

ASEAN

POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY
BLUEPRINT 2025



one vision, one identity, one community



ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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For inquiries, contact:

The ASEAN Secretariat
Community Relations Division (CRD)
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia
Phone: (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991
Fax : (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504
E-mail: public@asean.org

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ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint (2009-2015) has consolidated more than four decades of ASEAN political-security cooperation in the most comprehensive and concrete manner, with the aim to ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with one another and with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment. This Blueprint has upheld the purpose of preserving regional peace and stability. This Blueprint also adopted a comprehensive approach to security and an outward-looking approach in ASEAN external relations.
2. Seven years of implementation of the APSC Blueprint (2009-2015) has further deepened and expanded ASEAN political and security cooperation as well as strengthened ASEAN capacity in responding to regional and international challenges, cementing the foundation of the APSC by 2015.
3. The APSC Blueprint 2025 is envisaged to build upon the achievements that have been made to elevate ASEAN political and security cooperation to an even higher level. This will ensure a rules-based and inclusive community in which our peoples enjoy human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice, live in a safe and secure environment with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to emerging challenges and in a dynamic region where ASEAN enhances its centrality in the evolving regional architecture and plays a constructive role globally. In this regard, this Blueprint promotes a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN in which all sectors of society, regardless of gender, race, religion, language, or social and cultural background, are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building.
4. The APSC Blueprint 2025 is guided by the ASEAN Charter as well as other key ASEAN instruments and documents which provide the principles and frameworks for ASEAN political and security cooperation and their implementation. Such implementation is also guided by relevant domestic laws, regulations and policies. Since community building is an on-going process, relevant programmes and activities as contained in the APSC Blueprint (2009-2015) shall continue to be implemented given their enduring significance. This, however, is accompanied with a bold and forward-looking approach to ensure that the APSC Blueprint 2025 is relevant, contemporary and responsive to the challenges of the times.

II. CHARACTERISTICS AND ELEMENTS OF ASEAN POLITICAL-SECURITY COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

5. The APSC Blueprint 2025 shall comprise the following key characteristics which are inter-related and mutually reinforcing, and shall be pursued in a balanced and holistic manner:
 - 5.1. A rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred community bound by fundamental principles, shared values and norms, in which our peoples enjoy human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice, embrace the values of tolerance and moderation, and share a strong sense of togetherness, common identity and destiny;
 - 5.2. A resilient community in a peaceful, secure and stable region, with enhanced capacity to respond effectively and in a timely manner to challenges for the common good of ASEAN, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security;
 - 5.3. An outward-looking community that deepens cooperation with our external parties, upholds and strengthens ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture, and plays a responsible and constructive role globally based on an ASEAN common platform on international issues; and
 - 5.4. A community with strengthened institutional capacity through improved ASEAN work processes and coordination, increased effectiveness and efficiency in the work of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, including a strengthened ASEAN Secretariat, as well as with increased ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional and international levels.

A. RULES-BASED, PEOPLE-ORIENTED, PEOPLE-CENTRED COMMUNITY

6. ASEAN political-security cooperation is aimed at promoting ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing peaceful conduct among States, thereby enhancing regional peace and stability. This cooperation is also aimed at strengthening ASEAN unity and cohesiveness to build a more democratic, transparent, just, rules-based and inclusive community that shares the values of tolerance and moderation.
7. The key elements of the rules-based, people-oriented, people centred community are:
 - A.1. Adhere to and promote ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations**

A.1.1. Implement fully and effectively the ASEAN Charter

- i. Ensure the effective implementation of all provisions of the ASEAN Charter to enable ASEAN to fully function as a rules-based organisation; and
- ii. Ensure the early ratification and effective implementation of the legal instruments of the ASEAN Charter, namely, Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN and the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms.

A.1.2. Implement ASEAN agreements signed/ratified

- i. Ensure the early ratification of ASEAN agreements signed; and
- ii. Ensure the effective implementation of those agreements already ratified by ASEAN Member States.

A.1.3. Uphold the principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations

- i. Respect the United Nations (UN) Charter and international law governing the peaceful relations among states.

A.1.4. Respect the principles of independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, and national identity

- i. Abstain from participation in any policy or activity, including the use of its territory, pursued by any ASEAN Member State or non-ASEAN State or any non-State actor, which threatens the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political and economic stability of ASEAN Member States;
- ii. Promote consultations and strengthen cooperation in addressing threats and challenges that may affect the security and territorial integrity of ASEAN Member States;
- iii. Disseminate information on the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and other key ASEAN instruments to the general public as well as endeavour to include such knowledge in school curricula; and
- iv. Organise national/regional activities to promote awareness and understanding of the principles and norms in key ASEAN instruments, including the ASEAN Charter and the TAC.

A.1.5. Promote awareness of our people-oriented, people-centred community

- i. Encourage the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Foundation in coordination with relevant ASEAN Bodies to promote awareness and understanding of ASEAN, which will include:
 - a. Encourage the holding of events such as academic conferences, workshops and seminars; and
 - b. Release periodic publications on ASEAN for dissemination to the public;
- ii. Promote, in coordination with relevant ASEAN Bodies, the inclusion of ASEAN studies in the curricula of educational institutions of ASEAN Member States;
- iii. Promote better understanding of ASEAN among the general public of Dialogue Partners and other external parties through relevant ASEAN Centres and ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations (ACTCs);
- iv. Implement effectively the ASEAN Lane at international airports in ASEAN Member States;
- v. Explore an ASEAN business travel card to facilitate the movement of business people among ASEAN Member States;
- vi. Consider Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)/guidelines on consular assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to nationals of ASEAN Member States where they have no representation; and
- vii. Continue to explore the feasibility of an ASEAN common visa for non-ASEAN nationals.

A.1.6. Promote understanding and appreciation of the political and legal systems, culture and history of ASEAN Member States

- i. Promote the inclusion of the study of political and legal systems, culture and history of ASEAN Member States in school curricula to enhance understanding of and respect for the common identity and diversity of ASEAN;
- ii. Develop a pool of experts to promote understanding, knowledge and appreciation of diversity of ASEAN Member States, including through the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and ASEAN Studies Centres; and

- iii. Encourage the exchange of students at high school and university levels to increase their knowledge of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN cooperation.

A.1.7. Strengthen respect for and recognition of the purposes and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

- i. Conduct activities to promote the adherence to the underlying principles of the TAC among High Contracting Parties.

