

COMPLEMENTARITIES ROADMAP (2020 - 2025)




FOREWORD

Sustainable development resonates strongly within ASEAN. That is because it is in ASEAN's DNA to build an ASEAN Community that is people-centred and leaves no one behind. It is an important pillar in Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability". Since its conceptualisation in 2016, the "Complementarities Initiative" has played a catalytic role in taking forward sustainable development cooperation in the ASEAN region and beyond. At the heart of the Complementarities Initiative is the commitment to ensure the achievement of the twin goals of realising a resilient and people-centred ASEAN Community and the attainment of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, they are complementary to, and reinforce, one another.

At this important juncture, where urgent action to accelerate the effective implementation of the SDGs at the global level is needed, ASEAN has taken a historic step in concretising the work under the Complementarities Initiative by developing the "Complementarities Roadmap (2020-2025)".

The Roadmap is a culmination of three years of cooperation between ASEAN and its external partners, particularly the UNESCAP, following the in-depth discussions at the High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue (HLBD) to advance the Complementarities Initiative, which has been convened annually in Bangkok since 2017. Noted at the 10th ASEAN-UN Summit in Bangkok in November 2019, the Roadmap provides an important framework for action. In particular, it serves as a guide for concretising sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN, including for the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD) in Bangkok, which was launched at the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in November 2019. The Roadmap, along with an Information Note on the ACSDDSD, as appears as an Annex of this publication, can be used in tandem by ASEAN Member States and any interested external partners to translate action lines and potential deliverables, suggested in the Complementarities Roadmap, into concrete action and projects to advance the sustainable development agenda.

As the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, Thailand looks forward to continuing to work closely with all stakeholders involved because we attach importance to fostering partnership to achieve our common vision of a people-centred Community that leaves no one behind and looks to the future. We hope that ASEAN will continue to make steady and satisfactory progress on the SDGs implementation, together with enhanced regional cooperation on sustainable development, which will help contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity.



Don Pramudwinai
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand
December 2019

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 <http://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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Annex:

Thailand's Information Note: ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)

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ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)

1. Overview

1.1 The ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) was endorsed in 2018 and received the support of ASEAN Leaders in the Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability adopted at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in June 2019. The Centre has its foundations in the priority strategy of ASEAN to **enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development**, or the *Complementarities Initiative*. Information on the background of the Centre including its TOR appears in Annex 1.

1.2 The ACSDSD will play a catalytic role in enhancing regional sustainable development cooperation and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in the ASEAN region as a whole. It will generally have two broad pillars of activities:

1.2.1 a research pillar that will encourage research and studies on sustainable development issues of importance to the region, and

1.2.2 a policy dialogue pillar that will encourage region-wide dialogue to exchange best practices and promote cooperation on sustainable development.

Other envisaged functions include capacity-building and advocacy activities.

1.3 The ACSDSD's approach is to emphasise the development and implementation of **projects that will generate concrete results** for the benefits of the peoples of ASEAN. The ultimate objective is to enable ASEAN to simultaneously meet the twin goals of promoting a people-centred ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind and the attainment of the SDGs.

1.4 The ACSDSD will **be officially launched on 3 November 2019** at the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and will operate within the Centre for Research on Sustainable Leadership, **College of Management of Mahidol University in Bangkok**. Locally, it is expected that the Centre would also draw upon the expertise of Mahidol's faculty and its academic networks. Regionally, it is envisaged that the Centre will network with similar Centres in the region and agree mutually on possible areas of cooperation including specific projects.

2. Priority Areas of the Centre

2.1 The work on sustainable development cooperation of the Centre will be based on the priority areas of cooperation as developed under the **Complementarities Roadmap** that will be noted at the ASEAN-UN Summit in November 2019.

2.2 Building on previous discussions amongst ASEAN Member States and UN ESCAP, with the support of other partners, and based on the Complementarities Report which was issued in 2017, the priority areas for the Centre would include the following:

- (1) **poverty eradication,**
 - (2) **infrastructure and connectivity,**
 - (3) **sustainable management of natural resources,**
 - (4) **sustainable consumption and production, and**
 - (5) **resilience.**
- An additional envisaged cross-cutting priority issue is **capacity-building** for ASEAN experts and relevant institutions.

