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LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN OUR COMMUNITY

Promoting Complementarities
between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025
and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Progress Report
September 2020

ASEAN-Thailand

PROGRESS REPORT

PROMOTING COMPLEMENTARITIES
BETWEEN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND
THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ASEAN-THAILAND

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PROGRESS REPORT
PROMOTING COMPLEMENTARITIES
BETWEEN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND
THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the release of the third “Progress Report on Promoting Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”¹ in July 2019, Thailand, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, has been working closely with ASEAN Member States and interested external partners to advance sustainable development cooperation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. The finalisation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) and the launch of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) marked an important milestone in the joint efforts to take the Complementarities Initiative forward.

Nevertheless, ASEAN’s path towards sustainability is now facing significant and unprecedented challenges. The region is half way through the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 while the Decade of Action for SDGs began amidst the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic is taking a heavy toll on ASEAN’s economies, societies, and peoples’ well-being, undermining the region’s prospects for achieving the SDGs. This underlines the urgent need for ASEAN to turn the challenges of COVID-19 into opportunities to chart the course for the realisation of the SDGs, including through leveraging cooperation under the Complementarities Initiative.

This fourth edition of the Progress Report takes stock of the achievements under the Complementarities Initiative from July 2019 to September 2020. Against the backdrop of COVID-19 and its implications on SDG progress in ASEAN, the Report also aims to suggest some recommendations, including on how to re-prioritise cooperation under the Complementarities Initiative to support COVID-19 recovery efforts in ASEAN.

II. ENHANCING REGIONAL CATALYSTS: THE COMPLEMENTARITIES ROADMAP (2020-2025) AND THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND DIALOGUE (ACSDSD)

Since its conceptualisation in 2016, the Complementarities Initiative has played a catalytic role in promoting sustainable development agenda in ASEAN. Several projects and ideas have been carried out based on the five priority areas², as identified in the “Complementarities Report”.³ Over the past years, ASEAN has been working towards further concretising cooperation under the Complementarities Initiative with a view to enhancing

¹ Electronic version of the Progress Report on Promoting Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be accessed at <http://mfa.go.th/asean/contents/files/asean-media-center-20190805-161845-942544.pdf>

² The five priority areas of the Complementarities Initiative are (1) poverty eradication, (2) infrastructure and connectivity, (3) sustainable management of natural resources, (4) sustainable consumption and production and (5) resilience.

³ Electronic version of the Complementarities Report can be accessed at <http://mfa.go.th/asean/contents/files/asean-media-center-20180213-164208-619213.pdf>

coordination and advancing synergies across the cross-cutting priority areas. The idea to develop a roadmap and establish an institutional platform for sustainable development have been taken forward. As a result, the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) were launched last year at the 35th ASEAN Summit.

a. THE COMPLEMENTARITIES ROADMAP (2020-2025)

The formulation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025) was preliminarily discussed at the 3rd High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) in March 2019. The draft Complementarities Roadmap was subsequently further developed by Thailand, in consultation with UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat. To facilitate more in-depth discussions, two technical consultations were also organised in Bangkok in July and September 2019 and attended by representatives from all ASEAN Member States, UN ESCAP, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The draft Roadmap was later presented to the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAMM) in September 2019 in New York and received in-principle support from the Meeting. After some fine-tuning, the draft was finalised and subsequently submitted to the 10th ASEAN-UN Summit in November 2019 in Bangkok for notation.

The Roadmap, which covers the period of 2020-2025, provides an important framework of action for taking forward the Complementarities Initiative. It contains possible action lines and concrete deliverables under the six areas of cooperation that ASEAN and external partners can consider to pursue, including (1) poverty eradication, (2) infrastructure and connectivity, (3) sustainable management of natural resources, (4) sustainable consumption and production, (5) resilience, and (6) capacity-building. The Roadmap appears in [Appendix 1](#).

b. THE ASEAN CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND DIALOGUE (ACSDSD)

As a follow-up to the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, adopted at the 34th ASEAN Summit in June 2019, the ACSDSD was officially launched at the 35th ASEAN Summit on 3 November 2019 in Bangkok. The Chairman's Press Statement on the Launch of the Centre appears in [Appendix 2](#).

The ACSDSD is located and operates within the College of Management of Mahidol University in Bangkok. The Centre provides institutional support for sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN, including the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap. Not only does the Centre aim to promote research and studies on sustainable development, but it also serves as a platform for policy dialogue among ASEAN Member States, and between ASEAN and its external partners, as well as enhancing networking and cooperation among relevant centres and institutions within the region and beyond. The focus of the ACSDSD will primarily be based on, yet not limited to, the six areas of cooperation under the Complementarities Roadmap.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre was convened on 4 December 2019 in Bangkok. The Summary Record of the Meeting appears in [Appendix 3](#). To translate six priority areas of the Centre into concrete projects and activities, the Centre has developed its Work Plan as appears in [Appendix 4](#). Several projects have already received confirmed support from external partners such as the EU, Switzerland, the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. The first Advisory Board Meeting, expected to be held in the last quarter of 2020, will also serve as a platform for discussing possible cooperation between the Centre and external partners. Further details of the Centre's activities will be provided in Part V.

III. MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF COOPERATION: THE FOURTH HIGH-LEVEL BRAINSTORMING DIALOGUE ON ENHANCING COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY VISION 2025 AND THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLBD)

The HLBD continues to play a significant role in fostering partnership for sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN and beyond. Building on the momentum of cooperation from the previous HLBDs in 2017-2019, Thailand and UN ESCAP jointly organised the 4th HLBD on 4 June 2020 via video conference. The Meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Participants included Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN as well as high-level representatives from ASEAN Member States, UN agencies, and other external partners, including China, the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Co-Chairs' Summary of the 4th HLBD appears in [Appendix 5](#). Key points of the Meeting are as follows:

a. PROGRESS FROM THE 3RD HLBD AND WAYS FORWARD

The Meeting noted the progress made on the Complementarities Initiative and discussed future plans to support the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap across all six areas of cooperation. The Meeting also welcomed the launch of the ACSDS and expressed full support for the Centre's work plan under the areas of studies, dialogue, capacity-building, and outreach. It was also highlighted that the Centre should work with relevant sectoral bodies, ASEAN centres and institutions in the region as well as ESCAP and other UN agencies and external partners to facilitate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap. This includes the Centre's plan to compile and study best practices in SDG implementation with a view to identifying practical development models that contribute to a sustainable future for ASEAN.

b. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW TO ACCELERATE SDG PROGRESS IN ASEAN AMIDST THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

The Meeting underlined the important role of sustainable development in mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and suggested that ASEAN needs to recalibrate its work on the Complementarities Initiative to support COVID-19 recovery efforts and further enhance regional resilience to future crises and disruptions. Emphasis was placed on enhancing human capital development through high quality education and STI, promoting health security, advancing green growth, restoring and building sustainable supply chains, and promoting inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral, and cross-societies partnership for development.

IV. CONCRETISING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP: HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The key approach that contributes to the advancement of sustainable development agenda in ASEAN is the development and implementation of cooperation projects and activities that will generate concrete results for the benefits of the peoples of ASEAN. This also requires strong support from and sustained partnerships among all ASEAN Member States and interested external partners. In this light, a number of initiatives and activities were undertaken last year. Key activities are as follows:

a. PROMOTING ASEAN'S VOICE AT THE CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT AND THE SDG SUMMIT

ASEAN joined the international community in reaffirming its commitment to the global agendas of sustainable development and climate change at the UN Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit, which were convened on 23-24 September 2019 in New York under the auspices of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of Thailand, as the Chair of ASEAN in 2019, delivered an ASEAN Joint Statement at the UN Climate Action Summit ([Appendix 6](#)) and a statement on behalf of ASEAN at the SDG Summit ([Appendix 7](#)) to demonstrate that ASEAN shares common aspirations and has robust targets on these important issues. These include, among others, the targets to reduce energy intensity by 30 percent and increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix by 23 percent by 2025.