A.2. Strengthen democracy, good governance, the rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as combat corruption

A.2.1. Promote principles of democracy

- i. Convene seminars, training programmes and other capacity building activities for government officials, think-tanks, youth as well as civil society organisations (CSOs), in collaboration with external parties to share experiences on democracy and principles of democracy;
- ii. Share ASEAN experiences in promoting democracy and democratic institutions, including through the Bali Democracy Forum; and
- iii. Compile best practices on voluntary electoral observations and share such information among ASEAN Member States.

A.2.2. Instil the culture of good governance and mainstream the principles thereof into the policies and practices of the ASEAN Community

- i. Promote dialogue and partnership among governments and relevant stakeholders to foster and enable new ideas, concepts and methods with a view to enhance transparency, accountability, participatory and effective governance;
- ii. Encourage the inclusion of the culture of good governance in educational curricula;
- iii. Ensure the full and effective implementation of agreed areas of cooperation to enhance good governance within the ASEAN Community, including to improve professional skills of public entities on good governance;

- iv. Encourage the exchange and promotion of best practices on good governance and public service delivery, including through the use of e-government and relevant social media among the civil services of ASEAN Member States;
- v. Support the ASEAN Foundation to strengthen its collaboration with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to instil corporate social responsibility; and
- vi. Promote the sharing of experiences and best practices through workshops and seminars on leadership concepts and principles of good governance, aimed at setting baselines, benchmarks and norms.

A.2.3. Instil the culture of integrity and anti-corruption and mainstream the principles thereof into the policies and practices of the ASEAN Community

- i. Fully implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation for Preventing and Combating Corruption signed on 15 December 2004;
- ii. Promote ASEAN cooperation to prevent and combat corruption, among others, by utilising the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters 2004 (MLAT);
- iii. Promote ASEAN cooperation in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- iv. Strengthen the implementation of domestic laws and regulations against corruption and of anti-corruption practices in both the public and private sectors within ASEAN, including through capacity building programmes;
- v. Intensify cooperation, in the framework of applicable national and international laws to combat corruption, in the area of asset recovery and in denying safe havens to those found guilty of corruption;
- vi. Encourage the strengthening of the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption network to enhance regional cooperation on anti-corruption and at the national level through relevant bodies or agencies;
- vii. Promote the sharing of experiences, best practices and exchange of views on ethics, values and the culture of integrity to strengthen anti-corruption activities, including through the ASEAN Integrity Dialogue; and

- viii. Enhance and encourage cooperation among financial intelligence/authorised units of ASEAN Member States in the areas of collection, analysis and dissemination of information regarding potential money laundering.

A.2.4. Establish programmes for mutual support and assistance among ASEAN Member States in the development of strategies for strengthening the rule of law, judicial systems and legal infrastructure

- i. Entrust ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting (ALAWMM), with the cooperation of other Sectoral Bodies and Entities associated with ASEAN, including the ASEAN Law Association (ALA), to develop cooperation programmes to strengthen the rule of law, judicial systems and legal infrastructure;
- ii. Continue the work of existing Working Groups (WGs) of ALAWMM and ASLOM to strengthen legal infrastructure in ASEAN, including the ASLOM WG on Examining Modalities for Harmonisation of Trade Laws of ASEAN Member States and the ASLOM WG on Judicial Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters;
- iii. Support activities and programmes to strengthen networking and cooperation among the judiciaries in ASEAN Member States;
- iv. Enhance access to legal assistance in ASEAN Member States to promote social justice through more public education and outreach activities;
- v. Undertake comparative studies for lawmakers on the promulgation of laws and regulations;
- vi. Promote the development of university curricula on legal systems of individual ASEAN Member States and legal instruments pertaining to the ASEAN Community; and
- vii. Enhance cooperation between ALAWMM and ALA and other Track II organisations through seminars, workshops and research on international law, including ASEAN agreements.

A.2.5. Promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice to ensure our peoples live with dignity, in peace, harmony and prosperity

- i. Encourage ASEAN Member States to strengthen domestic legislation and institutions, promote human rights education and hold consultations with relevant stakeholders;

- ii. Encourage ASEAN Member States to ratify or to accede to core international human rights instruments and ensure their effective implementation;
- iii. Encourage ASEAN Member States to enhance engagement with the UN and relevant human rights mechanisms to which ASEAN Member States are parties, including on the Universal Periodic Review and relevant Treaty Bodies as well as share experiences and best practices;
- iv. Support the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in the discharge of its mandate, in accordance with its Terms of Reference (TOR);
- v. Enhance exchange of information on efforts to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms among ASEAN Member States in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD as well as international human rights declarations and instruments to which ASEAN Member States are parties;
- vi. Strengthen the implementation of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, including dissemination of information and promotion of public awareness on this Declaration;
- vii. Promote the mainstreaming of human rights across all three Pillars of the ASEAN Community, through consultation among relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
- viii. Encourage interaction and consultation, where appropriate, among AICHR, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other stakeholders, including CSOs concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;
- ix. Continue the work of AICHR in conducting collaborative research on thematic human rights issues in accordance with its TOR;
- x. Continue the work of AICHR in obtaining information from ASEAN Member States on the promotion and protection of human rights;
- xi. Enhance public awareness of human rights, among the peoples of ASEAN, including publication of periodic updates

of AICHR activities and public information activities by relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;

- xii. Consider, as appropriate, the review of the TOR of AICHR as provided for in the TOR, consistent with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, with a view to further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights within ASEAN;
- xiii. Strengthen interaction between the network of existing human rights mechanisms as well as other CSOs, with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies;
- xiv. Encourage coordination and consultation among relevant ASEAN Organs and Bodies with a view to enhancing the implementation of the AHRD, the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children as well as the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community, while maintaining their respective reporting lines; and
- xv. Cooperate closely with the relevant Sectoral Bodies, while maintaining the respective reporting lines, to expedite the work of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in developing an instrument to ensure the rights of migrant workers are well protected within the region, in accordance with the laws, regulations and policies of respective ASEAN Member States.