3. The How To: From Priority Areas to Project Ideas to Concrete Projects

3.1 The 5+1 priority areas of the Complementarities Roadmap will provide the general priority framework for project ideas to be developed by the Centre. In other words, project ideas envisaged to be pursued under the Centre should be based on one of these priority areas. Another important principle is that any project idea and ultimately concrete project should benefit ASEAN as a whole.

3.2 Project ideas and the resulting concrete projects can be in the form of the following:

- specific quick impact or long-term projects on the ground;
- research, studies or academic papers;
- short, medium or long-term training of experts;
- workshops or conferences to exchange best practices and promote policy advocacy and development; and
- other modalities to be agreed to by ASEAN and external partner(s)

These modalities of projects can be supported by a number of different ways including provision of grants or funding for projects, secondment of experts, hosting of workshops or other means. Such support could involve ASEAN, external partners or a combination of both. After all, taking forward these project ideas into concrete projects requires strong support from and sustained partnerships among all ASEAN Member States and interested external partners.

3.3 Initiation of project ideas can come from ASEAN, through individual ASEAN Member States, or through interested external partners. What is important is that these ideas ultimately converge and that they are translated into specific project proposals. Equally important is that these project ideas and their derivatives in terms of concrete projects are based on the 5+1

priority areas of the Centre and the Complementarities Roadmap. Depicted below are:

3.3.1 an illustrative and non-exhaustive list of initial project ideas where there have been some expressions of interest by ASEAN as well as

3.3.2 another similar list where external partners have offered some project ideas, over the past year.

List 3.3.1

| ASEAN Member States | Potential Project Ideas as Reflected in the Complementarities Roadmap | Timeline |
|---------------------|---|--|
| | <p><u>Poverty Eradication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - 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) - Knowledge sharing on ASEAN Member States' strategies to alleviate poverty and reduce stunting in the region - Human capital development training - Sustainable tourism (SDG Localisation) - 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 | <p>2019 onwards</p> <p>2019 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards 2020 onwards</p> |
| | <p><u>Infrastructure and Connectivity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) | <p>ongoing</p> |

| ASEAN Member States | Potential Project Ideas as Reflected in the Complementarities Roadmap | Timeline |
|---------------------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASEAN Smart Cities Network and Smart Villages - Knowledge sharing on reducing the digital divide in ASEAN in collaboration with Dialogue Partners - A study on electrification in rural areas based on potential local resources such as micro-hydro and solar energy programmes - Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on water resources, irrigation management programs and improving water quality, such as Subak Management System in Bali - Projects on sustainable connectivity to support MPAC 2025 - Knowledge-sharing platforms for assessing the environmental and social impacts of infrastructure and connectivity | <p>ongoing</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> |
| | <p><u>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - IMT-GT's Green Cities Initiative and Sustainable Urban Development Framework - Exchange of knowledge on implementing sustainable management of forests and enhancing forest governance - Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on mobilising resources for forest conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation - Development of a Regional Plan of Action on Combating Marine Plastic Debris (ASEAN+8) | <p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> |

| ASEAN Member States | Potential Project Ideas as Reflected in the Complementarities Roadmap | Timeline |
|---------------------|--|---|
| | <p><u>Sustainable Consumption and Production</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) - Exchange of views and good practices on enhancing technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable production and consumption - 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 - A research on responsible consumption in different age groups in ASEAN | <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> |
| | <p><u>Resilience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study on insurance risk transfer mechanisms by utilising the CSR for disaster-prone areas - Exchange of experiences and sharing of information on disaster resilient villages - 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 | <p>2020 onwards</p> <p>2020 onwards</p> |
| | <p><u>Capacity-building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity-building undertaken by ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's external partners to narrow development gap under the IAI and other ASEAN initiatives - Capacity-building activities for the ASEAN Networks of Inclusive | |

| ASEAN Member States | Potential Project Ideas as Reflected in the Complementarities Roadmap | Timeline |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | Entrepreneurship, Women Entrepreneurs, ASEAN Children's Forum, and ASEAN Social Work Consortium | |