Furthermore, on 24 September 2019, on the margins of the the SDG Summit, H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, together with Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, co-hosted a side event entitled “Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs: From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond”. The event was co-organised by Thailand, UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat with the aim to share ASEAN’s best practices in advancing sustainable development cooperation in the region. Partnership was highlighted as a key to further concretise SDG cooperation in ASEAN and it was suggested that the region needs to create platforms for dialogue, such as the ACSDS, where ASEAN Member States can share their experiences and foster constructive engagement with external partners to better implement the SDGs. An information note summarising the results of the event appears in [Appendix 8](#).

b. ASEAN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

As a follow-up to the discussions at the ASEAN Leaders’ Gathering in Bali in 2018, Thailand, in partnership with the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), co-organised the ASEAN High-Level Meeting on Human Capital Development on 9 September 2019 in Bangkok. The Meeting brought together high-level speakers and representatives from ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat, the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO and some G20 countries to share their knowledge and experiences in human capital development as a key to narrowing development gaps and preparing for the future, especially the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). Main focus of the Meeting was on promoting investment in human capital development across various stages of a person’s life, from children to labour workforce and ageing population. A “Chair’s Summary of Recommendations to Take Forward Human Capital Development in ASEAN” was produced as an outcome of this High-Level Meeting⁴.

c. SPECIAL LUNCH ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE 35TH ASEAN SUMMIT

On 4 November 2019, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of Thailand, as the Chair of ASEAN in 2019 and in the capacity of the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, hosted a Special Lunch on Sustainable Development at the 35th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok. The Special Lunch was attended by Leaders and representatives of ASEAN Member States and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the Managing

⁴ “Chair’s Summary of Recommendations to Take Forward Human Capital Development in ASEAN” can be accessed at <https://www.unicef.org/eap/media/4371/file/Human%20capital.pdf>

Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as Guest of the Chair, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The event provided an opportunity for Leaders to share their vision, experiences and best practices on how sustainable development can best be promoted and how partnerships could be advanced with ASEAN to promote sustainable development in the region, leveraging on the expertise and technologies of external parties. The Chairman's Press Release appears in [Appendix 9](#).

d. POLICY NOTE ON “ADDRESSING THE DOUBLE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION IN ASEAN”

To support ASEAN's ongoing efforts to end all forms of malnutrition, the World Bank, in consultation with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat, produced a “Policy Note on Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition in ASEAN”⁵. This initiative is a follow-up to the World Bank's proposal to the 1st and 2nd HLBD and in line with a flagship initiative suggested in the Complementarities Report concerning a project on improving nutrition and reducing stunting in ASEAN. It proposes potential ways to address malnutrition, including the development of a strong surveillance and monitoring and evaluation framework. The document was circulated at the 24th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting on 2 November 2019 in Bangkok for information.

e. STUDY ON “CONNECTING THE CONNECTIVITIES: ASEAN AND THE REGIONS”

Regional connectivity plays a vital role in the process of ASEAN Community building and the achievement of the SDGs. Thus, Thailand, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development and strong proponent of enhanced regional connectivity, joined hands with the World Bank to conduct a study entitled “Connecting the Connectivities: ASEAN and the Regions” with an aim to explore the possible areas of cooperation and synergies on connectivity within ASEAN and with other connectivity strategies in the Asia-Pacific region. The paper was presented to the 24th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting on 2 November 2019 in Bangkok. Also, at the same Meeting, the list of 19 Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects was announced. Those projects cover strategic areas such as transportation, energy, and information and communications technology and are screened by the World Bank as “bankable” infrastructure projects for investment in the region.

f. 2ND ASEAN-EU DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 10 February 2020, Thailand and the EU co-organised the 2nd ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development in Brussels. The High-Level Segment was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships. The Dialogue was also attended by representatives from ASEAN and EU Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission, as well as other international financial institutions and international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Dialogue recognised the crucial role of partnership on green growth, climate change, and women and youth empowerment. It was also agreed that the Dialogue should be convened on a regular basis to continue the momentum of cooperation on sustainable development between the two regions. At the Dialogue, the EU also announced two initiatives to promote cooperation with ASEAN on green economy, including the EU's contribution to the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF) and the cooperation project between the EU and the ACSDS on sustainable

⁵ Electronic version of the “Policy Note on Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition in ASEAN” can be accessed at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33142/Addressing-the-Double-Burden-of-Malnutrition-in-ASEAN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

consumption and production. The Co-Chairs' Press Statement of the Dialogue appears in Appendix 10.

V. KEY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ACSDS

To kick start the first year of its operation, the ACSDS has developed a Work Plan that covers four areas of activities, including (1) research and studies (2) dialogue (3) capacity-building and (4) outreach and networking. The Work Plan has also been adjusted in line with ASEAN's priority on COVID-19. Following are key projects and activities that highlight the Centre's contribution to the advancement of sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN:

a) Research and Studies

- Academic work to support ASEAN's efforts on COVID-19 recovery: In August 2020, the Centre launched "COVID-19 Insights Podcast: How do we survive and thrive in the Decade of Action?"⁶ This podcast series touches upon several key topics such as policy approaches for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and enhancing regional resilience, recommendations on redesigning tourism and hospitality business and managing consumers' behavioral changes. Furthermore, the Centre is developing a research on sustainable development and the COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN with a focus on agricultural and industrial sectors. A completed research paper, which will contain best practices and policy recommendations for regional and national recovery efforts, is expected to be released by the end of 2020.

- PhD research grants: To promote research on sustainable development in the regional context, the Centre will provide 2 grants for PhD students of ASEAN nationals every year starting from academic year 2020 to conduct research in any areas that correspond with the implementation of SDGs in ASEAN. For 2020, a Myanmar student receives a full grant, and the other grant is equally shared by a Thai student and a Vietnamese student.

b) Dialogue

- Webinar on SDG and the new normal: On 31 August 2020, the Centre organised a webinar on "Decade of Action: The Way Forward for ASEAN and the SDGs in the New Normal", which was live-streamed online via the College of Management of Mahidol University's Facebook Page⁷. The topics of discussion included challenges and opportunities for SDG implementation in ASEAN, especially in the context of COVID-19. Speakers included H.E. Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and high-level representatives from UN ESCAP, ASEAN-Thailand, and C-ASEAN.

- Forum on SDG 12 and business and human rights with Switzerland: The Centre is working with Switzerland and other partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)-Thailand, and private sectors from ASEAN countries and Switzerland, to organise an ASEAN-Switzerland peer-learning forum which aims to promote sharing of best practices on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and its contribution to the attainment of SDG 12. Due to COVID-19, the event has been postponed from 2020 to June 2021.

⁶ "COVID-19 Insights Podcast: How do we survive and thrive in the Decade of Action?" can be accessed at <https://web.facebook.com/AC2SDMahidol/?ref=bookmarks> and www.acsdsd.org.

⁷ Live-streamed of the webinar on "Decade of Action: The Way Forward for ASEAN and the SDGs in the New Normal" can be accessed at <https://web.facebook.com/CMMUMAHIDOL/>

- Cooperation with the EU on sustainable consumption and production: Following the 2nd ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development in February 2020, the Centre and the EU have been working closely to concretise their cooperation in the area of sustainable consumption and production. The Centre will provide technical support for the development of the study of “The Mapping on SCP in ASEAN”, to be undertaken under SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC). Moreover, the Centre and the EU are now collaborating on the issue of circular economy and exploring setting up a platform for relevant stakeholders from all ASEAN Member States with an aim to promote a holistic understanding of circular economy and strengthen the exchange of experiences between ASEAN Member States and the EU on this important issue.

- Roll-out activity for the ASEAN Gender Outlook by UN Women: The Centre is discussing with UN Women to co-organise a roll-out activity for the ASEAN Gender Outlook following its official launch in November 2020. The format of this event could be in the form of panel discussion focusing on a specific gender issue drawn from the Outlook, such as women’s economic empowerment.

- Possible cooperation with Italy: The Centre is exploring possible cooperation with Italy on capacity-building and exchange of experience programme on sustainable development. Both sides are now considering a draft MoU to formalise their cooperation.

c) **Capacity-building** The Centre is working with the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation to explore the possibility to organise capacity-building activities for ASEAN officials and experts as well as staff of the ACSDS and other ASEAN Centres.

d) **Outreach and networking** Another project that the Centre plans to co-organise with the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation is the ASEAN Centre Forum on Sustainable Development. The forum will facilitate stronger cooperation between ASEAN Centres whose work is related to sustainable development. It will provide opportunities to exchange experiences and practices for mutual reinforcement and encouraging a multiplier effect in the area of sustainable development knowledge and resources within the region. As the region continues to face the impact of COVID-19, this networking event is envisaged to be organised via online platform in the last quarter of 2020.

