

Co-Chairs' Summary
of the 3rd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities
between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and
the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

29 March 2019, Bangkok

1. Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) jointly organised the 3rd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) on Friday 29 March 2019 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, following the success of the first and second HLBD held in Bangkok in the past two years. This Meeting aimed to review the progress made in following up the recommendations of the Complementarities Report as well as the recommendation of the 2nd HLBD in 2018 and discuss the ways forward to enhance ASEAN's efforts in promoting the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the "Complementarities Initiative".

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, as ASEAN's Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, and Her Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. H.E. Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, participated in the Meeting as did high-level development experts of ASEAN Member States and high-level representatives of UNDP, UN Women, UNOSSC, UNICEF and the World Bank. Representatives of China, Japan and the European Union, as ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, Switzerland and Norway, as ASEAN's Sectoral Development Partners, and Germany, as ASEAN's Development Partner, were also present as Guests of the Co-Chairs. Representatives of the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation also attended as Observers and Guests of the Host.

3. The Co-Chairs highlighted specific enabling factors to continue promoting the Complementarities Initiative and the implementation of its Flagship Initiatives including (a) putting people first (b) protecting the environment and ensuring strong climate action (c) sustaining political commitment and (d) promoting partnerships. The progress of sub-regional cooperation frameworks including ACMECS, BIMP-EAGA and IMT-GT in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was presented. It was revealed that the region has achieved good results in the areas such as poverty eradication, access to energy as well as promoting industrialisation and innovation.

At the same time, trends in areas such as inequality and climate change should be reversed for ASEAN to succeed in achieving relevant SDGs.

4. The Meeting had wide-ranging and in-depth discussions on how to concretely advance the Complementarities Initiative and reaffirmed the commitment to promoting and concretising sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN.

5. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made on the Complementarities Initiative presented by ESCAP, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting also reiterated its support for the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) and took note of the Concept Note - Terms of Reference of the ACSDSD which was endorsed by the 33rd ASEAN Summit in November 2018. The Meeting looked forward to the launch of the ACSDSD in Thailand in November this year and emphasised the ACSDSD's important role in facilitating, promoting and coordinating efforts on sustainable development in the region. Among other things, the Meeting highlighted the ACSDSD's potential to strengthen data and monitoring systems for sustainable development and to promote collaboration with universities and other centres across ASEAN to best leverage knowledge and expertise in order to ensure high quality output of the studies as well as to support implementation of the proposed Complementarities Roadmap. The Meeting also welcomed the support of the UN and other ASEAN's external partners extended to the ACSDSD, particularly in building capacity and developing concrete projects with the ACSDSD.

6. The Meeting exchanged views on the Discussion Paper: Draft Complementarities Roadmap (2020 - 2025) prepared by Thailand and ESCAP to guide future cooperation and identify concrete actions to reinforce synergies in further advancing the Complementarities Initiative in ASEAN. The Meeting gave in-principle support to the proposed outline of the draft Roadmap and reaffirmed that the key areas of cooperation in the proposed Roadmap would be based on the five priority areas of the Complementarities Report, namely poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience. Capacity-building of ASEAN's experts and relevant institutions would also be a distinct focus of the Roadmap across all priority areas. During the dialogue following the presentation of the draft, it was highlighted that the Roadmap should refrain from listing bilateral activities under the priority areas of the Complementarities Initiative but rather focus on projects that will have ASEAN-wide impact and results. The need to identify custodian agencies that would carry forward the implementation of the Flagship Initiatives and other activities under the priority areas was highlighted together with the need to establish a proper monitoring framework based on indicators that will help measure progress in the five priority areas. There were suggestions that ASEAN Member States could explore the possibility of convening a working group meeting of national planning agencies to examine the lessons in implementing the SDGs. The importance of ensuring gender responsiveness across envisaged initiatives was noted. The Meeting also welcomed the support of the UN and ASEAN's external

partners for the future implementation of the Roadmap, through cooperation with the ACSDD and other relevant ASEAN Centres. The Meeting recognised the importance of the Roadmap becoming an integral part of joint ASEAN-UN initiatives to maintain high-level political support and looked forward to the draft Roadmap being further discussed and finalised by ASEAN and the UN, and subsequently submitted to the ASEAN-UN Summit in Thailand in November 2019 for notation.

7. The Meeting appreciated comments from the high-level representatives of China, Japan, the European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, UNDP, UN Women, UNOSSC, UNICEF and the World Bank. These partners updated on progress linked to the priorities under the Complementarities Report and commended the continuity in ASEAN policies across the various ASEAN Chairmanships, including the proposed Complementarities Roadmap.

8. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of a people-centred approach and ensuring that no one is left behind in sustainable development efforts. The Meeting also stressed the importance of forging partnerships among all stakeholders and raising awareness, especially among the youth. The Meeting looked forward to continuing dialogue and discussions between relevant organisations and ASEAN, as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat's continued efforts in coordinating this matter with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies.

9. The Meeting commended Thailand's efforts, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, to further enhance the Complementarities Initiative and strengthen ASEAN-UN partnerships in this respect. The Meeting also expressed its support for Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability", which reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to reinforcing sustainable development cooperation in the region.

10. The Meeting appreciated the efforts of ESCAP in coordinating within the UN System to promote the Complementarities Initiative. The Meeting recognised the importance of potential cooperation between ASEAN, regional organisations and UN Regional Commissions, UN Development System and other international organisations in achieving sustainable development in the region.

11. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and ESCAP for hosting this High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue and looked forward to the 4th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue next year.

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