

Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026-2030)

This Plan of Action (POA) builds upon the significant achievements made in the relations between ASEAN and China and the successful implementation of the POA 2021-2025 and its Annex to advance the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and the joint statements adopted by ASEAN and China Leaders during the past five years, especially the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-China Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Security, Prosperity and Sustainable Development adopted on 22 November 2021.

This POA will serve as a guiding document to further strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation in areas of mutual interest, bringing tangible benefits to our peoples, as well as contributing to the promotion of peace, stability, prosperity and sustainability in the region.

The POA will also contribute to the promotion of the ASEAN Community building and integration, including efforts to realise *the ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* and its Strategic Plans, and the strengthening of the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and cooperation.

This POA also affirms China's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture and all ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora, acknowledging China's active efforts to promote closer ASEAN-China cooperation, including China's vision to build a closer ASEAN-China community with a shared future and taking note of China's initiative to build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home in the region.

This POA calls for strengthening existing ASEAN-China mechanisms by improving coordination, monitoring, and review processes, as appropriate, to ensure the effective and timely implementation of its action lines.

ASEAN and China hereby endeavour to pursue cooperation in the following priority areas through the corresponding activities, in conformity with their obligations under international law and in accordance with their domestic laws, regulations and policies, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

1. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

1.1 Political and security dialogue and cooperation

- 1.1.1 Continue ASEAN-China consultations and cooperation through annual ASEAN-China Summit, ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with China, ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultation, ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee and other ASEAN-led fora with an aim to promote multilateralism, maintain an open and inclusive regional cooperation framework;

- 1.1.2 Enhance high-level exchanges between heads of state and government to promote mutual understanding and trust, and provide political and strategic guidance to the development of ASEAN-China CSP;
- 1.1.3 Uphold an international system founded on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and based on international law, and the principles of inclusivity, transparency, fairness and justice, openness, mutual benefit and mutual respect in jointly responding to regional and global challenges;
- 1.1.4 Advance comprehensive collaboration and enhance mutual trust and deepen political and security cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora, including through the ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus); and
- 1.1.5 Promote exchanges, interactions and confidence-building measures (CBMs) in current and emerging fields of security, to address current and future traditional and non-traditional security challenges through a comprehensive, cooperative, coordinated, coherent, effective and sustained approach.

1.2 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia

- 1.2.1 Promote the purpose and principles of the TAC as well as the importance of all High Contracting Parties (HCPs) to fulfil, in good faith, their obligations assumed under the Treaty while continuing to enhance the relevance and visibility of the TAC in the region and beyond as well as exploring cooperation between the HCPs, including through activities such as the Conference of the HCPs to the TAC.

1.3 Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

- 1.3.1 Support ASEAN's efforts to preserve the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), including through discussing the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the SEANWFZ by China, and provide necessary assistance to facilitate dialogue with relevant parties where needed; and
- 1.3.2 Intensify the on-going efforts of States Parties to the Treaty on the SEANWFZ and the nuclear-weapon States to resolve outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty.

1.4 Full and Effective Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in Its Entirety and Early Conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea

- 1.4.1 Continue to promote maritime security and safety, maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, reaffirm the commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, particularly freedom of navigation and

overflight, self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability, and have Parties concerned undertake to resolve territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

- 1.4.2 Intensify substantive progress towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), that is in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including under the Guidelines for Accelerating the Early Conclusion of an Effective and Substantive COC adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference Plus One Session with China in 2023 and Points of Convergence of the Next Step of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea Negotiations as well as maintaining and promoting an environment conducive to the negotiations;
- 1.4.3 Adhere to universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, and relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and relevant standards and recommended practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
- 1.4.4 Continue to promote trust, confidence building and encourage concerned parties to prevent incidents at sea in accordance with the principles of the DOC;
- 1.4.5 Regularly convene the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC (SOM-DOC) and the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the DOC (JWG-DOC);
- 1.4.6 Organise practical maritime cooperation initiatives, which contribute to the promotion of mutual trust and confidence in the South China Sea, in accordance with the Work Plan on the Implementation of the DOC and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC; and
- 1.4.7 Explore and/or undertake cooperative activities which may include marine environmental protection, marine scientific research, safety of navigation and communication at sea, search and rescue operation, humane treatment of all persons in danger or distress, combating transnational crime, including but not limited to trafficking in illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and illegal traffic in arms, as well as hold dialogues and exchange of views as appropriate between their defence and military officials, as well as maritime law enforcement agencies.

1.5 Human rights

- 1.5.1 Support ASEAN's effort to implement the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD, and other

relevant human rights declarations and instruments to which all ASEAN Member States are party;

- 1.5.2 Enhance exchanges and cooperation on human rights based on equality and mutual respect, including through constructive engagement, genuine dialogue, and sharing of best practices through the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and other relevant sectoral bodies; and
- 1.5.3 Enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through capacity building initiatives as well as support the work of AICHR, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Committee on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW).