List 3.3.2

| Countries/Organisations | Potential projects / Areas of Cooperation | Timeline |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| EU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable consumption and production - Climate change - Connectivity to build upon the EU's strategy on "Connecting Europe and Asia" | TBC |
| Norway | - ASEAN-Norway Clean and Sustainable Energy Partnership | TBC |
| Switzerland | - Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: practical examples of actions | Q2/2020 |
| Germany | - Sustainable consumption and production | TBC |
| UNDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project on sustainable tourism - Follow-on project to the ASEAN My World Survey | TBC |
| World Bank | - 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 | Proposed 5-year timeframe |
| Asia Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation | - Capacity-building activities for ASEAN officials and experts as well as staff and researchers of the ACSDS and other ASEAN Centres | Q1/2020 |
| | - Networking Forum among ASEAN Centres whose works are related to sustainable development | Q1/2020 |

3.4 To kick-off the work of the Centre, several projects are ready to be announced, some time during or immediately after, the launch of the Centre on the 3rd November 2019. These projects have confirmed support from external

partners, fall within the priority areas of the Centre and the Complementarities Roadmap, and can be implemented quickly.

3.5 These include the following:

- ***“Networking Forum of Centres involved in sustainable development cooperation in the ASEAN region”*** Such a networking event will be organised by the Centre and the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation in the first quarter of 2020. The networking event’s goal is to develop contacts amongst similar centres in the region and exchange best practices. In the future, other Centres in the ASEAN region could consider hosting such networking events.

- ***“Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Practical Examples of Actions”*** Such a forum will be co-organised by the Centre and Switzerland, a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, in the second quarter of 2020 in Bangkok.

3.6 Other project ideas where advanced work is being planned include the development of capacity-building programmes being developed by the Asia Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

3.7 For some projects, there are envisaged pathways for further development and finalisation of project ideas and ultimately concrete projects. With the EU, for example, such finalisation is envisaged to take place at the planned ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Sustainable Development expected to be convened in Brussels in February, possibly back-to-back with the ASEAN-EU SOM on 10-11 February 2020.

4. Operationalisation of the Centre

4.1 **Budget** The costs to establish, launch and operate the Centre will be borne by the Royal Thai Government. Specific projects on sustainable development cooperation to be pursued by the Centre will be financed by contributions, on a case-by-case and on a voluntary basis by Thailand, interested ASEAN Member States and interested External Partners.

4.2 Organisational Mechanism

- A **Governing Council**, comprising Ambassadors of ASEAN Member States to Thailand or a designated senior representative from each ASEAN Member State, will meet twice a year to provide policy guidance to the Centre. The first meeting will be organised by the end of 2019. Key agenda will include the approval of the Centre’s work plan for 2020 (Annex 2) and the endorsement of the appointment of the Executive Director of the Centre.

- An **Advisory Board**, comprising representatives of ASEAN Member States and relevant External Partners of ASEAN, will meet once a year to play an advisory role for the Centre. The first meeting is envisaged in January or February 2020.

4.3 An Executive Director will be appointed by Thailand, in close consultations with ASEAN Member States, to be responsible for management and work of the Centre under the guidance of the Governing Council.

* * * * *

Background and Rationale

- Sustainable development cooperation is at the heart of ASEAN's efforts to realise a people-centred Community that leaves no one behind. With this goal in mind, ASEAN has entrusted Thailand to serve as the **ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation** since 2016.

- Since then, Thailand has been working closely with all ASEAN Member States and external partners to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or also known as the “**Complementarities Initiative**”.

- To provide a framework for cooperation under the Complementarities Initiative, Thailand, UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat jointly developed the **Complementarities Report** which identified **five priority areas of regional cross-cutting development catalysts**.

- The Report also recommended flagship projects, including the establishment of the **ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD)** to drive forward sustainable development cooperation in ASEAN, building on the Complementarities Initiative.

- The idea of establishing the ACSDSD has received full support from ASEAN as reflected in the **ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN** adopted at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 2018. The Leaders' Vision emphasised the need to enhance cooperation in sustainable development to promote the Complementarities Initiative through feasible projects including **exploring a platform for dialogue and studies on sustainable development within ASEAN**.