Furthermore, the Centre has initiated contact with institutions outside ASEAN, such as the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and the Development Policy Centre at Australian National University, to explore possible cooperation on research and capacity-building.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPLEMENTARITIES ROADMAP

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plays a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation of the Roadmap. However, a key challenge remains on how to enhance coordination and strengthen cooperation between relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and ASEAN Centres, given the cross-cutting nature of the action lines identified in the Roadmap.

To this end, the ACSDS, by its mandate, can provide institutional support for the coordination of the implementation of the Roadmap. However, the Centre needs to increase its engagement and coordination with relevant Sectoral Bodies and other ASEAN Centres in order to keep track of projects and activities that have been carried out across the three pillars of ASEAN. In addition to its reporting line to the HLBD, the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM), and the ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting (ACC), the Centre may be provided with more

opportunities to participate, as appropriate, in other relevant ASEAN meetings. The initiative to promote networking between the ASEAN Centres could also serve this purpose.

B. RE-PRIORITISING COOPERATION TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RECOVERY

As sustainable development is a key principle for COVID-19 recovery, the work under the Complementarities Initiative should also be re-prioritised to support ASEAN's efforts to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and build back better towards sustainable and resilient future. Comprehensive and multi-stakeholder partnership, including with public, private, people as well as South-South and Triangular cooperation, is also crucial for advancing recovery agenda as well as accelerating overall SDG progress at the national and regional levels.

C. MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO THE WORK OF ASEAN

To further promote sustainable development agenda in ASEAN, there is a need to mainstream sustainable development in the work of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognising their interlinkages. It is important that all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies understand and recognise the importance of implementing the SDGs as a path towards achieving sustainable economic growth. Promoting our peoples' well-being and protecting the environment for our future generations. To this end, the ACSDS should work with the ASEAN Secretariat to engage with and encourage relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to include or integrate sustainable development in their strategies/work plans/ work programmes/plans of action. This will help ensure whole-of-community approach in the implementation of SDGs in ASEAN.

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Appendix 1:
Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025)

Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025)

A. Background and Rationale

- In September 2015, the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* was adopted by world leaders in New York. In November 2015, ASEAN also adopted the *ASEAN Community Vision 2025* with the aim of building a people-centred Community that is inclusive and leaves no one behind.

- Since then, ASEAN and the UN have been working together to promote the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or subsequently known as “the Complementarities Initiative”.

- In September 2016, a **Special Session of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Focusing on Sustainable Development** was convened in New York. The Meeting emphasised the importance of dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in promoting the Complementarities Initiative. The Meeting also underscored the need to identify **priority areas** and develop a **Roadmap** to pursue the Complementarities Initiative.

- Since 2017, Thailand and the UN ESCAP have organised the annual **High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD)** in March each year in Bangkok to discuss how to advance the Complementarities Initiative. Key outcomes of the first two HLBD meetings in 2017 and 2018 include:

- The “**Complementarities Report**”¹ was jointly produced by Thailand, UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat in 2017. The Report suggested five priority areas of the Complementarities Initiative, namely (1) poverty eradication (2) infrastructure and connectivity (3) sustainable management of natural resources (4) sustainable consumption and production and (5) resilience. It also recommended flagship projects including the establishment of the **ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)**².

- The 2nd HLBD in March 2018 welcomed the idea of developing an indicative “**Complementarities Roadmap**” and the suggested five priority areas.

- To take forward the Complementarities Initiative, forging “partnerships” among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and external

¹ The Report can be accessed at <https://www.mfa.go.th/asean/contents/files/asean-media-center-20180213-164208-619213.pdf>

² The Concept Note - Terms of Reference of the Centre can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2Ch7gBK>

partners is a critical factor. The Complementarities Initiative is also an example of South-South, triangular and multilateral development cooperation, where ASEAN can share its experience with other regional groups and interested parties. The Complementarities Initiative will not only help ASEAN Member States achieve the SDGs but also help build a sustainable future for the ASEAN Community.

- Most recently, the 34th ASEAN Summit adopted the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability which agreed to enhance sustainable development cooperation, including with Dialogue Partners and external parties, by promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Complementarities Initiative) including through the development of a "Roadmap of Action for the Complementarities Initiative" and other feasible projects that generate concrete benefits for the people of the region and strengthen partnerships between ASEAN, regional organisations and UN Regional Commissions, UN Development System and other international organisations in achieving sustainable development for the region.

B. Objectives of the Roadmap

- To serve as a guide for further advancing the Complementarities Initiative during 2020 - 2025. The conclusion of this Complementarities Roadmap in 2025 marks the final year of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.
- On the basis of the priority areas and the flagship initiatives of the "Complementarities Report" which was noted at the 9th ASEAN-UN Summit in 2017, to identify possible action lines and concrete deliverables to be undertaken by ASEAN Member States, ASEAN's external partners and the ACSDS as well as other relevant ASEAN Centres.

C. Key areas of cooperation, possible action lines and deliverables

- The key areas of cooperation correspond to the five priority areas identified in the Complementarities Report, namely (1) **poverty eradication** (2) **infrastructure and connectivity** (3) **sustainable management of natural resources** (4) **sustainable consumption and production** and (5) **resilience**, as well as **capacity-building** of ASEAN's experts and relevant institutions.
- The Complementarities Report proposed a flagship initiative that corresponds to each of the five priority areas.
- Possible action lines and deliverables in pursuing the abovementioned key areas of cooperation are as follows:

1. Poverty Eradication

Introduction: The “Complementarities Report” suggests that to further advance poverty eradication, a perspective of the multidimensionality of poverty and vulnerability is important. Policies and programmes work best when they reflect social, cultural, and geographic factors; when they address education, health, and livelihoods simultaneously and build economic and social resilience of people and communities, especially vulnerable groups, to avoid reversing success in poverty eradication.

Suggested Flagship Initiative as contained in the Complementarities Report: Improving Nutrition and Reducing Stunting in ASEAN. This Flagship Initiative could address the main underlying cause of malnutrition and stunting with targeted interventions such as enhancing capacities of policy makers, improving food security, increasing hygiene and improving access to affordable and diverse diet. Aside from direct nutrition interventions, other complementary initiatives may be explored, such as family planning services, tempering inflation for food commodities, encouraging adequate financing for health and nutrition, maternal and child health in nutrition, educating the public, and enhancing the quality of educational institutions as knowledge providers and as touchpoints for nutrition interventions.

Actions to Support the Flagship and Priority Area:

1.1 Improving nutrition and reducing stunting, including by encouraging business practices that also involve poor communities and leveraging private sector resources towards that end, and promoting food diversification and food security in society, including in educational institutions (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders’ Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.5 on Food, Agriculture and Forestry*)

1.2 Promoting life-long human capital development that applies to all age groups (children and youth, workforce, women, and ageing population) in preparation for the regional demographic trend and other important global developments such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the new digital age

1.3 Promoting convergence of rural development, urban-rural continuum linkages, and poverty eradication initiatives (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2016-2020*)

1.4 Promoting fair opportunities and equitable access, especially for various vulnerable groups, to social protection, quality education, decent work universal health care and other basic social services (*in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section B.2 on Equitable Access for All*)

Potential Deliverables

- A study on malnutrition and stunting in ASEAN, consistent with the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Nutrition (2018-2030), and developing and implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (in cooperation with the World Bank and/or FAO) (2019 onwards)
- Knowledge sharing on ASEAN Member States' strategies to alleviate poverty and reduce stunting in the region (2020 onwards)
- Organising the ASEAN High-Level Meeting on Human Capital Development in 2019 in Bangkok and considering its way forward and follow-on actions (World Bank) (2019 onwards), including exploring development of an ASEAN declaration and roadmap on human resources for a changing world of work, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies
- Capacity-building activities undertaken by the ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW) and the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) (2019 onwards)
- SDGs Localisation - ASEAN Regional Initiative (ASEAN-China-UNDP) (2020-2022) that will carry out a project to support SDGs localisation in Lao PDR and Viet Nam, as well as a joint project in the Mekong sub-region
- Knowledge sharing on business planning, financial literacy and productivity training; and providing access to market and finance as well as the platforms to promote innovation and facilitate inclusive participation in MSMEs, including by women and youth, to develop globally competitive and innovative MSMEs
- Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women in ASEAN through the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN) with potential support from UN Women and other relevant partners

- Strengthening statistics and data collection and monitoring and review framework to assess the progress and impact of SDGs and poverty eradication-related initiatives in ASEAN, and exploring development of an ASEAN declaration on social work, in consultation with relevant sectoral bodies

2. Infrastructure and Connectivity

Introduction: The “Complementarities Report” suggests that action on infrastructure and connectivity should address the urgent infrastructure needs of the Community with a focus on improved transportation and enabling universal access to essential services of electricity, water and sanitation. It will also look at options for improved urban planning to make cities better able to weather natural hazards and climate change impacts, but also to allow low-income groups to fully participate in the economic opportunities of urban settlements through housing, mobility and energy infrastructure that underpin a more equitable future city.

