



North-East Asia Development Asian Countries on Development Cooperation in the face of the COVID19 pandemic

*Partner countries' perspectives on how North-East Asia's
development cooperation contributes to “build-back better”*

ASEAN Secretariat

16 October 2020 (Virtual meeting)



High-level political commitment on responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic

Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on 14 April 2020 via videoconference

- Consolidated political commitment at the regional level
- Provided strategic policy guidance on key areas such as public health cooperation, regional epidemic preparedness and response, prioritising the well-being of the people in ASEAN, enhancing public communication, engaging multiple sectors and stakeholders, among others
- Mandated ASEAN bodies to undertake specific actions, such as the ASEAN Economic Ministers to implement the Joint Statement on Strengthening ASEAN's Economic Resilience in Response to the Outbreak of COVID-19, and ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies to oversee efforts in responding to the pandemic, among others



High-level political commitment on responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic

Joint Statement of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), adopted by the ASEAN Leaders and China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea on 14 April 2020 via video conference

- Recognised the critical role of partnership with the ASEAN Plus Three Countries
- Provided strategic policy guidance on the direction and focus of development cooperation in key areas such as health, information sharing and public communication, protection of the people including health workers and frontline personnel, trade and investment, and post-pandemic recovery, among others



Snapshot: Engaging ASEAN mechanisms

ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation	ASEAN Economic Community	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting	ASEAN Economic Ministers	ASEAN Health Ministers' Meeting
ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting	ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting	ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting
ASEAN Regional Forum	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights	ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
	ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
	ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting	
	ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting	

From political commitments to strategic policy directions

Joint Statement of the Special Video Conference of the ASEAN Health Ministers in Enhancing Cooperation on Coronavirus Disease 2019 Response, 7 April 2020

- Provided policy guidance on exchange and sharing of timely data and information, regional cooperation on risk communication, coordinating cross-border public health responses, capacity building interventions, access to essential health care services, cooperation with development partners, among others

Joint Statement of the Special Video Conference of ASEAN Plus Three Health Ministers in Enhancing Cooperation on Coronavirus Disease 2019 Response, 7 April 2020

- Provided policy guidance on coordinating response measures, provision of assistance to national health systems, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, among others



From political commitments to strategic policy directions

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development on Mitigating Impacts of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in ASEAN, 10 June 2020

- Provided policy guidance on access to social protection with appropriate allocation of public funds for social spending, protection of the rights, safety and dignity of vulnerable groups, undertaking measures that are disability-inclusive, gender-responsive, age-sensitive and promotes social solidarity, and strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation at the ASEAN level

Joint Statement of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication – Special Meeting on Reducing Poverty and Building Resilience: Towards COVID-19 Recovery, 19 August 2020

- Provided policy guidance on the protection of the poor and vulnerable from the impacts of the pandemic, invigorate rural livelihoods, ensure a pro-poor, inclusive, gender-, and climate-responsive approach to recovery, address specific constraints faced by rural women and rural youth, and promote inter-sectoral cooperation at the ASEAN level





From commitments to actions

COVID-19 Response initiatives

- COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund
- Pooling of funds from the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund
- Initiatives to institutionalise pandemic preparedness and response

Myriad of other initiatives ranging from rapid action research and assessments, sharing of good policy practices, and information campaigns, to coordination of policies and institutions

Development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Action Plan



ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Action Plan

- 1. Articulate holistically the broad strategies** of how ASEAN intends to recover from the pandemic, from reopening, recovery, towards building longer-term resilience;
- 2. Guide sectors** to assess, realign, or expedite their work and priorities and undertake new initiatives, focusing on areas/sectors most affected by the pandemic, to support their recovery and promote the achievement of the broad strategies under the framework;
- 3. Provide a reference and set priorities** for sectoral bodies across pillars of ASEAN and the broader stakeholders, including the private sector and dialogue partners, to coordinate on the reopening of the economy and contribute towards ASEAN's recovery and long-term resilience;
- 4. Outline how ASEAN will engage partners** and external stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the framework; and
- 5. Contribute to the underlying ASEAN Community Vision 2025** as well as the strengthening of future resilience.



ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and Action Plan

Broad Strategies

- **Broad Strategy 1:** Enhancing health systems
- **Broad Strategy 2:** Strengthening human security
- **Broad Strategy 3:** Maximising the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration
- **Broad Strategy 4:** Accelerating inclusive digital transformation
- **Broad Strategy 5:** Advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future



Development cooperation with partners

- Statement of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19, 29 February 2020
- Co-Chairs' Press Statement for the ASEAN-European Union (EU) Ministerial Video Conference on Coronavirus Disease 2019, 20 March 2020
- Co-Chairs' Statement of the Special ASEAN-United States Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19, 23 April 2020
- Statement of the Special ASEAN-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19, 17 June 2020



Steering development cooperation

ASEAN Centrality

- Convening power of ASEAN
- Consensus building
- Driven by ASEAN's development agenda

Development cooperation agenda

- Wider breadth and depth of cooperation
- Engaging multiple stakeholders and sectors
- Direction of development cooperation funds

ASEAN institutional mechanisms

- Existing platforms for cooperation
- Facilitate dialogue
- Opportunities for synergy

Development partners

- Framework of development cooperation
- Network of partners
- Available resources



Challenges and opportunities

Preserving the development gains of ASEAN Community integration amidst the pandemic

- How to utilise ASEAN consensus on steering the direction of development cooperation?

Implementing an inclusive and resilient recovery agenda

- How to steer development cooperation towards an ASEAN recovery agenda

Adapting to the "new normal"

- How to chart a broader development agenda post-COVID19 pandemic to realise ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development?





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