A.2.6. Increase the engagement and participation of entities associated with ASEAN and relevant stakeholders in moving forward the ASEAN Political-Security Community

- i. Intensify engagement with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in promoting a rules-based ASEAN Community, including the implementation of ASEAN declarations and agreements at the national level, to facilitate regional integration;
- ii. Promote further interaction between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and relevant entities associated with ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) Network and the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions;

- iii. Promote research and scholarly publications by ASEAN think-tanks and academic institutions on regional and international developments; and
- iv. Promote outreach and joint activities between relevant ASEAN Bodies and ASEAN stakeholders, including youth and CSOs, at the national and regional levels.

A.3. Embed the culture of peace, including the values of tolerance and moderation as a force for harmony, peace and stability in our region and beyond

A.3.1. Promote the culture of peace, inter alia, respect for diversity, promotion of tolerance and understanding of faith, religion and culture

- i. Encourage the active participation of relevant representatives to inter-faith dialogues within and among ASEAN Member States to instil the values of tolerance and moderation at the grassroots level;
- ii. Intensify the involvement of all members of the community, including youth, in activities relevant to the promotion of the culture of peace and moderation, through the conduct of workshops and seminars and other activities pursuant to the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates; and
- iii. Promote greater interaction between ASEAN initiatives on moderation and tolerance, and on-going regional and global initiatives such as the Inter-faith Dialogue and Dialogue among Civilisations, in order to develop synergies and build partnerships.

A.3.2. Promote tolerance and moderation to bridge differences, defuse tensions, resolve disputes and counter violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations

- i. Promote education as an effective means of instilling respect for life and the values of tolerance and moderation, non-violence and mutual understanding to prevent the spread of violent extremism and addressing its root causes;
- ii. Encourage dialogue and exchanges, organise outreach programmes and cross-cultural dialogue to amplify voices of moderation;

- iii. Encourage the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) and the ASEAN Foundation to conduct seminars, workshops and training programmes in collaboration with the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) and the UN in promoting the voices of moderation;
- iv. Carry out technical cooperation with the UN and relevant regional organisations, where feasible, to exchange expertise and experiences in promoting tolerance and moderation;
- v. Undertake studies to promote gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding, peace process and conflict resolution;
- vi. Provide the space, support and mechanisms to cultivate emerging leadership from various stakeholders, including women and youth, to help enhance ASEAN innovativeness and vitality to effectively meet global challenges, including the rise of violent extremism; and
- vii. Share best practices and successful case studies on engagement and integration policies between the ASEAN Foundation, the AIPR and the GMM, on the one side, and Dialogue Partners and other external parties, including relevant regional and international organisations, on the other.

B. PEACEFUL, SECURE AND STABLE REGION

- 8. In building a peaceful, secure and stable region, ASEAN adopts a comprehensive approach to security which enhances our capacity to deal with existing and emerging challenges, resolves differences and disputes by peaceful means, ensures that our region remains free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as well as enhances maritime security and cooperation.
- 9. The key elements of the peaceful, secure and stable region are:

B.1. Strengthen ASEAN ability to deal with existing and emerging challenges

B.1.1. Strengthen mechanisms under the ASEAN Political-Security Community

- i. Enhance the role of the Chair of ASEAN, as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, to ensure more effective and timely ASEAN responses to specific challenges;

- ii. Enhance the role of the APSC Council and its Chair through giving greater focus to substantive and strategic issues and to deal effectively with cross-sectoral and cross-pillar issues under its purview;
- iii. Enhance the role of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) and its Chair in addressing existing and emerging challenges, particularly those arising from the rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape, and strengthening ASEAN centrality;
- iv. Enhance the role of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and its Chair in promoting defence and security dialogue as well as practical cooperation to enhance regional peace, security and stability;
- v. Enhance the role of the ALAWMM and its Chair in strengthening law and legal cooperation within ASEAN and the provision of mutual legal and judicial assistance between ASEAN Member States in support of the ASEAN Community;
- vi. Enhance the role of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) and its Chair to address existing and emerging transnational crimes, in cooperation and coordination with other relevant ASEAN Bodies;
- vii. Enhance the role of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) and its Chair in providing strategic guidance in realising a Drug-Free ASEAN and strengthening cooperation in cross-cutting issues related to drug matters;
- viii. Enhance the role of the Chair of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in enhancing dialogue and cooperation on political-security issues through the promotion of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy activities as well as conflict resolution initiatives;
- ix. Enhance the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN in carrying out the duties and responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of the ASEAN Charter and as mandated by ASEAN Member States, including assisting the ASEAN Chair in carrying out specific work related to external relations and emergency humanitarian situations; and
- x. Enhance the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) in supporting the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC), APSC Council

and Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and to facilitate ASEAN cooperation with external parties.

B.1.2. Strengthen the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting to engage in strategic dialogue on defence and security issues as well as practical cooperation, while enhancing ASEAN centrality in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus process

- i. Enhance strategic dialogue within the ADMM in order to promote closer cooperation in addressing common defence and security issues;
- ii. Implement the Work Programme of ADMM on practical cooperation relating to defence and security issues of common concern;
- iii. Promote the exchange of observers, including other forms of participation, of ADMM-Plus countries in ADMM-Plus military and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercises on a flexible, non-binding and voluntary basis;
- iv. Ensure the implementation of the Direct Communications Link among all ADMM countries for secure and effective communication, and promote its establishment to the ADMM-Plus countries;
- v. Promote, inter alia, enhanced cooperation and coordination in the field of military medicine, including through an ASEAN Centre of Military Medicine;
- vi. Implement the work of ADMM-Plus, including the ADMM-Plus Experts WG Work Plans, namely, in the areas of HADR, peacekeeping operations, maritime security, military medicine, counter-terrorism and humanitarian mine action while ensuring ASEAN centrality in the process; and
- vii. Conduct regular review of existing initiatives to align priorities of ADMM and ADMM-Plus cooperation with emerging regional and international issues of common concern.

B.1.3. Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Forum process in support of the ASEAN Community

- i. Enhance the ARF as an action-oriented mechanism that develops concrete and effective responses to the common challenges confronting the Asia-Pacific region;

- ii. Encourage the role of the ARF Chair as a conduit for information sharing and coordination among ARF Participants in between the annual meetings of the ARF;
- iii. Enhance the role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN in the ARF, including further strengthening the ARF unit in the ASEAN Secretariat;
- iv. Implement the decision of the ARF Ministers to move the ARF towards the stage of preventive diplomacy while continuing to strengthen confidence-building measures;
- v. Develop concrete and mutually beneficial cooperation programmes, as appropriate, between ARF and relevant regional and international organisations, including those of the UN system;
- vi. Recognise the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons' contribution to the work of the ARF and utilise their recommendations, where appropriate, to strengthen the ARF;
- vii. Expand the capacity of the ARF Heads of Defence Universities, Colleges and Institutions Meeting to promote defence and military cooperation, including exchanging best practices; and
- viii. Review the ARF mechanisms and processes to strengthen the effectiveness and coordination of the ARF, including taking into account the work of other relevant mechanisms.