Suggested Flagship Initiative as contained in the Complementarities Report: While the Complementarities Report suggests the development of an ASEAN Council for Sustainable Infrastructure, the idea of promoting sustainable infrastructure could be pursued through existing mechanisms and platforms.

First, the Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 Lead Implementing Body for Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI) was established in March 2018, after the launch of the Complementarities Report. It is tasked to engage the “the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, Dialogue Partners, the private sector, relevant international organisations or multilateral development banks as well as other stakeholders to support the achievement of sustainable infrastructure objectives, review progress, identify issues and propose actions forward” (as reflected in its Terms of Reference). In this regard, the Complementarities Initiative can strengthen the capacity of the LIB-SI to promote sustainable infrastructure in ASEAN by (i) working with a variety of stakeholders to assist ASEAN Member States on planning and developing sustainable infrastructure; (ii) promoting the facilitation of technology transfer and knowledge sharing on sustainable infrastructure; and (iii) supporting transnational sustainable infrastructure planning and development.

Second, the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) and the Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD) have jointly established a Working Group on Infrastructure Financing to enhance the role of ASEAN capital markets in supporting infrastructure financing. The ACMF and WC-CMD will collaborate closely with each other and with external stakeholders to:

- (i) develop standardised contractual terms for project documents and project finance documents, and infrastructure investment benchmarks and indices; and
- (ii) explore the development of a register of investors for both green and infrastructure projects and a catalogue on the pipeline of infrastructure projects. This will augment the LIB-SI's efforts to promote planning and development of sustainable infrastructure among ASEAN Member States.

Actions to Support Priority Area:

2.1 Supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) and the “Connecting the Connectivities” Approach that aims to promote the synchronisation of sub-regional, intra-regional, and interregional initiatives and frameworks such as the ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023, the GMS Ha Noi Action Plan 2018–2022, the IMT-GT Implementation Blueprint 2017-2021 and BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025

2.2 Mobilising public and private expertise and resources for planning and developing comprehensive, sustainable and future-proof infrastructure, including transportation, electricity, water and sanitation, and housing infrastructure

2.3 Enhancing ICT innovations, infrastructure as well as the competitiveness of the ICT sector to support an economic and social transition towards a truly “Digital ASEAN” (*Supporting the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.2 on Information and Communications Technology*)

2.4 Promoting clean and renewable energy and developing necessary infrastructure to enhance energy efficiency and conservation (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.4 on Energy*)

2.5 Supporting the development of sustainable water and waste water management infrastructure for a clean planet (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025*)

2.6 Supporting green technology and green jobs³ in infrastructure development

³ Green jobs are decent jobs in economic sectors which reduce negative environmental impacts (*ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community*).

Potential Deliverables

- Study on Connecting the Connectivities: ASEAN and the Regions (World Bank) (2019-2022)
- Supporting the Implementation of the Pipeline of ASEAN Infrastructure Projects under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025
- Supporting ASEAN Infrastructure Financing Mechanisms in particular the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF), the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) and the Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD) (ongoing)
- ASEAN Smart Cities Network and Smart Villages (ongoing)
- Knowledge sharing on reducing the digital divide in ASEAN in collaboration with Dialogue Partners (2020 onwards)
- ASEAN-Norway Clean and Sustainable Energy Partnership (Norway) (2019 onwards)
- Knowledge-sharing platforms for assessing the environmental and social impacts of infrastructure and connectivity
- A study on electrification in rural areas based on potential local resources such as micro-hydro and solar energy programmes (2020 onwards)
- Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on water resources, irrigation management programs and improving water quality, such as Subak Management System in Bali (2020 onwards)

3. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Introduction: The “Complementarities Report” suggests that action would need to focus on the sustainable management of soils, forests and water bodies as well as toxic waste, air pollution, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, among others, to reduce environmental degradation and biodiversity loss while enhancing economic opportunities. Action will also need to focus on promoting the utilisation of advanced technology, such as remote sensing satellites, environmental modelling and new innovations and investigating governance mechanisms, economic incentives, financing needs and legal requirements for encouraging communities, businesses and people to use natural resources effectively and efficiently and to enable a regional development path that allows the region to achieve the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, meet its commitments under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to global development within planetary boundaries.

Suggested Flagship Initiative as contained in the Complementarities Report:
Establishment of the ASEAN Resource Panel. The Panel would go beyond merely conducting analysis and actively engage policymakers and relevant stakeholders in translating results of such analysis into policy and practice. It would pool together national and regional scientists, experts, practitioners and governments to conduct analysis, studies and research and provide advice and connections between policymakers, industry and the community on ways to improve global and local resource management.

Actions to Support the Flagship and Priority Area:

3.1 Promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and mineral resources management, including through the exchange of good practices as well as scientific research and data collection (*supporting the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) and the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.5 on Food, Agriculture and Forestry and Section C.8 on Minerals*)

3.2 Promoting policy dialogue and cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (*supporting the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.1 on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources*)

3.3 Promoting policy dialogue and enhancing capacity for the sustainable use and management of water and marine resources (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025 and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.1 on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources*)

3.4 Promoting policy dialogue and enhancing capacity in ASEAN and with external partners in combating marine debris as part of the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris

3.5 Promoting policy dialogue and enhancing capacity for monitoring and preventing land degradation (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Framework and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.1 on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources*)

3.6 Promoting policy dialogue and enhancing capacity for monitoring air pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) and air quality management (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025, full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and the Roadmap to achieve a Haze-Free ASEAN by 2020 and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.1 on conservation and sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources and Section C.2 on Environmentally Sustainable Cities*)

3.7 Fostering cooperation on environmentally friendly and green ASEAN cities, including in the aspects of sustainable urban planning and enhanced coordination among relevant sectors (*supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.2 on Environmentally Sustainable Cities*)

3.8 Promoting the use of science and advanced technology, especially space technology such as remote sensing, Geographic Information System, Global Positioning System and also environmental modelling and new innovations for data collection and analysis to support research, studies and especially monitoring and management of natural resources and the environment

3.9 Promoting research and studies on monitoring and management of natural resources and the environment to support scientific and evidence-based policy recommendations on sustainable natural resources and environmental management, and developing relevant benchmarks or guidelines

Potential Deliverables

- Organising regional and international meetings and collaborating to address the issue of marine debris, including the effective implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris as well as Indonesia's proposal for the development of a Regional Plan of Action on Combating Marine Plastic Debris (ASEAN+8)
- IMT-GT's Green Cities Initiative and Sustainable Urban Development Framework (ongoing)
- Exchange of knowledge on implementing sustainable management of forests and enhancing forest governance (2020 onwards)
- Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on mobilising resources for forest conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation (2020 onwards)

4. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Introduction: The “Complementarities Report” suggests that action would need to focus on a sustainability transition of production and consumption systems in the ASEAN to allow the region to position itself at the forefront of innovation. It will help build new coalitions between stakeholders and decision makers and will raise the environmental agenda to the level of economic decision-making.

Suggested Flagship Initiative as contained in the Complementarities Report:

Greening Small and Medium Enterprises in ASEAN. This Flagship Initiative is an opportunity to mainstream sustainable consumption and production in SMEs and ensure that more sustainable goods and services will be created in ASEAN and find their way to consumption channels.

