
0.0	14/12/2021	Zero Draft	Country Coordinator
0.1	19/12/2021	Draft	ASEC (ERD2)
0.2	31/12/2021	Draft	ASEC
0.3	04/01/2022	Draft	ASEC