- To carry forward this endeavour, Thailand developed the **Concept Note - Terms of Reference** to define the objectives and structure of the Centre. The said document was noted by the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 2018.

- According to the Concept Note - Terms of Reference, the objectives of the ACSDSD are two-fold. First is to **promote research and capacity building** on sustainable development. Second is to serve as **a platform for policy dialogue** for ASEAN Member States, and between ASEAN and its external partners. It will also develop **networks of cooperation amongst existing centres within ASEAN** that deal with sustainable development.

- The ACSDSD will also provide institutional support to coordinate the implementation of the **Complementarities Roadmap**, which will serve as a guide for further advancing the Complementarities Initiative. The Roadmap will be noted at the 10th ASEAN-UN Summit on 3 November 2019 in Bangkok.

Concept Note – Terms of Reference for the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue

1. Background and Rationale

In 2015, ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 with the aim of building a people-centred ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind and uplifts the standards of living of ASEAN peoples. Also in the same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 70/1 “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” that sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation.

Since then, recognising the potential to achieve the goals of enhancing regional integration while helping ASEAN Member States attaining SDGs at the same time, ASEAN has been promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, otherwise known as the “Complementarities Initiative.” To this end, ASEAN mandated Thailand to serve as the ASEAN Coordinator on this issue since 2016. The essence of the Complementarities Initiative is to develop key regional catalysts that cut across the various SDGs and enable the region as a whole to advance towards the twin goals of implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It envisages a cross-cutting approach, recognising that sustainable development cuts across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community.

As part of this endeavour, Thailand and UNESCAP organised the High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLBD) in Bangkok in 2017 and 2018. As one of the outcomes of the first HLBD, Thailand, UNESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat undertook the Complementarities Report¹ to develop strategies and policy recommendations that will help leverage the Complementarities Initiative. The Report identifies five priority areas of regional cross-cutting development catalysts namely (1) Poverty Eradication (2) Infrastructure and Connectivity (3) Sustainable Consumption and Production (4) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and (5) Resilience.

Promotion of cooperation in these priority areas will help achieve both the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report was submitted to the 9th ASEAN-UN Summit in Manila in 2017 for notation and was subsequently launched at the 2nd HLBD on

¹ <http://www.mfa.go.th/asean/contents/files/asean-media-center-20180213-164208-619213.pdf>

30 March 2018 in Bangkok. It also recommends seven flagship projects,² including the establishment of an **ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue**.

Most recently, the ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN adopted at the 32nd ASEAN Summit in Singapore on 27 April 2018 reiterated that one of ASEAN's key principles is that "ASEAN shall become a sustainable community that promotes economic and social development alongside environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet the current and future challenges of its people, while leaving no one behind" and "reaffirms its commitment towards the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as its related goals and targets, as well as the Paris Agreement."

2. Objectives

While there are already a number of programmes and institutions that deal with promoting sustainable development in ASEAN Member States, what is still lacking is support facilities that would focus on promoting sustainable development cooperation at the regional level for ASEAN as a whole. Such regional support facilities would aim to help facilitate, promote and coordinate ASEAN efforts on sustainable development cooperation, cutting across all three pillars. Such efforts would be anchored on the "Complementarities Initiative" that seeks to find synergies between ASEAN Community-building and the attainment of the SDGs. They would focus on reinforcing regional catalysts that enable States to better achieve multiple SDGs simultaneously. They would advance cooperation through specific sustainable development projects with external parties of ASEAN including, for example, the ASEAN-EU dialogue on sustainable development.

The ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue is envisaged for this purpose. Such a Centre would act as a regional catalyst to (1) promote research on specific issues on sustainable development of mutual interest and (2) support dialogue within ASEAN, and between ASEAN and external parties on sustainable development cooperation. The Centre would seek to promote sustainable development cooperation using a cross-cutting approach and complement the work of existing centres within ASEAN that deal with sustainable development, and develop networks of cooperation amongst these centres.