Actions to Support the Flagship and Priority Area: *(supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025):*

4.1 Promoting sustainable agriculture, including through agricultural research and development in areas such as innovative and sustainable production practices, and introducing good practices to farmers *(in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.5 on Food, Agriculture and Forestry)*

4.2 Promoting investment in R&D to improve resource efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions *(in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.3 on Sustainable Climate and C.4 on Sustainable Consumption and Production)*

4.3 Promoting the integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production strategy and good practices into national and regional policies and as part of corporate practices and CSR activities, including those within the framework of the AICHR Interregional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on Business and Human Rights that was initiated in 2018 *(in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section C.4 on Sustainable Consumption and Production)*

4.4 Promoting globally competitive, innovative and green Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in ASEAN in preparation for the Digital Economy and the 4IR, as well as strengthening public-private partnerships to promote the adoption of environmentally-sound technologies to maximise resource efficiency *(supporting the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025 and in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Section D.1 on Strengthening the Role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises)*

4.5 Promoting SMEs involvement in policy formulation to ensure a sound and effective policy and regulatory environment

4.6 Promoting entrepreneurship education particularly for women and youth and encourage their participation in SMEs

4.7 Promoting education and awareness as well as capacity-building on sustainable consumption and production

4.8 Promoting green jobs and a just transition to a greener employment and economy

4.9 Promoting innovative solutions to enhance plastics value chains and improve resource efficiency by prioritising approaches such as circular economy and 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle), and welcoming capacity-building and exchange of best practices among ASEAN Member States as well as support from external partners in this regard

Potential Deliverables

- ASEAN Plus Three Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) (ongoing)
- A study on strengthening the capacity of rural areas to produce environmentally friendly, competitive and marketable products/rural flagship products utilising local resources (one village one product) (2020 onwards)
- Exchange of views and good practices on enhancing technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable production and consumption (2020 onwards)
- Study and country sharing of initiatives on promoting and incentivising green manufacturing
- Country-sharing of initiatives in terms of mainstreaming and adopting sustainable consumption and production strategies and good practices in the civil service and other delivery areas of the public sector

5. Resilience

Introduction: ASEAN is one of the most natural disaster-prone regions in the world. The region is also faced with accelerating environmental degradation as a result of a fast-paced socio-economic development that is resources-intensive. Greater capacities need to be developed and strengthened to make ASEAN more adaptive and resilient. An inclusive, cross-sectoral and cross-cutting approach is required for ASEAN to better prepare for such challenges and reduce its vulnerabilities.

The “Complementarities Report” suggests that action should focus on collaborative strategies and programmes that may include building resilience towards the impact of climate change and natural disasters which include sea level rise and storm surges, severe winds, heat waves, urban heat island, drought and flooding, bush fires, landslide hazards, soil erosion, and earthquake.

Suggested Flagship Initiative as contained in the Complementarities Report: While the Complementarities Report suggests the development of an ASEAN Risk Transfer Mechanism, the idea of developing modalities to minimise insurance risk continues to be developed in ASEAN and other ASEAN-led platforms. In this regard, the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) that was established by the ASEAN+3 finance track in December 2018 can support both risk pools and parametric insurance products. It will help strengthen social protection to reduce vulnerabilities in time of social and economic crises and natural disasters. In addition, the 5th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting recently endorsed the Plan of Action (2019-2021) for Phase 2 of the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (ADRFI) that would support the provision of disaster risk financing and insurance solutions in the region.

Actions to Support Priority Area:

5.1 Promoting policy coherence and synergising initiatives on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, humanitarian actions and sustainable development (*supporting the implementation of the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Plan 2016 - 2020 and in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section D.1 on A Disaster Resilient ASEAN*)

5.2 Strengthening regional mechanisms that facilitate cooperation and coordination on disaster relief, including through enhancing coordination between the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator and the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator under the ASEAN-UNOCHA Interoperability Brief (*Supporting the work of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in disaster management (AHA Centre) and the Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) Regional Warehouse in Subang, Malaysia, and Satellite Warehouses in Chainat Province, Thailand, and Camp Aguinaldo, the Philippines*)

5.3 Strengthening regional capacity-building mechanisms to respond to disasters (*Supporting training and capacity-building initiatives such as the ASEAN Emergency Assessment and Response Team (ASEAN ERAT) and the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Programme*)

5.4 Promoting urban resilience

5.5 Strengthening social protection to vulnerable groups, including people living in climate sensitive areas, to reduce climate change-related impacts and vulnerabilities (*in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section D4 concerning resilience*)

5.6 Supporting financial and insurance mechanisms and strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, such as the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (ADRFI) Phase 2 Plan of Action (2019-2021) that was endorsed by the 5th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) in April 2019 (*in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section D.5 concerning resilience*)

5.7 Promoting research and studies for strengthening climate science-policy interface and monitoring of climate change (including urban heat island in main cities and historical climate data) and natural disasters and enhancing the use of space technology, especially remote sensing satellites, for data collection and analysis to support capacity-building in disaster risk reduction and prevention (*Supporting the implementation of the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of the ASEAN and its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change in 2015, the ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment 2016-2025, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, Section D.1 and D.3*)

Potential Deliverables

- ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ongoing)
- Dialogues on Smart Cities: Toward a Policy Framework to achieve the SDGs (UNDP) (2020)
- A study on insurance risk transfer mechanisms by utilising the CSR for disaster-prone areas (2020 onwards)
- Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on disaster resilient villages (2020 onwards)
- Socialisation of the ASEAN Guideline on the ASEAN Guideline on Disaster Responsive Social Protection
- Promoting mental health and psychosocial support in disaster
- Supporting the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management to encourage complementarities between the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement

6. Cross Cutting Area: Capacity-building

Introduction: Capacity-building is integral to the successful implementation of the Complementarities Initiative. It is important that ASEAN's experts and relevant institutions consistently improve their expertise and skills needed such as research tools/approaches for analysis of development issues and monitoring development cooperation. This endeavour is in line with the scope of the ACSDS to enhance capacity of ASEAN practitioners and institutions that work on sustainable development.

The alignment and coordination of the actions and deliverables with other ASEAN initiatives and Work Plan, such as the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), will also reap optimal benefits, promote coherence, and reduce duplication and wastage of resources.

Actions to Support Priority Area:

6.1 Promoting dialogue and facilitating exchange of best practices on sustainable development

6.2 Enhancing capacity on sustainable development through IAI, exchange programmes, training and workshops, and encouraging cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination and activities, as appropriate

6.3 Enhancing capability of government in stakeholder engagement and supporting where applicable, the mobilising of private sector and civil society's capacity and resources towards activities supporting ASEAN objectives and sustainable development, including strengthening public-private partnerships

Potential Deliverables

- Promoting South-South cooperation in ASEAN and exchange of best practices with other regions (UNOSSC)
- Promoting on-going regular dialogue on sustainable development such as the Meeting of National Planning Agencies to accelerate SDGs Implementation and the ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on SDGs
- Capacity-building activities for ASEAN officials and experts as well as staff and researchers of the ACSDS and other ASEAN Centres (The Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation) (2019-2020)
- Capacity-building activities for the ASEAN Networks of Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Women Entrepreneurs, ASEAN Children's Forum, and ASEAN Social Work Consortium
- Capacity-building undertaken by ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's external partners to narrow development gap under the IAI and other ASEAN initiatives

D. Implementation

- Given the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development, the implementation of action lines identified in this document will be carried out, as appropriate, following consideration by relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Centres, universities in ASEAN and with ASEAN's external partners. All efforts will be made to avoid duplication of existing ASEAN mechanisms or to minimise financial implications arising from implementation of relevant initiatives in the report.

- The Roadmap will serve as guide to the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN sectoral bodies and ensure value addition of regional cooperation on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in ASEAN by building upon progress and gains of existing regional programmes, promoting coherence of regional and national policies and initiatives with the aspiration to convey common voice of ASEAN and its progress on SDGs to external partners and stakeholders.

- The ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) will provide institutional support for the coordination of the implementation of this Roadmap (by facilitating policy dialogue, developing networks for cooperation, raising public awareness, monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting progress in the implementation of the Roadmap at the HLBD forum).

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Appendix 2:

Chairman's Press Statement on the Launch of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)



**Chairman's Press Statement
on the Launch of the ASEAN Centre
for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)
3 November 2019, Bangkok/Nonthaburi, Thailand**

At the 35th ASEAN Summit today, the ASEAN Leaders launched the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) located in Bangkok, Thailand. This Centre is an important follow-up to the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability adopted at the 34th ASEAN Summit in June 2019.

As sustainable development is a strategic priority of ASEAN, the ACSDSD will play a catalytic role in promoting sustainable development cooperation in the region and enhancing the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the "Complementarities Initiative".

