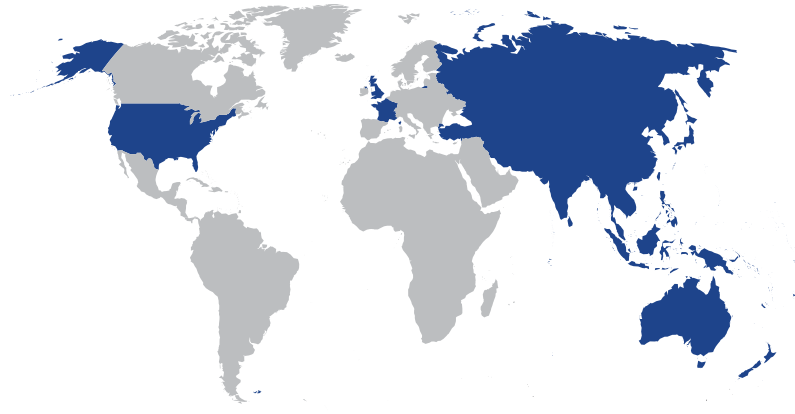


Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

A Framework for Action





The blue areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional cooperation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions

“We underline the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our peoples.”

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together

22 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Forewords



“Leaving no one behind” is an integral part of Thailand’s sustainable development approach. It is also a fundamental principle behind ASEAN’s ongoing efforts to build a people-centered Community as well as the international community’s commitment to achieving the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The confluence of these three processes, anchored on the shared commitment to ensuring that every person is part of and benefits from sustainable development, was the genesis behind the initiative of ASEAN and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) based in Thailand to identify and enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the abovementioned Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Based within the framework of ASEAN-UN cooperation, this “Complementarities Initiative”, as it came to be known, became one of the high priority activities of ASEAN over the past two years.

Beginning with a comprehensive mapping exercise in 2016 which sought to identify possible synergies between the hundreds of action lines of the three ASEAN Community Blueprints and the various priorities envisaged under the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to brainstorming meetings at policy and expert level, ASEAN and UN ESCAP sought to identify and develop value added, cross-cutting regional catalysts that could simultaneously drive the ASEAN Community-building process while attaining several SDGs at the same time.

Endorsed by the ASEAN-UN Summit last year, these cooperative efforts between ASEAN and UN ESCAP have resulted one year later in this Report that is here before you. Indeed, this is likely the first report by any regional organization on enhancing complementarities between the regional integration efforts and the global efforts at achieving the SDGs, with the goal of attaining a regional Community and a global community of nations where no one is left behind.

As ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation, Thailand is proud to have played a small part in promoting closer engagement between ASEAN and the UN, through this ASEAN-UN ESCAP joint endeavour, to promoting sustainable development cooperation that would contribute to both the ASEAN Community-building efforts and the attainment of the SDGs. It is our hope that this Report will help serve as an inspiration and a platform to develop additional concrete and feasible initiatives that will maintain strong momentum in sustainable development cooperation, not only between ASEAN and the UN, but between ASEAN and other external parties as well as the international community. To this important goal for the region and for humanity, Thailand will continue to lend its full support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

Don Pramudwinai

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand



Over the past fifty years, ASEAN and ESCAP have forged a sound strategic partnership within the broader framework of ASEAN-UN collaboration. More recently, the two organisations have worked together to align the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ASEAN leaders recognized the potential this collaboration had when they formulated the Community Vision 2025, underlining “the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the ASEAN community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our peoples”. The two agendas are mutually reinforcing. An alignment of their planning, implementation and review will create the enabling conditions needed to accelerate the achievement of national, regional and global sustainable development objectives.

This report is among the first outputs of the “Complementarities Initiative”, a partnership between Thailand as ASEAN’s Sustainable Development Coordinator, the ASEAN Secretariat and ESCAP. It aims to demonstrate a practical approach to complementarities by identifying concrete ideas and recommendations for action that could help drive both Agendas forward. This report focuses on three main areas:

1. It provides a framework to study the complementarities between the two agendas based on values, principles and cross-cutting priority areas for action.
2. It undertakes a solid quantitative analysis based on the best existing data and includes scenarios on the future performance of ASEAN in the specific priority areas. The analytical work is based on trend modelling and is complemented by a gap analysis that identifies areas where further work is needed for the objectives of both agendas to be achieved.
3. Specific flagship initiatives and follow-up actions are suggested which could support ASEAN Member States to take advantage of the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to simultaneously achieve their goals.

ESCAP will continue to work with ASEAN to implement the recommendations in this report and to support member States in creating value for their people. Our long-standing collaboration has become even more crucial after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the importance of partnerships to foster sustainable development through sub-regional organizations. It is our hope that other development institutions and dialogue partners will use this report on prioritizing, planning and implementing actions at the sub-regional, national and local levels of ASEAN. ESCAP stands ready to cooperate with other development partners in this area of work and is committed to playing its role as a regional think-tank to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Shamshad Akthar

Under-Secretary General of the United Nations
and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic
and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



As one of the most successful regional organisations in the world, ASEAN has played an important role in implementing global frameworks and programs. Concurrently, global frameworks and commitments such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have also greatly influenced ASEAN Community building endeavours.

Promoting complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is, thus, prominent on the ASEAN agenda. In declaring the ASEAN Vision 2025, ASEAN Leaders recognised the importance of creating synergy and complementarities between the three ASEAN Community Blueprints and the SDGs, as demonstrated by the following statement of the Vision 2025:

"...underline the complementarity of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with ASEAN Community building efforts to uplift the standards of living of our peoples."

Strong political commitment at the highest level of ASEAN enables an environment where the ASEAN Vision 2025 and SDGs emphasise and improve each other's qualities, with the goal of improving the lives and well-being of the peoples of ASEAN.

In this regard, this Joint Report aims to support ASEAN in developing policies and strategies linking the ASEAN Vision 2025 with the SDGs through the analysis and identification of crosscutting priorities. The Joint Report also presents an analysis and recommendations focusing on the five priority areas of: (i) Resilience; (ii) Infrastructure; (iii) Sustainable Consumption and Production; (iv) Poverty Eradication; and (v) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

The publication of this Joint Report is timely. It is a welcome addition to the celebration of ASEAN's 50th Anniversary when the Association is ushering in a new era. Furthermore, the Joint Report represents fruitful collaboration and productive partnership between ASEAN and UNESCAP to leverage on complementarities between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda. Such efforts can unlock the potential of regional groupings in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the SDGs to contribute to regional integration and development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'L. Minh'.

Le Luong Minh
Secretary-General of ASEAN

Acknowledgements

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