

Co-Chairs' Summary
of the 2nd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities
between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and
the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

30 March 2018, Bangkok

1. Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organised the 2nd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, on Friday 30 March 2018, following the success of the first HLBD held in Bangkok last year. The Meeting aimed to discuss how ASEAN could enhance cooperation to achieve both the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the SDGs by reviewing the progress of implemented projects and considering new proposals that will help enhance ASEAN's Complementarities Initiative.

2. The Dialogue was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, as ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, and Her Excellency Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. H.E. Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat participated in the Dialogue as did high-level development experts of ASEAN Member States, high-level representatives of UNDP, UN Women, UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the World Bank. Representatives of Germany, as ASEAN's Development Partner, and Switzerland and Norway, as ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner, were also present as guests of the Co-Chairs.

3. The Meeting had wide ranging and in depth discussions on how to concretely advance the shared goals of enhancing complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Meeting also reaffirmed the commitment to enhance such complementarities and to transform this vision into reality through concrete projects that would benefit the people of the region.

4. The report entitled "Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action" was launched during the meeting. The report demonstrated a practical approach to complementarities by identifying concrete ideas and recommendations for action that could help drive both Agendas forward.

5. The Meeting had fruitful discussion on how to enhance such complementarities through the five priority cross-cutting areas¹ of the Report, which have been identified during the first HLBD. The meeting recalled that the report has been presented in the ASEAN-UN Summit in Manila in November 2017 who has “*welcomed*” it and “*looked forward to the **implementation** of the recommended areas and projects in the report*”.

6. During their interventions, ASEAN Member States and invited ASEAN’s Development Partner and Sectoral Dialogue Partners congratulated Thailand, ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat for the quality of the Complementarities report and highlighted that the proposed flagships and activities in the report should serve as the main reference point to guide further ASEAN and UN joint work on implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda.

7. The Meeting welcomed the idea of developing an indicative Complementarities Roadmap covering the next several years that would further define the flagship initiatives and identify operational arrangements for their implementation, align and link the proposed flagships and outputs to the work of the ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN’s sectoral bodies, and identify implementation modalities and funding opportunities for the implementation of the proposed actions as appropriate.

8. The Meeting also commended Thailand in following up one of the recommendations of the Complementarities Report which is to develop an ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue which would be situated in Bangkok. Such a Centre would link activities in the Complementarities Roadmap and recommended flagship initiatives to the work of ASEAN Secretariat and relevant ASEAN bodies and platforms, facilitate policy dialogue among policymakers on sustainable development in ASEAN, encourage cooperation between ASEAN and ASEAN’s external partners and UN agencies, develop networks of cooperation with other centres in the region such as the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy in Myanmar, and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Centre would also promote and support research on sustainable development, promote capacity building and awareness through training and workshops, as appropriate.

9. The meeting appreciated the efforts of ESCAP to coordinate among the UN system work on complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and

¹ Priority cross-cutting areas identified by the first HLBD are 1) poverty eradication 2) infrastructure and connectivity 3) sustainable management of natural resources 4) sustainable production and consumption and 5) resilience.

the 2030 Agenda and also on taking specific steps on following up with implementation of specific activities under the priority areas of the Complementarities report.

10. The Meeting also appreciated the efforts of UNDP, UN Women, UNOSSC and the World Bank in updating progress of last year's proposals such as *ASEAN My World Survey* and Seminar on Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women in ASEAN and submitting concrete project proposals that would help serve as a catalyst to enhancing complementarities between ASEAN Community-building and attaining the SDGs. In the context of supporting and complementing the implementation of the five priority areas under the Complementarities Initiative, the Meeting welcomed a number of these project proposals and ideas including *the UNDP's Regional Urban Climate Resilience Initiative (RUCRI)* and Platform for Private Sector, UNOSSC's proposal to develop "*The Mapping of South-South Cooperation Projects in ASEAN*" publication together with Thailand as ASEAN's coordinator on sustainable development cooperation and the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank's proposal on addressing malnutrition and stunting. The meeting further suggested to UN partners to move forward with the initiatives presented in a way that aligns them with the 5 priority areas and 7 flagships of the Complementarities Report.

11. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of ensuring that no one is left behind in sustainable development efforts that would remain people-centred and looked forward to continuing dialogue and discussions between the relevant organizations and ASEAN, as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat's continuing efforts to help coordinate this matter with the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies

12. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and UN ESCAP for hosting this High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue.

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