The Centre is one of the concrete deliverables of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship this year. It will also serve as a regional platform to encourage research and studies as well as build capacities of ASEAN Member States, and promote dialogue and cooperation on sustainable development within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and external partners, including the implementation of concrete cooperation projects relating to sustainable development.

Operating within the Centre for Research on Sustainable Leadership, College of Management of Mahidol University in Bangkok, the Centre will also work in partnership and develop networks of cooperation with relevant centres and institutions within ASEAN and beyond.

Appendix 3:
**Summary Record of the Inaugural Meeting of the Governing
Council of the ACSDSD**



SUMMARY RECORD

THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Wednesday, 4 December 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. The Inaugural Meeting of the Governing Council of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) was held on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at the College of Management, Mahidol University in Bangkok. It was chaired by Ms. Usana Berananda, Deputy Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and attended by representatives from ASEAN Member States. The List of Delegations appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3. Thailand nominated Mrs. Orawan Yafa as a candidate for the Executive Director of the ACSDSD.¹ Mrs. Yafa has over 20 years of experience in policy coordination and communication on issues related to sustainable development. The duration of Mrs. Yafa's contract would be aligned with Thailand's fiscal year, which begins on 1 October and ends on 30 September of the following year. Her first-year contract will be from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020, and the contract will

¹ According to the Concept Note - Terms of Reference of the Centre, Thailand will appoint an Executive Director of the Centre, in close consultations with ASEAN Member States, to be responsible for management and work of the Centre under the guidance from a Governing Council.

be renewed for another year until 30 September 2021. Thailand will regularly update the Governing Council on the status of the Executive Director's contract.

4. The Meeting expressed general support for the appointment of Mrs. Yafa as the Executive Director of the Centre. The Meeting also took note of Mrs. Yafa's vision for the Centre, which includes (i) five-year goal: connecting with partners in the region and beyond; and (ii) ten-year goal: enhancing the capacity of the Centre to become an ASEAN Excellence Centre for Sustainable Development from 2030 onwards.

AGENDA ITEM 3: RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

5. The Executive Director briefed the meeting on the draft Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council which appears as ANNEX 3. The Meeting agreed that further inputs would be conveyed to Thailand in writing through respective ASEAN National Secretariats by 10 January 2020. Subsequently, Thailand will consolidate suggested inputs into a revised draft, which will be circulated to ASEAN Member States for adoption ad referendum. It was also highlighted that the Governing Council should work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat.

6. The Chair clarified the different roles between the Governing Council and the Advisory Board. The Governing Council will provide guidance on policy and administrative matters for the Centre while the Advisory Board, which will comprise representatives from both ASEAN Member States and external partners, will provide expert views on the implementation of projects and activities to be undertaken by the Centre.

AGENDA ITEM 4: WORK PLAN FOR 2020 OF THE CENTRE

7. The Meeting took note of the Work Plan for 2020 of the Centre as presented by the Executive Director (ANNEX 4).

8. The Chair underlined the importance of networking activities among ASEAN Centres related to sustainable development, and encouraged ASEAN Member States to identify areas for capacity-building that the ACSDSD can provide to ASEAN Member States and other relevant Centres in the region. In response to a question on the Centre's envisaged project on addressing malnutrition and stunting, the Chair informed the Meeting that the project will be based on recommendations contained in the Policy Note by the World Bank entitled "Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition in ASEAN", which was circulated at the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) in November 2019 in Bangkok. One of the practical recommendations of the Policy Note is the development of a strong surveillance and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to support ending all forms of malnutrition in ASEAN. The Centre will coordinate and organise meetings with ASEAN Member States and relevant international organisations to discuss what will be the indicators for such an M&E framework. It will be a 3-5 year project.

AGENDA ITEM 5: THE CONVENING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

9. The Meeting exchanged views on the role, size and composition of the Advisory Board. It was agreed that each ASEAN Member State should nominate a representative to take part in the Advisory Board and inform Thailand of the said nomination by 10 January 2020. With regard to representatives from external partners, it was agreed in-principle that the invitation should be sent to potential external partners that will work with the Centre under the Work Plan of that year or the following year. In this regard, Thailand will send the initial list of potential candidates for the Advisory Board to ASEAN Member States for consideration. Further suggestions on the said list can be sent to Thailand by 10 January 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

10. Indonesia updated the Meeting on the Indo-Pacific Infrastructure and Connectivity Forum to be held in Indonesia in 2020. This Forum aims to enhance

engagements and provide business matching opportunities between government and private sectors across the Indo-Pacific region on infrastructure and connectivity projects. Moreover, the Forum will also contribute to bridging the gaps in achieving the SDGs and realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 by improving infrastructure and enhancing connectivity in the region.

CLOSING REMARKS

11. The Chair expressed appreciation to all participants for their contributions to and support for the work of the Centre.

ISSUES TO FOLLOW UP

No.	Key Decision/Issues	Timeline	Follow-up By
1.	To provide inputs on the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council	10 January 2020	ASEAN Member States
2.	To nominate representatives for the Advisory Board by ASEAN Member States	10 January 2020	ASEAN Member States
3.	To provide inputs on the initial list of candidates from external partners for the Advisory Board	10 January 2020	ASEAN Member States

Appendix 4:
ACSDSD Work Plan for 2020

WORK PLAN FOR 2020

The ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)

No.	Activities/Projects	Existing/Potential Partners	Timeline				Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
I. Research and Studies							
1	Research on the impacts of COVID-19 and recovery in ASEAN and the implication on sustainable development	College of Management, Mahidol University		x	x		
2	Podcast series on socio-economic recovery post COVID-19 and the SDGs	College of Management, Mahidol University		x	x		
3	PhD research grants on sustainable development	College of Management, Mahidol University			x		
4	Development of ASEAN Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Framework	EU SWITCH-Asia/UNEP/ASEAN Secretariat			x	x	
5	Research on ASEAN SDGs best practices/Decade of Actions	TBC			x	x	
II. Dialogue							
1	The 4 th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	MFA of Thailand (co-host) UN ESCAP (co-host)		x			The Dialogue was successfully organised on 4 June 2020 via video conference.
2	Forum on SDG 12 on Sustainable Production and Consumption and Business and Human Rights: An ASEAN-Swiss Peer-Learning Event	Switzerland				x	The event will be postponed to June 2021.

No.	Activities/Projects	Existing/Potential Partners	Timeline				Remarks
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
3	Roll-out activity for the ASEAN Gender Outlook by UN Women	UN Women				x	
III. Capacity-building							
1	Capacity-building activities for ASEAN officials and experts as well as staff and researchers of the ACSDDSD and other ASEAN Centres	TICA Asia Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation					The activity will be postponed to 2021.
2	Developing an information platform to support sustainable development knowledge management	ASEAN Secretariat / UN ESCAP				x	
IV. Outreach and Networking							
1	Organising briefings and informational events to introduce the ACSDDSD and explore potential partners	MFA of Thailand	x	x	x	x	
2	ASEAN Centre Forum on Sustainable Development	Asia Foundation / Rockefeller Foundation ASEAN Secretariat / Relevant ASEAN Centres and Institutions				x	
3	Networking with ASEAN centres and possible development partners	ASEAN centres / possible development partners / and the ASEAN Secretariat		x	x	x	Using online platform
V. Governing Council/Advisory Board Meetings							
1	Governing Council Meetings (twice a year)	ASEAN Member States ASEAN Secretariat				x	First Meeting in Q4 of 2019
2	Advisory Board Meeting (once a year)	ASEAN Member States External Partners ASEAN Secretariat				x	

Appendix 5:

Co-Chairs' Summary of the 4th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Co-Chairs' Summary
of the 4th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities
between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and
the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4 June 2020 (Video Conference)

1. Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) jointly organised the 4th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) via video conference on Thursday, 4 June 2020. The Meeting provided a platform for ASEAN, UN agencies, and other external partners to further advance their cooperation in promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Complementarities Initiative). This year's HLBD also highlighted the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in response to the challenges and opportunities of the COVID-19 outbreak.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, and Her Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. His Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, also participated in the Meeting as did high-level representatives and development experts of ASEAN Member States, UNDP, UN Women, UNOSSC, UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. Representatives of China 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 present as Guests of the Co-Chairs. Representatives of the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation also attended as Observers.