B.1.4. Strengthen the East Asia Summit process in support of the ASEAN Community

- i. Continue to ensure that the East Asia Summit (EAS) remains a Leaders-led, outward-looking and strategic forum to promote peace and stability in the region;
- ii. Ensure the effective implementation of activities and projects under the EAS cooperation framework in all priority areas;
- iii. Enhance the capability of the ASEAN Secretariat to coordinate and follow up on EAS cooperation, including strengthening the division handling EAS affairs; and
- iv. Encourage further coordination among the EAS Heads of Mission in Jakarta to strengthen EAS cooperation and facilitate effective follow-up of EAS Meetings.

B.1.5. Strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework in support of the ASEAN Community

- i. Strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) process and cooperation as a main vehicle in realising the long-term goal of an East Asia community with ASEAN as the driving force in the evolving regional architecture;
- ii. Ensure the timely and effective implementation of activities and measures under the APT Work Plans; and
- iii. Implement relevant recommendations of the East Asian Vision Group (EAVG) II to enhance APT cooperation.

B.2. Respond to urgent issues or crisis situations affecting ASEAN in an effective and timely manner

- i. Support the Chair of ASEAN in ensuring an effective and timely response to urgent issues or crisis situations affecting ASEAN, including providing its good offices and such other arrangements to immediately address these concerns;
- ii. Convene special meetings at the Leaders, Ministers, Senior Officials or CPR levels, including through video conferencing in the event of crisis situations affecting ASEAN;
- iii. Activate the ASEAN Troika to address urgent situations affecting regional peace and stability in a timely manner;
- iv. Explore ways and means or applicable mechanisms which could be activated immediately to address urgent situations affecting ASEAN as well as regional peace and stability; and
- v. Build on existing mechanisms to enhance early warning capability to prevent occurrence or escalation of conflicts.

B.3. Enhance ASEAN capacity to address non-traditional security issues effectively and in a timely manner

B.3.1. Strengthen cooperation in addressing and combating transnational crimes

- i. Work towards elevating the MLAT 2004 to an ASEAN treaty;
- ii. Consider accession of third countries to the MLAT 2004;

- iii. Implement effectively the Work Programme of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crimes covering terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling, sea piracy, money laundering, international economic crimes and cybercrimes;
- iv. Enhance cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in dealing with transnational crimes, including through information exchange, experience sharing, joint training and other relevant activities;
- v. Enhance cooperation in addressing other emerging transnational crimes, including illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber as well as people smuggling, in accordance with relevant international conventions;
- vi. Enhance public and media awareness campaigns against transnational crimes;
- vii. Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, media and civil society in combating transnational crimes;
- viii. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on combating transnational crimes within ASEAN and with relevant regional and international organisations;
- ix. Enhance law enforcement agencies cooperation, including through information and intelligence sharing, mutual assistance, coordinated patrols and the return of the proceeds of crime;
- x. Increase information exchange on transnational crimes through the existing database;
- xi. Strengthen mutual cooperation in combating and suppressing transnational crimes, particularly document frauds/forgery and the monitoring of financial actions suspected of supporting these crimes and terrorism actions; and
- xii. Continue the work of ALAWMM to enhance cooperation on the issue of extradition.

B.3.2. Continue to enhance cooperation against terrorism

- i. Implement effectively the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism;
- ii. Endeavour to ratify/accede to the relevant international instruments on counter-terrorism;
- iii. Strengthen cooperation to enhance moderation agenda and deradicalisation initiatives to negate and defuse radicalisation, self-radicalisation and extremism in ASEAN, including through exchange of experiences and best practices on deradicalisation, rehabilitation and re-education to prevent and suppress terrorist acts;
- iv. Enhance cooperation within and between the regions to support initiatives aimed at addressing and combating the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to terrorism, violent extremism and radicalism;
- v. Strengthen cooperation within and between the regions to prevent and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters;
- vi. Enhance cooperation and collaboration among Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, International Law Enforcement Academy, and Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism and other relevant centres in ASEAN and other regions, to continuously develop new strategies, techniques and tactics to counter terrorism;
- vii. 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, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force's Recommendations;
- viii. Continue to share experiences and expertise in implementing and enforcing counter-terrorism laws, including through international workshops and seminars;
- ix. Enhance linkages between counter-terrorism units and lead counter-terrorism responders as well as improve awareness and understanding of counter-terrorism response architecture in each ASEAN Member States;

- x. Encourage cooperation and coordination on counter-terrorism issues involving law enforcement, military and non-military government agencies;
- xi. Strengthen cooperation with Dialogue Partners and relevant international organisations, including UN agencies, on counter-terrorism through various initiatives and projects; and
- xii. Intensify information sharing on terrorist and transnational crime organisations, including operational methods, movements, terrorism financing and other relevant illicit activities such as smuggling and misuse of weapons and explosives, as well as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) materials.

B.3.3. Pursue our aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN

- i. Strengthen the role of the AMMD in coordinating a coherent, comprehensive and effective ASEAN strategy in realising the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN;
- ii. Continue to work towards a Drug-Free ASEAN which signifies ASEAN resilience and commitment to protect the people and communities from illicit drugs;
- iii. Strengthen measures to suppress production, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs as well as the control of import and export of precursor chemicals;
- iv. Develop holistic, integrated and balanced strategies, addressing both supply and demand reduction, to achieve a balance between treatment and rehabilitation approaches as well as the law enforcement approach in combating drug crimes;
- v. Develop evidence-based best practices and standards on policy formulation and interventions on drug prevention and control and other related measures;
- vi. Share best practices and promote education and advocacy programmes targeting all sectors of society, particularly youth;
- vii. Enhance the scientific laboratory capacity of ASEAN Member States in precursor identification and drugs signature analysis for drug enforcement operations and intelligence;

- viii. Promote the role of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre in enhancing networking and sharing of information and intelligence among drug law enforcement agencies of ASEAN Member States;
- ix. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on drug control;
- x. Develop ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters work plans towards achieving the regional aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN;
- xi. Enhance cooperation with external parties, including Dialogue Partners and international organisations, on combating drug trafficking and drug-related crimes;
- xii. Develop multilateral or bilateral legal arrangements to combat drug and precursor chemical trafficking;
- xiii. Promote exchange of information concerning the profile of drug crime syndicates as well as watch-list of their drug activities; and
- xiv. Provide transfer of knowledge on best practices on the control and the disposal of precursor chemicals and essential chemicals.