² (1) Improving Nutrition and Reducing Stunting in ASEAN (2) ASEAN Council for Sustainable Infrastructure (3) ASEAN Resources Panel (4) Greening Small and Medium Enterprises in ASEAN (5) ASEAN Risk Transfer Mechanism (6) **ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue** and (7) ASEAN Programme for Knowledge and Outreach on Complementarities

3. Scope of Work, Role and Functions

(A) Sustainable development studies

3.1. To promote and support research on sustainable development, particularly those that promote cooperation at the ASEAN or regional level.

3.2. To enhance capacity-building of practitioners and institutions on sustainable development issues such as, *inter alia*, on data collection and development of indicators for SDGs monitoring and implementation, through training and workshops.

3.3. To promote awareness of sustainable development in ASEAN.

(B) Dialogue on sustainable development

3.4. To facilitate consultations and dialogue among stakeholders through the annual High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue (HLBD) and other appropriate frameworks. The Centre will serve as the secretariat of the HLBD.

3.5. To strengthen and promote dialogue among relevant institutions including academic institutions involved in sustainable development work.

3.6. To initiate and facilitate ASEAN Member States in implementing concrete projects especially in the five priority areas of the Complementarities Initiative.

3.7. To develop networks of cooperation with other centres in the region that deal with sustainable development cooperation such as, *inter alia*, the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE) in Myanmar, and Sustainable Development Solutions Network in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

3.8. To enhance cooperation between ASEAN and external partners such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations including UNESCAP and UNDP and other related agencies, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, the EU, Germany as ASEAN's Development Partner and other partners.

4. Potential areas of work

The work on sustainable development cooperation of the Centre will focus on, but not necessarily be limited to, the following areas:

4.1. the five priority areas of regional development catalysts of the Complementarities Initiative, as identified in the Complementarities Report;

4.2. other related areas that can promote sustainable development in ASEAN, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, marine pollution, marine economy, sustainable urbanization, and malnutrition and stunting, and support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) initiative, as agreed to by ASEAN and between ASEAN and its external partners.

The approach will emphasise development and implementation of concrete projects with clear timelines that will generate concrete results in the area of

sustainable development cooperation that will benefit primarily the peoples of ASEAN. The ultimate objective is to enable ASEAN to simultaneously meet the twin goals of promoting a people-centred ASEAN Community that leaves no one behind and the attainment of the SDGs.

5. Budget and Organisational Setup

5.1. Budget The Centre will operate within the existing Center for Research on Sustainable Leadership, College of Management of Mahidol University (CMMU) in Bangkok, Thailand. The costs for the establishment, launching and operation of the Centre will be borne by the Royal Thai Government. Specific projects on sustainable development cooperation to be pursued by the Centre will be financed by contributions, on a case-by-case and on a voluntary basis by Thailand, interested ASEAN Member States and interested external partners. To date, external partners such as the UN and related agencies, the World Bank, the EU, Germany, Norway and Switzerland have indicated interest to participate in specific projects to be agreed to by ASEAN and the relevant external partner. There will be no mandatory financial contributions from ASEAN Member States.