3. The Co-Chairs underlined the important role of sustainable development in mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. They also emphasised that ASEAN can turn the COVID-19 crisis into opportunities to reshape its development path based on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To maintain the hard-won development gains and strive towards the realisation of the SDGs, the region needs to continue its collective efforts in promoting the priorities identified in the Complementarities Initiative including through the effective implementation of the Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025). The Co-Chairs also highlighted specific policy areas that ASEAN should pursue in order to build back better from the multi-dimensional impacts of COVID-19, including (a) Protecting peoples' health and well-being (b) Finding a balance between economic and social development and

environmental impacts by supporting sustainable and inclusive economic recovery in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement (c) Restoring and building sustainable supply chains through regional and subregional coordination on trade, investment and transport, and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (d) Promoting human capital development and leveraging on digitalisation and technologies to reduce inequalities and build resilience against future disruptions and (e) Strengthening multi-stakeholder and comprehensive partnerships.

4. The Meeting had wide-ranging and in-depth discussions on how to better concretise cooperation under the Complementarities Initiative to ensure that SDG progress in ASEAN will continue to advance and the region will recover stronger from COVID-19 and be well-prepared for future disruptions and disasters.

5. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made on the Complementarities Initiative presented by ESCAP, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting welcomed two key deliverables which resulted from the recommendations by the HLBD and the Complementarities Report, namely the launch of the *ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)* at the 35th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in November 2019 and the finalisation of the *Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025)* noted by the 10th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bangkok in November 2019. It was highlighted that the ACSDSD should work closely with relevant sectoral bodies, ASEAN centres and institutions in the region as well as ESCAP and other UN agencies and external partners to facilitate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap, including through compiling best practices in SDG implementation in the region. The Meeting also welcomed other important developments in promoting the Complementarities Initiative and sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN including the convening of the inaugural *ASEAN Forum on SDGs with National Development Agencies* in Jakarta in July 2019, and the demonstration of “ASEAN’s voices” through a Joint Statement and a Statement at the Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit in New York in September 2019. The Meeting also looked forward to further strengthened cooperation between ASEAN and the UN in taking forward the Complementarities Initiative under the new ASEAN-UN Plan of Action.

6. The Meeting also discussed concrete ideas to implement the *Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025)*. The Meeting took note of updates by Viet Nam, as the ASEAN Chair, the World Bank, Singapore, ESCAP, the European Union, Switzerland, UNOSSC, UNDP, UN Women, and the ACSDSD regarding the progress made on enhancing sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN and future plans to support the implementation of the Roadmap across all six areas of cooperation, namely poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, resilience and capacity-building. Key projects and activities presented to the Meeting were the *ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN)*, which was highlighted by Singapore as a collaborative platform to develop and implement commercially viable smart urban solutions that address issues of common concern such as public health emergencies and sustainable development; the

Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of Potential ASEAN Infrastructure Projects by the World Bank; the *ASEAN Resources Panel* and work on resilience by ESCAP; potential and upcoming projects with the ACSDD in the area of sustainable consumption and production by Switzerland and the European Union; a proposed green economic recovery project in response to COVID-19 by UNOSSC; the *ASEAN My World Survey* and the *ASEAN-China UNDP symposium* by UNDP; and the *ASEAN Gender Outlook* by UN Women. The Meeting viewed that these projects and activities can also directly and indirectly alleviate the adverse impacts of COVID-19, reinforce regional resilience, including through exchanges of best practices and technical and knowledge sharing, and contribute to a better and sustainable future for ASEAN.

7. The Meeting emphasised the need to reflect and recalibrate COVID-19 recovery efforts in implementing the Complementarities Roadmap and underlined that sustainable development efforts should remain people-centred and leave no one behind. The meeting also stressed the importance of enhancing the spirit of multilateralism and forging international, multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral, and cross-society SDG partnerships, including through South-South and Triangular cooperation.

8. 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.

9. 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, UN Development System and other international organisations in achieving sustainable development in the region.

10. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and ESCAP for hosting this High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue and looked forward to the 5th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue next year.

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Appendix 6:

ASEAN Joint Statement to the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019



**ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019
23 SEPTEMBER 2019, NEW YORK**

1. **ASEAN** welcomes the convening of the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 in New York on 23 September 2019 and commends the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his leadership in addressing the climate change issue. The summit supports the work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in enhancing global response to climate change, by generating political momentum on climate action in order to achieve the objective and principles of the Convention and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
2. ASEAN attaches great importance to tackling climate change. Since most of our population lives along low-lying coasts and river plains, ASEAN is highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. The increased impacts of climate change have threatened the region's economic and social progress. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) have strived to strengthen our resilience by implementing both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
3. Because of our first-hand experience with the impacts of climate change, ASEAN is committed to be actively involved in global climate action at various levels as follows:

At the global level

- ASEAN strongly supports global efforts to address climate change under the UNFCCC. All AMS have ratified the Paris Agreement and communicated their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

At the regional level

- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025

ASEAN has been implementing strategic measures under the ASCC Blueprint 2025 in order to move ASEAN towards "Sustainable Climate" with the aim to realize a resilient community. Among the key strategic measures include: (a) strengthening the efforts of government, private sector and community in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from main activities of development; (b) facilitating the development of comprehensive and coherent responses to climate change challenges; and (c) mainstreaming climate change risk management and greenhouse gas emission reduction in sectoral planning.

- Key ASEAN targets include
 - i. Energy transition:
 - ASEAN has exceeded its energy efficiency target, reducing energy intensity by more than 21.9% compared to 2005 levels, well ahead of its 2020 target.
 - ASEAN will continue to work towards the region's long-term target to reduce energy intensity by 30% by 2025.
 - Additionally, ASEAN also set a target to increase the component of renewable energy mix by 23% by 2025.
 - ii. Land transport:
 - ASEAN aims to reduce the average fuel consumption per 100 km of new light-duty vehicles sold in ASEAN by 26% between 2015 and 2025.
 - ASEAN will also (a) introduce and strengthen fiscal policy measures based on fuel economy or on CO₂ emissions at national level where applicable to incentivize consumers to purchase efficient vehicles; and (b) promote the adoption of national fuel consumption standards for light-duty vehicles in all markets, striving towards a regional standard in the long term.
4. ASEAN stresses the direct linkage between the means of implementation and the level of action. Adequate capacity-building, transfer of technology and financial support for developing countries are crucial and shall be aligned with national needs and priorities, and foster country ownership. ASEAN is of the view that the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 should be an opportunity for developed countries to deliver on their financial commitments to developing countries especially in providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020. ASEAN also hopes to see strong political signals from developed countries to demonstrate their collective commitment to scale-up climate finance that is secure, predictable and sustainable in the post-2020 context.
5. ASEAN welcomes the findings of the previous Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports and the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels that warned us that we have less time to avoid potentially irreversible climate disruption. ASEAN is of the view that no one country can fight climate change alone, and partnership is vital. ASEAN has enhanced both regional and international cooperation to address climate change, including through the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change as well as the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action (SAMCA) and Expanded SAMCA convened in July 2018.
6. ASEAN stands ready to advance our partnership with the global community on climate action to ensure sustainability for present and future generations.

Appendix 7:

Statement on behalf of ASEAN Member States at the SDG Summit

Statement by
His Excellency General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.),
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand,
on behalf of ASEAN Member States,
at the SDG Summit
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 24 September 2019

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Madame President of the Economic and Social Council,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I am pleased and honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 10 ASEAN Member States, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam, and Thailand.
2. This past June, ASEAN Leaders adopted the Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, which will support our global efforts to attain the SDGs. Previously, ASEAN had also agreed on the Complementarities Initiative – to enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda.
3. ASEAN aspires for a people-centred Community that leaves no one behind. There are three key words that best describe the focus of our efforts: acceleration, localisation, and cooperation. We need to accelerate SDGs implementation, localise SDGs through home grown knowledge, and forge cooperation with all partners and sectors of society.

First, **acceleration** of our actions through enhancing connectivity, tackling inequalities through the use of science, technology and innovation to improve quality of life in line with our goal for a Digital and Green ASEAN, as well as protect and restore the environment, promote the sustainable use of ocean resources, and eradicate marine debris;

Second, **localisation** of the SDGs by encouraging public participation in policymaking, promoting local approaches to development, empowering communities through promoting greater financial inclusion and supporting MSMEs, and preparing for ageing societies;

Third, **cooperation** to promote free trade through the multilateral trading system and regional initiatives such as RCEP, advance the SMART Cities Network, and strengthen resilience to natural disasters to protect the people and our development gains.