B.3.4. Enhance cooperation against trafficking in persons and people smuggling

- i. Ensure the early ratification of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and its effective implementation, as well as carry out the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- ii. Encourage the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crimes, as well as the Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- iii. Strengthen criminal justice responses as well as preventive measures to trafficking in persons, bearing in mind the need to protect victims of trafficking in accordance with relevant ASEAN instruments and where applicable, other relevant international conventions and protocols on trafficking in persons; and

- iv. Enhance cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and people smuggling with Dialogue Partners and other external parties.

B.3.5. Work towards the elimination of the smuggling of small arms and light weapons

- i. Promote the full implementation of measures by relevant Sectoral Bodies, to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, 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 as well as the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons; and
- ii. Endeavour to suppress arms smuggling through regional initiatives.

B.3.6. Strengthen cooperation in combating cybercrimes

- i. Strengthen cooperation in combating cybercrimes, including timely sharing of relevant information and best practices among law enforcement agencies, taking into account the need to develop or improve appropriate laws and capabilities to address cybercrimes;
- ii. Strengthen the capacity of criminal justice authorities to apply the laws and legislation on cybercrimes and electronic evidence;
- iii. Promote law enforcement training on cyber security and cybercrimes;
- iv. Strengthen public-private partnership to enhance information sharing between the private sector and law enforcement agencies to identify and mitigate cybercrime threats; and
- v. Raise awareness and understanding of ASEAN Member States on cybercrimes and cyber-terrorism.

B.3.7. Strengthen cooperation on border management

- i. Strengthen cooperation on border management, in accordance with respective domestic laws and policies, to jointly address matters of common concern including forgeries of identification and travel documents, as well as

explore the use of relevant technologies to manage borders more effectively to stem the flow of terrorists and criminals; and

- ii. Explore, where appropriate, coordinated border patrols and coordinated inspections between ASEAN Member States to combat transnational crimes, particularly drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and smuggling of goods, people and weapons, in accordance with respective domestic laws, rules, regulations and policies.

B.3.8. Strengthen ASEAN cooperation on disaster management and emergency response

- i. Enhance joint effective and early response at the political and operational levels in activating the ASEAN disaster management arrangements to assist affected countries in the event of major disasters;
- ii. Implement the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) as the main common platform for disaster management in the region;
- iii. Enhance the key role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance as the ASEAN coordinating body for disaster management in the region and where appropriate, work in partnership with relevant national, regional and international agencies and centres such as the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Regional HADR Coordination Centre and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- iv. Operationalise fully the SOP for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations for establishing joint operations in providing relief aid to disaster affected areas of ASEAN Member States, in line with the AADMER;
- v. Enhance civilian-military coordination in providing effective and timely response to major natural disasters and emergencies;
- vi. Promote synergy on disaster management between ASEAN and other ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ARF, APT, EAS and ADMM-Plus with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management as the driver in the process; and

- vii. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is integrated into ASEAN strategies on disaster management and emergency response.

B.3.9. Enhance ASEAN capacity to address transnational crimes and transboundary challenges

- i. Strengthen existing ASEAN mechanisms to consider preventive management to effectively address these new challenges, including working with Dialogue Partners, UN and other relevant bodies with the consent of countries concerned;
- ii. Convene special meetings, as and when necessary, at Senior Officials' level to address challenges of transboundary or transnational nature such as haze pollution, pandemics, transnational organised crimes, irregular movement of persons, hazardous waste, oil spill incidents, trafficking in wildlife and timber; and
- iii. Promote studies by think-tanks, universities and other relevant academic institutions to identify new and transboundary challenges arising from non-traditional security issues.

B.4. Resolve differences and disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and principles of international law, including refraining from the threat or use of force as well as adopting peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms while strengthening confidence-building measures, promoting preventive diplomacy activities and conflict resolution initiatives

B.4.1. Promote confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy activities

- i. Promote exchanges and cooperation between defence officials and exchange visits between military training institutions to promote trust and mutual understanding;
- ii. Advance the ARF process towards preventive diplomacy, through the effective implementation of the ARF Preventive Diplomacy Work Plan 2011 while continuing with confidence-building measures;
- iii. Compile best practices on confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution for further development by the ARF;

- iv. Explore and consider the potential for mediation/facilitated dialogue and conciliation under the ARF process, with the consent of all directly involved parties; and
- v. Identify and partner with mutually agreeable organisations, such as the UN, on preventive diplomacy capacity building programmes, experience sharing and training under the ARF framework.

B.4.2. Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and security perceptions

- i. Hold voluntary briefings on political and security developments in the region;
- ii. Hold consultations and promote cooperation on regional defence and security matters between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners as well as other external parties, including through the ADMM-Plus;
- iii. Continue to contribute to and publish the annual ASEAN Security Outlook and ARF Security Outlook as well as encourage the publication of white papers on defence by ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners with a view to deepening mutual understanding and trust among countries in the region and beyond; and
- iv. Enhance the effective participation of ARF defence officials in ARF activities.

B.4.3. Build upon existing modes of peaceful settlement of disputes and consider strengthening these with additional mechanisms, as needed

- i. Enhance the constructive role of ASEAN in, and promote a rules-based approach towards the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the ASEAN Charter, the TAC and other relevant ASEAN instruments as well as principles of international law; and
- ii. Utilise the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanisms and its relevant Rules (Rules of Good Offices, Rules of Mediation, Rules of Conciliation and Rules of Arbitration).

B.4.4. Strengthen research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution

- i. Utilise effectively the AIPR in accordance with its TOR, including undertaking studies to promote gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding, peace process and conflict resolution as well as promoting collaboration and networking between the AIPR and relevant institutes;
- ii. Conduct regional and international seminars and workshops on confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding; and
- iii. Strengthen the capacity of and cooperation among research and academic institutes, particularly the ASEAN-ISIS Network and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific in addressing issues of conflict management and resolution.