5.2. Executive Director 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.

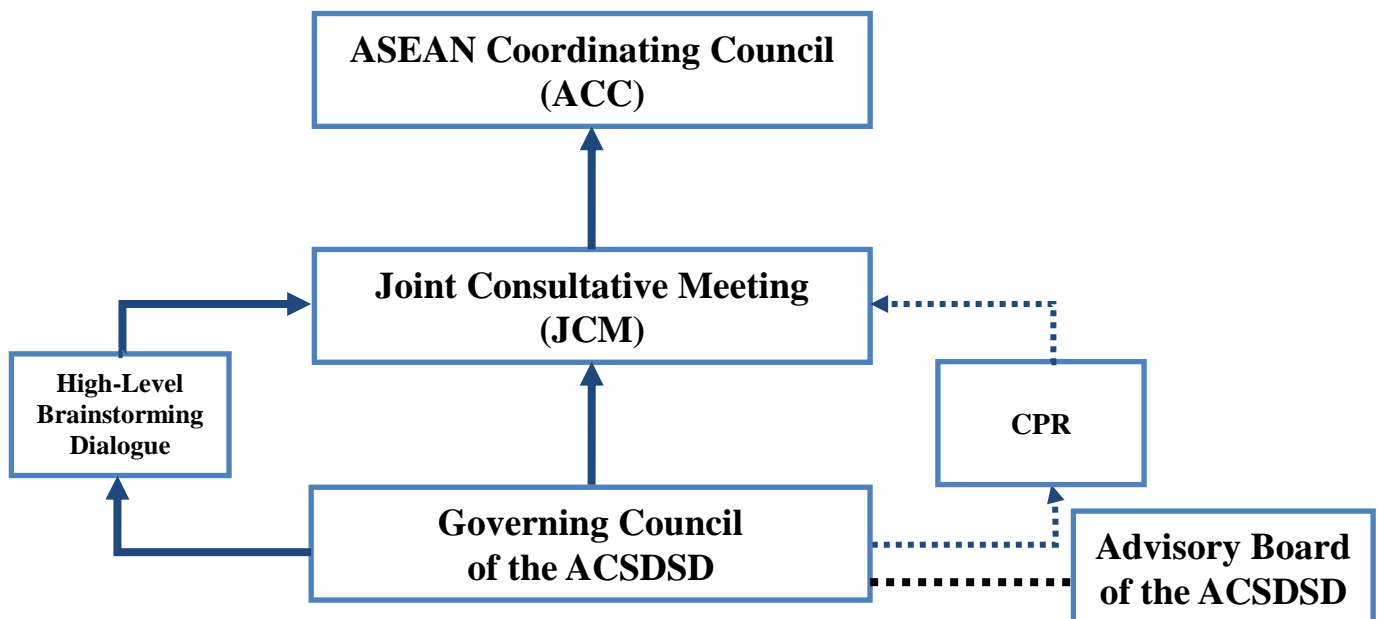
5.3. A Governing Council will be the policy guidance body of the Centre, comprising (1) Ambassadors of ASEAN Member States to Thailand, in their capacity as Permanent or Alternate Representatives of ASEAN Member States to UNESCAP, or a designated senior representative from each ASEAN Member State and (2) a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. The Council is envisaged to meet twice a year, with one meeting probably back-to-back with the annual High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue in Bangkok, or as required, to review policy and to ensure that projects/activities under the Centre are appropriate and in accordance with ASEAN principles, processes and priorities. Decision-making of the Governing Council will be by consensus. The Governing Council will develop its own rules of procedure.

The work of the Centre will be supported by the ASEAN Secretariat, especially the Sustainable Development Directorate and the ASCC Monitoring and Analysis Directorate, under ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department (ASCC Department), who will coordinate with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community and other departments of the ASEAN Secretariat on the implementation of projects/activities of the Centre. The ASEAN Secretariat will also provide the Centre with relevant information and statistics, when so required.

5.4. An Advisory Board will play an advisory role for the Centre. It would comprise representatives of ASEAN Member States, and relevant ASEAN's

external partners, such as UNESCAP, UNDP Regional Office in Bangkok and other UN agencies, the World Bank, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, Sectoral Dialogue Partners and Development Partners. The Advisory Board is envisaged to meet once a year to provide support to the Governing Council. The Advisory Board will develop its own rules of procedure.

5.5. Reporting Mechanism Due to the cross-sectoral nature of sustainable development issues, the Centre will report its work and progress including the outcome of the annual High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue to the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) as the primary reporting mechanism, through Thailand as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation. The JCM will then report to the ASEAN Coordinating Council. The CPR will be notified of progress in the implementation of the Complementarities Initiative and of the work of the Centre. The flow chart of the envisaged reporting mechanism is as follows:



* * * * *

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 | Providing grants for research and studies on topics related to sustainable development | Mahidol University, Thailand | x | x | x | x | |
| 2 | Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework on malnutrition and stunting in ASEAN | World Bank | x | x | x | x | In consultation with SOMHD |
| 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 | | | | |
| 2 | Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: practical examples of actions | Switzerland | | x | | | |
| 3 | Networking Forum among ASEAN Centres whose works are related to sustainable development | Asia Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation | x | | | | |



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