4. Finally, ASEAN stands ready to work with the United Nations and other Member States to develop knowledge, capacities, as well as to exchange best practices. The launch of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in Thailand later this year will help build ASEAN Member States' capacity to implement the SDGs in a concrete manner both in our region and beyond.

Mr. President,

5. If we want to pass on a sustainable world to our children and grandchildren, there is no time to waste. Therefore, we must act now, act quickly, and do more together in partnership.
6. I thank you.

Appendix 8:

Summary of the Side Event “Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs: From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond”

Information Note:
Summary of the Side Event
“Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs:
From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond”
in the margins of the SDG Summit

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On 24 September 2019, Thailand, as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation and the current Chair of ASEAN, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and the ASEAN Secretariat, organised a side event on “Regional Dimension in Achieving SDGs: From Lessons Learned to Practical Action in the ASEAN Region and Beyond” in the margins of the SDG Summit at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The main objective of the event is to share ASEAN’s best practices in advancing sustainable development cooperation in the region.

The event was co-hosted by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, and attended by representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN’s External Partners and UN agencies. Also present at the event were H.E. Mr. Teodoro Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, H.E. Mrs. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Undersecretary of the National Economic Development Authority, the Philippines and H.E. Mr. Md Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh.

Three key elements for taking forward SDGs implementation in ASEAN were highlighted, namely (1) enhancing regional catalysts for the realisation of the SDGs, including through the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) and the development of the Complementarities Roadmap (2) ensuring that the people of ASEAN are the ultimate beneficiaries of sustainable development cooperation and (3) strengthening partnership for the SDGs, within ASEAN and beyond.

During the panel discussion, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Norway, and the ACSDDSD exchanged views on how ASEAN can further strengthen regional cooperation in supporting the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote regional peace and prosperity which are two sides of the same coin. To this end, it was suggested that ASEAN needs to create platforms for dialogue, where ASEAN Member States can share their experiences, discuss ways forward, and strengthen cooperation with external partners to implement the SDGs in a more accelerated and effective manner.

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Appendix 9:

Chairman's Press Release on the Special Lunch on Sustainable Development



Chairman's Press Release
on
The Special Lunch on Sustainable Development
4 November 2019, Bangkok/Nonthaburi, Thailand

On 4 November 2019, during the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, H.E. General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, as ASEAN Chair in 2019 and ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, hosted and chaired a *Special Lunch on Sustainable Development*.

The Special Lunch was attended by the Heads of State/Government and representatives of ASEAN Member States and Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, as Guest of the Chair, and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The Special Lunch was an opportunity for Leaders to exchange views and generate practical ideas on how to advance sustainable development in ASEAN and the wider region, through partnerships within ASEAN and beyond, as a contribution to regional stability, prosperity and sustainability. Leaders shared their visions, experiences and best practices on how to promote sustainable development, leveraging on the expertise and technologies of ASEAN Member States and external parties. In these exchanges, a number of views were expressed.

Poverty eradication and narrowing development gaps were identified as key factors that would help ensure greater sustainability in economic growth and development, as were addressing the challenges of malnutrition and stunting, and promoting sustainable agriculture, food security and energy security.

Protection of the environment was likewise underscored as an important goal that needs to be mainstreamed into cooperation on sustainable development, with a focus on promoting sustainable oceans through effective marine debris, garbage and waste management, sustainable fisheries, among other things, and addressing the challenge of climate change through the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and enhancing cooperation on this issue.

Human capital development and capacity-building were seen as important drivers for sustainable development as well as key elements in the promotion of human security and preparing for the 4th Industrial Revolution. Strengthening of MSMEs, start-ups and local enterprises, particularly through greater efforts to promote financial inclusion and greater access to regional and global markets, was perceived as important to ensuring more inclusive growth and empowering communities.

The importance of translating shared visions into practical action, by strengthening relevant existing mechanisms, was emphasised. Promoting trilateral cooperation between ASEAN and two or more external partners to enhance regional cooperation on sustainable development, focusing on concrete projects and building capacities, was cited as one possible modality for realising concrete projects and activities. Public-private partnerships were seen as another.

It was suggested that the recently launched ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue, as well as other relevant ASEAN Centres in Thailand and in the region, could also play both a supportive and catalytic role in the ongoing efforts of ASEAN and its partners to promote sustainable development cooperation in the region, complementing efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Leaders appreciated Thailand's offer to convene a follow-up meeting on enhancing partnership for sustainable development next year to further discuss this issue.

Overall, the *Special Lunch on Sustainable Development* further reinforced the ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability and the East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, in the spirit of realising a people-centred ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind and looks to the future.

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Appendix 10:

Co-Chairs' Press Statement of the Second ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development

**Co-Chairs' Press Statement of
the Second ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development:
Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
10 February 2020, Brussels**

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The second **ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals** was successfully convened in Brussels on 10 February 2020. It brought together senior representatives and experts of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and of the European Union (EU), the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Dialogue opened with a high-level segment with statements by **Ms. Jutta Urpilainen** European Commissioner for International Partnerships and H.E. **Mr. Don Pramudwinai**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation. The subsequent thematic discussions were co-chaired by **Mr. Koen Doens**, Director-General for the European Commission department for international cooperation and development, and **Mrs. Busaya Mathelin**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Dialogue built on the conclusions of the inaugural High Level ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok on 17 November 2017. It reiterated the importance of continued policy dialogue to promote cooperation on sustainable development in line with the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022.

The Dialogue underlined the following:

1. The European Union and ASEAN reaffirmed that promoting sustainable development, through the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a priority for both regions. With ten years left to 2030, we are committed to make the coming decade one of action and delivery. This global commitment is an integral part of both the EU and ASEAN regional integration processes and helps to ensure that they are people-oriented and people-centred. The Dialogue welcomed the initiative to identify and enhance complementarities between the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in this spirit of leaving no one behind.
2. The EU and ASEAN have a longstanding and multi-faceted development cooperation partnership. Over the period 2014-2020, the EU has supported ASEAN regional development with over €200 million and dedicated €2 billion to individual ASEAN Member States. Regional integration, trade, green growth, the environment, agriculture, poverty eradication, natural disaster prevention and response, people-to-people connectivity, gender equality, and human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities, are important areas of ASEAN-EU cooperation to achieve the SDGs.
3. The EU and ASEAN will explore possible cooperation to facilitate the transition to a sustainable economy. The Dialogue welcomed two new initiatives by the EU to promote cooperation on green economy, announced by Commissioner Urpilainen during the opening segment of the Dialogue. The EU is preparing to contribute to the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility in line with the European Green Deal and in close coordination with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Financial Institutions. A partnership between the EU and the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) will enhance policy dialogue on sustainable consumption and production.

4. The EU and ASEAN agreed that the global challenges of climate change and environmental degradation require a global response, ambitious policies and enhanced collective efforts, particularly in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Dialogue discussed ways to enhance cooperation, including on technology and knowledge sharing, in the fields of sustainable production and consumption, circular economy, clean energy, sustainable fisheries, biodiversity, combating marine debris, sustainable use of peatland forest, transboundary haze pollution, and smart and sustainable cities. The Dialogue also highlighted the important contribution of green and sustainable finance as promoted by the International Platform on Sustainable Finance since 2019 and the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility under the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund.

5. The Dialogue addressed the importance of regional integration and the development of human capital in narrowing development gaps. Connectivity was identified as a cross-cutting concept that can promote both regional inclusive growth and the achievement of the SDGs. Strong EU-ASEAN cooperation already exists in this field, and there are potential synergies between the ‘Connecting Europe and Asia: The EU Strategy’ on the one hand, and the ‘Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025’, including through the ‘Connecting the Connectivities’ approach, on the other hand. The two sides agreed to continue their exchanges on physical connectivity such as digital infrastructure, road transport, science and research cooperation, and people-to-people connectivity.

6. Promoting gender equality, and in particular the empowerment of women and girls, is an important priority for both ASEAN and the EU. The Dialogue highlighted, as key to reaching these objectives, strengthening the financial inclusion of women and promoting women entrepreneurship, especially in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The EU and ASEAN also appreciated the importance of forging partnerships in promoting sustainable development and localising the SDGs.

7. The EU and ASEAN expressed their intention to strengthen their partnership on sustainable development to a more advanced level, including through establishing the ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development as a regular format. The third ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development is expected to be convened in 2021, to review concrete initiatives and joint progress in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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