B.4.5. Promote ASEAN Member States active participation in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with the capacity of respective ASEAN Member States

- i. Promote the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre to study, document and share best practices to address humanitarian aspects of landmines and explosive remnants of war;
- ii. Encourage further ASEAN Member States to participate in UN peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts outside the region on a flexible, voluntary and non-binding basis;
- iii. Utilise and strengthen the ASEAN Peacekeeping Centres Network to share best practices and enhance capacity building, including highlighting the contributions of ASEAN Member States to the UN;
- iv. Take stock and explore the possibility of establishing a database on peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding capabilities, as appropriate, of participating ASEAN Member States;
- v. Enhance dialogue and cooperation with peacekeeping centres, academic institutions and think-tanks in other regions as well as the UN and other regional and international

organisations on peacekeeping, through information sharing on best practices as well as capacity building in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding;

- vi. Promote cooperation and coordination among participating ASEAN Member States in UN peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts;
- vii. Encourage contributions of ASEAN Member States to humanitarian assistance in support of UN peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts outside the region;
- viii. Promote human resource development and capacity building programmes in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts:
 - a. Draw up guidelines for training and capacity building needs assessment;
 - b. Identify priority training topics;
 - c. Design training programmes in the identified priority topics and development of training materials;
 - d. Implement annual programmes in each target area;
 - e. Develop cooperation programmes with relevant external parties and financial institutions to promote human resource development and capacity building in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding; and
 - f. Work towards the development of a systematic training programme for formal and community educators in the field of peace education and reconciliation, which could be conceptualised and implemented.
- ix. Undertake ARF and ADMM-Plus joint training and planning activities, including tabletop and scenario-based planning exercises on peacekeeping operation exercises as and when appropriate with the consent of participants.

B.4.6. Promote and strengthen peace-oriented values

- i. Continue to undertake studies to increase cooperation in reconciliation and further strengthen peace-oriented values;
- ii. Promote public participation in the development of cooperation in post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, including the encouragement of comprehensive input of

academia, media, non-governmental organisations, civil society and community groups; and

- iii. Promote inter-communal understanding through exchange of activities.

B.5. Preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, while contributing to global efforts on disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy

B.5.1. Ensure the effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and its Plan of Action

- i. Enhance the work of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission to ensure effective implementation of the SEANWFZ Treaty and its Plan of Action through specific work programmes/projects;
- ii. Intensify the on-going efforts of the State Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty at the earliest;
- iii. Continue to submit the biennial SEANWFZ Resolution to the First Committee of the UN General Assembly;
- iv. Promote an enhanced role of the SEANWFZ and its States Parties in relevant multilateral fora and frameworks on disarmament and non-proliferation, including the Review Conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and
- v. Encourage accession by all ASEAN Member States to relevant instruments such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocols.

B.5.2. Develop a coordinated ASEAN approach to improve nuclear safety, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant partners

- i. Formalise relations between ASEAN and the IAEA;
- ii. Promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in compliance with the IAEA safety, security and safeguards standards;

- iii. Explore joint research and development projects in civilian nuclear technology, with international organisations, such as the IAEA, through workshops, seminars and exchange of experts;
- iv. Encourage accession to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident; and
- v. Strengthen the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy and develop partnerships with nuclear regulatory bodies of other regions and relevant international organisations in order to contribute to nuclear non-proliferation, maintaining international standards of nuclear safety and security, preventing nuclear-related accidents and protecting against nuclear terrorism.

B.5.3. Support the establishment of regional nuclear weapon-free zones

- i. Promote awareness of the nuclear weapon-free zones and enhance coordination and cooperation among existing nuclear weapon-free zones and Mongolia, through sharing of experiences and best practices to realise a nuclear weapon-free world; and
- ii. Promote ASEAN participation and constructive role in the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia.

B.5.4. Promote disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction while enhancing ASEAN capacity to address deliberate/accidental release of hazardous substances/agents of weapons of mass destruction

- i. Promote the universalisation of existing international instruments related to the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including their means of delivery and related materials and the effective implementation of applicable international instruments while enhancing regional and multilateral cooperation in this area;
- ii. Enhance cooperation in addressing the proliferation of WMD by encouraging the adoption and implementation of effective export control regulations in accordance with relevant international obligations and practice;

- iii. Promote cooperation to maintain Southeast Asia as a region free of all other WMD and CBRNE threats;
- iv. Enhance capacity to address deliberate/accidental release of hazardous substances/agents of WMD, in collaboration with relevant international organisations and external parties; and
- v. Enhance cooperation in addressing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, with a view to strengthening international standards and norms in support of a nuclear weapon-free world.

B.6. Enhance maritime security and promote maritime cooperation in ASEAN region and beyond, through the strengthening of ASEAN-led mechanisms and the adoption of internationally accepted maritime conventions and principles

B.6.1. Maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity and cooperation

- i. Continue ASEAN current practice of close consultation among ASEAN Member States on matters pertaining to the South China Sea, including the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC);
- ii. Intensify dialogue and consultation between ASEAN and China on matters pertaining to the South China Sea;
- iii. Ensure the full and effective implementation of the DOC, including the effective monitoring and assessment of its implementation;
- iv. Intensify negotiation between ASEAN and China for the early adoption of the COC and ensure its full and effective implementation;
- v. Resolve territorial and jurisdictional disputes among parties concerned by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

- vi. Exercise self-restraint by all parties in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features;
- vii. Undertake possible joint cooperative activities, measures and projects as provided for in the DOC based on consensus among parties concerned, and which will lead to eventual realisation of the COC;
- viii. Explore or undertake cooperative activities among parties concerned on marine environmental protection;
- ix. Explore or undertake cooperative activities among parties concerned on marine scientific research and other agreed activities;
- x. Ensure freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;
- xi. Promote and enhance trust and confidence between ASEAN and China, including through the effective implementation of the agreed early harvest measures;
- xii. Combat transnational crimes, including but not limited to trafficking in illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and illegal traffic in arms;
- xiii. Pursue further confidence-building and preventive diplomacy measures in the South China Sea, including developing SOP to prevent incidents such as unplanned encounters at sea; and
- xiv. Promote sharing of best practices and lessons learnt regarding maritime dispute settlement and maritime cooperation.

B.6.2. Promote maritime cooperation to comprehensively address maritime issues

- i. Enhance coordination among ASEAN mechanisms on maritime cooperation, such as the ASEAN Maritime Forum, to comprehensively address maritime issues;
- ii. Promote dialogue and cooperation on maritime issues in other ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum while ensuring ASEAN centrality;

- iii. Enhance maritime security and safety in the region in order to ensure greater maritime connectivity, anchored on secure and safe sea lines of communication and freedom of navigation;
- iv. Enhance maritime security cooperation, especially maritime law enforcement, including through information sharing, to identify maritime security challenges and their potential impact on regional peace and security;
- v. Promote linkages between national, regional and international mechanisms on maritime cooperation, particularly in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;
- vi. Promote closer maritime cooperation in the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including the sustainable use of maritime resources and the protection of biodiversity;
- vii. Expand ASEAN maritime cooperation to effectively combat transnational crimes such as maritime terrorism, smuggling of goods, people and weapons, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, piracy, hijacking, armed robbery against ships, as well as to address transboundary challenges including oil spill incidents and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, through concrete and practical activities, while maintaining the respective reporting lines;
- viii. Strengthen ASEAN cooperation in enhancing maritime domain awareness and its increased impact on security, safety, economy and environment of the region;
- ix. Enhance cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue as well as strengthen implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, through activities such as information sharing, technological cooperation, exchange of visits of authorities concerned, tabletop exercises and field training exercises at sea, as well as collaboration with Dialogue Partners and relevant international maritime organisations;
- x. Strengthen existing maritime cooperation mechanisms, in cooperation with relevant external parties, with a view to augmenting the capacity to combat illegal activities at sea;

- xi. Enhance cooperation with relevant external parties in combating piracy in cases affecting nationals of ASEAN Member States in other regions; and
- xii. Strengthen and expand activities on capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region, including through engaging external parties, particularly Dialogue Partners.

B.6.3. Ensure peaceful, safe, free and unimpeded international navigation and overflight, in accordance with relevant international laws

- i. Support the effective implementation of the relevant international laws and conventions, including the 1982 UNCLOS;
- ii. Promote hotlines of communication among relevant agencies in ASEAN Member States to respond immediately to incidents and emergency situations at sea;
- iii. Enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with relevant external parties in ensuring safety of navigation and overflight in the region, including through workshops and seminars to share experiences and best practices;
- iv. Enhance dialogue and cooperation with relevant international organisations, such as the UN, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization to ensure the effective implementation of conventions and instruments related to maritime cooperation, including, but not limited to, safety of life at sea, the welfare of seafarers, and prevention of pollution from ships; and
- v. Enhance the implementation of the MoU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Responses as a regional collaborative mechanism to build capacities and capabilities and promote mutual assistance.

C. ASEAN CENTRALITY IN A DYNAMIC AND OUTWARD-LOOKING REGION

- 10. In the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, ASEAN upholds and strengthens ASEAN unity, cohesiveness and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture that is built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms. As an outward-looking community, ASEAN will continue to deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners, strengthen engagement with other external parties, reach out to new potential partners for mutually beneficial relations, and play a responsible and constructive role globally based on an ASEAN common platform on international issues.

11. The key elements of ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward-looking region are:

C.1. Strengthen ASEAN unity, cohesiveness and centrality in shaping the evolving regional architecture built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms

C.1.1. Strengthen ASEAN centrality in shaping the evolving regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based

- i. Conduct more focused deliberations among relevant Senior Officials to discuss and set strategic direction on issues of concern to ASEAN;
- ii. Elaborate a common vision for a regional architecture to strengthen ASEAN centrality in view of the changing strategic and geopolitical landscape;
- iii. Ensure the effective implementation of the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations and explore a legally binding instrument building upon the TAC for the wider region; and
- iv. Ensure Sectoral Bodies are well informed of the ASEAN strategic approach and focus of cooperation with external parties.

C.1.2. Strengthen the effectiveness of ASEAN-led mechanisms, including streamlining their work processes

- i. Continue initiating, hosting, chairing and/or co-chairing activities and meetings with Dialogue Partners and other external parties within the context of all ASEAN-led mechanisms;
- ii. Enhance information sharing, including institutionalising the practice of cross-briefing and exchange of calendars of activity of relevant meetings of ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN-led mechanisms on cross-cutting issues;
- iii. Strengthen and consolidate the EAS process as a Leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue on political, security and economic issues as well as cooperation including establishing appropriate arrangements to facilitate preparation, consistency, continuity and follow-up of issues deliberated upon by the Leaders;

- iv. Strengthen the APT process and mechanisms as a vehicle for community building, economic integration, development cooperation and capacity building, including the implementation of the relevant recommendations in the EAVG II Report and other APT-related initiatives;
- v. Strengthen the ARF as an important forum for identifying and addressing existing and emerging security challenges, through enhanced confidence-building measures and concrete steps towards preventive diplomacy, including through the effective implementation of the Ha Noi Plan of Action to implement the ARF Vision Statement as well as work towards more effective working methods to deliver substantive outcomes at ARF meetings; and
- vi. Strengthen the ADMM and ADMM-Plus processes to help advance the ASEAN vision of the regional architecture, reinforce ASEAN centrality and work towards enhancing the regional capacity and joint capabilities in addressing current and future challenges and opportunities.

C.2. Deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners, strengthen engagement with other external parties and reach out to new potential partners for mutually beneficial relations as well as respond collectively and constructively to global developments

C.2.1. Strengthen substantial and strategic cooperation with Dialogue Partners

- i. Adopt a more strategic approach vis-à-vis Dialogue Partners by identifying ASEAN interests and priorities with respective Dialogue Partners;
- ii. Work with Dialogue Partners, through existing mechanisms, to address existing and emerging challenges as well as strengthen development cooperation in ASEAN;
- iii. Work with Dialogue Partners to ensure effective implementation of the respective Plans of Action, including effective utilisation of the existing cooperation funds between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners to enhance cooperation in all areas; and
- iv. Enhance capacity of line agencies of ASEAN Member States on project formulation and appraisal to effectively utilise existing cooperation funds.

C.2.2. Develop and maintain effective partnerships with external parties to support the ASEAN Community Vision 2025

- i. Strengthen ASEAN relations with external parties, including the Special Observer and Guests of ASEAN;
- ii. Continue the work of the ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group in the consideration of all relevant aspects related to Timor-Leste's application as well as its participation in ASEAN activities within the context of its need for capacity building;
- iii. Enhance engagement between the CPR and the ASEAN Secretariat with Ambassadors of non-ASEAN Member States and relevant intergovernmental organisations accredited to ASEAN;
- iv. Develop projects and ensure the effective and efficient utilisation of the cooperation funds and other funds relating to ASEAN cooperation with external parties to support the ASEAN Community;
- v. Utilise more effectively the role of the ACTCs to promote ASEAN and cooperation between ASEAN and the host countries/international organisations;
- vi. Explore cooperation projects with regional organisations such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, Economic Cooperation Organisation, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and Pacific Alliance as well as other regional and international organisations; and
- vii. Consider requests from external parties for formal partnership with ASEAN in accordance with the Guidelines for ASEAN's External Relations, including on the basis of mutual interest and benefit to support ASEAN community building and taking into account the importance of a holistic perspective based on geostrategic considerations.

C.2.3. Explore substantial engagement with new potential partners

- i. Consider new partnerships with interested and potential countries and organisations on the basis of mutual interest and benefit as well as their support to ASEAN community building; and

- ii. Explore other appropriate modalities to engage with new potential partners in mutually beneficial relations.

C.2.4. Enhance ASEAN capacity to contribute and respond to key international issues of common interest and concern

- i. Enhance consultations and cooperation on multilateral issues of common interest and concern to project an ASEAN voice and develop common positions, where appropriate, to shape and drive important issues in the global agenda;
- ii. Develop more timely issuance of ASEAN Statements on important international issues of common concern;
- iii. Enhance cooperation between ASEAN and other multilateral organisations and fora on relevant international issues of common interest and concern; and
- iv. Strengthen coordination among ASEAN Member States and where possible, submit ASEAN candidatures to important posts in multilateral fora.

D. STRENGTHENED ASEAN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND PRESENCE

12. In order to realise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN institutional capacity and presence shall be strengthened. This will be pursued through streamlining ASEAN work processes, increasing effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in the work of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat, and increasing ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional and international levels.

13. The key elements of the strengthened ASEAN institutional capacity and presence are:

D.1. Streamline ASEAN work processes and improve coordination among ASEAN Organs, enhance the conduct of ASEAN external relations and strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat

D.1.1. Implement the Report and Recommendations of the High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs as adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw

D.2. Strengthen ASEAN presence and awareness

D.2.1. Promote ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional and international levels

- i. Encourage the establishment of an ASEAN dedicated unit/ division in line Ministries/Agencies in ASEAN Member States;
- ii. Promote the establishment of ASEAN Centres/Institutions in specific areas of cooperation in each ASEAN Member State while taking into account their financial sustainability and the overall effective functioning and efficiency of the ASEAN Secretariat and other Organs; and
- iii. Encourage the establishment of ASEAN Studies Centres and/or ASEAN Studies Programmes in ASEAN Member States and facilitate their networking, as well as strengthen the AUN, to enhance ASEAN awareness and identity at regional and international levels.

D.2.2. Raise the presence and awareness of ASEAN

- i. Enhance engagement between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and relevant stakeholders to heighten ASEAN presence and value, and to strengthen coordination among them;
- ii. Implement the ASEAN Communication Master Plan to raise awareness of ASEAN as a Community of Opportunities as tasked by the ASEAN Leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw;
- iii. Ensure ASEAN awareness-raising activities and programmes are gender-sensitive and accessible to all segments of society, including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; and
- iv. Raise the profile and presence of ASEAN and ASEAN Community in host countries/international organisations.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- 14. ASEAN will ensure the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025 through relevant mechanisms, efficient mobilisation of resources, effective communication to all stakeholders and regular review and evaluation.

A. Implementation Mechanism

- i. Align and consolidate the agenda and priorities of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies under the APSC Pillar with those of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025;

- ii. Implement the APSC Blueprint 2025 at the national and ASEAN levels;
- iii. Strengthen coordination on cross-sectoral issues within the APSC and on cross-pillar issues among the three Pillars;
- iv. Strengthen the respective coordinating roles of the ACC, APSC Council, ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies, Joint Consultative Meeting, Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASCCO), CPR and ASEAN Secretariat, pursuant to the Report and Recommendations of High Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs, to achieve a seamless implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025; and
- v. Submit an annual assessment on the progress and implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 to the ASEAN Summit through the APSC Council.

B. Resources

- i. Mobilise resources from ASEAN Member States and external sources, in terms of, but not limited to, funding, expertise and capacity building support to implement the agreed measures.

C. Communication

- i. Undertake communication activities to facilitate the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 both at national and regional levels, including in line with the ASEAN Communication Master Plan, with the aim of socialising the stakeholders to the initiatives in the APSC Blueprint 2025 and enabling all stakeholders to be involved in and contribute meaningfully to the process.

D. Review

- i. Review and evaluate the APSC Blueprint 2025 to ensure that the activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of ASEAN, taking into account the changing dynamics of the regional and global landscape;
- ii. The review and evaluation shall be conducted in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023 by the ASCCO in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat. The mid-term and end of term reviews will be undertaken in 2020 and 2025, respectively, by the APSC Council, assisted by the ASCCO. In the course of the review and evaluation, ASEAN Member States are given the flexibility to update the APSC Blueprint 2025; and
- iii. The results of the review and evaluation shall be reported by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to the ASEAN Summit through the APSC Council.

GLOSSARY

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACC	ASEAN Coordinating Council
ACTC	ASEAN Committees in Third Countries and International Organisations
ADMM	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting
ADMM-Plus	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus
AHRD	ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIPR	ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
ALA	ASEAN Law Association
ALAWMM	ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting
AMM	ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting
AMMD	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters
AMMTC	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
APT	ASEAN Plus Three
ASCCO	Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community
ASEAN-ISIS	ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies
ASLOM	ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting
AUN	ASEAN University Network
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive
COC	Code of Conduct in the South China Sea

CPR	Committee of Permanent Representative to ASEAN
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DOC	Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea
EAS	East Asia Summit
EAVG	East Asian Vision Group
GMM	Global Movement of Moderates
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
MLAT	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
SEANWFZ	Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
EXCOMM	Executive Committee of the Commission for the Treaty on the SEANWFZ Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TAC	Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia
TOR	Terms of Reference
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

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