1.6 Defence and Humanitarian Mine Action

- 1.6.1 Strengthen strategic dialogue and practical cooperation through the ADMM-Plus, and support other ADMM initiatives to strengthen defence and security cooperation in the region;
- 1.6.2 Subject to the ADMM's approval and based on mutual consensus, continue to promote dialogue through the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings, strengthen practical cooperation through joint exercises and training as well as regular exchanges among young and middle-aged officers and defense-related think-tanks, and explore the possibility of new initiatives; and
- 1.6.3 Fully implement the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on Strengthening Humanitarian Mine Action Cooperation, strengthen humanitarian mine action cooperation including support humanitarian mine action in ASEAN through optimising existing mechanisms such as the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Humanitarian Mine Action, advancing cooperation with the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC), strengthening cooperation with United Nations agencies and at UN platforms, and exploring South-South and trilateral cooperation, in advancing the use of technology in demining to further reduce the risk of human casualties, promoting innovation, enhancing the effectiveness of mine action operations, convening regional high-level and technical working group meetings, encouraging the active participation of multiple stakeholders, and promoting the sharing of experience and achievements, with the Centre.

1.7 Transnational Crime

- 1.7.1 Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on law enforcement and security by continuing the convening of the ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC+China) Consultation, ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC+China)

Consultation and the ASEAN Plus China Senior Officials' Meeting on Drug Matters (ASOD+China) Consultations, and other ASEAN-led fora, such as the AMMTC+3 Consultation and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the SOMTC+3 Consultation, the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of Ministries of Foreign Affairs Meeting Plus Three (DGICM+3) Consultation as well as ASOD+3 Consultation, and the ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference;

- 1.7.2 Enhance judicial cooperation and exchanges in areas of international judicial assistance, combating transnational crimes, protection of intellectual property rights, training of judges and exchange of judicial cases;
- 1.7.3 Strengthen cooperation between the judicial and prosecutorial authorities of ASEAN and China including multilateral cooperation through high-level mutual visits, personnel training, and information exchange in specialized fields;
- 1.7.4 Promote sharing of information and exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as capacity building measures through mutual visits, training courses, workshops and seminars between relevant agencies of ASEAN and China to address transnational crime, including terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons (TIP), illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber money laundering, sea piracy, arms smuggling, international economic crime and cybercrime;
- 1.7.5 Promote cooperation in accordance with respective laws and policies, regulations and applicable treaties on criminal investigation and prosecution and in fields such as evidence gathering, tracing of crime proceeds, asset recovery, apprehension and investigation of criminal fugitives and encourage each other to enter into bilateral legal arrangements therein;
- 1.7.6 Promote exchange of experience among relevant law enforcement officials of ASEAN and China in combating telecommunication network fraud, online scams, and online gambling crimes, jointly improve law enforcement capabilities, increase publicity efforts, including the results of law enforcement cooperation, and raise public awareness on self-prevention;
- 1.7.7 Promote mutual learning and exchange of best practices between ASEAN and China to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen anti-corruption practices and activities through joint workshops, training programs and collaborative projects; and
- 1.7.8 Explore the possibility of collaborating to promote the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes.

2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.1 Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1 Strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges including through the ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM)-Ministry of Commerce Consultation, the Senior Economic Officials' Meeting (SEOM)-Ministry of Commerce Consultation, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministers' Meeting and the RCEP Joint Committee, with an aim to jointly uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, as well as enhance mutually beneficial economic cooperation and reaffirm our readiness to make economic globalisation more open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all;
- 2.1.2 Enhance the implementation of the agreements related to the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), and the timely implementation of the ACFTA 3.0 Upgrade Protocol;
- 2.1.3 Support and facilitate business communities to participate in trade and investment promotion activities in ASEAN and China, including but not limited to the China International Import Expo (CIIE), China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), China Import and Export Fair (CANTON FAIR) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS);
- 2.1.4 Further facilitate the implementation of economic and technical cooperation projects through the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF), China-ASEAN Investment Cooperation Fund II, Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility and as well as China's other grants to ASEAN;
- 2.1.5 Enhance the effective implementation and full utilisation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement to deliver benefits to businesses and people in the region. China will provide RCEP implementation-related capacity building assistance to ASEAN Member States in need;
- 2.1.6 Strengthen cooperation to enhance the connectivity and resilience of industrial and supply chains in the region, including by advancing digital connectivity to ensure stable and smooth regional industrial and supply chains; jointly explore the development of economic corridors and zones for international industrial capacity cooperation, taking note of Multi-Nation Multi-Park cooperation between some ASEAN Member States and China;
- 2.1.7 Facilitate trade, including through information exchanges and cooperation on standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures of foreign trade products, further lower trade costs, and improve the level of trade facilitation;
- 2.1.8 Facilitate foreign direct investment in the promotion of sustainable development, economic growth, poverty reduction, job creation, technology

transfer, the expansion and diversification of productive capacity and trade, as well as for the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals; and

- 2.1.9 Support the cooperation on green economy that will contribute to energy and climate resilience and sustainable development within the region, strengthen communication and coordination on green trade-related policies, explore synergy of green and low-carbon standards, lower green and low-carbon trade barriers.

2.2. Finance

- 2.2.1 Support the Structural Policy Improvement and Review Instrument with Technical Assistance (SPIRIT), as a voluntary and non-binding facility. SPIRIT will commence as a pilot project that initially offers a pre-defined thematic technical assistance program to support structural improvements, based on members' development strategies and AMRO's assessment;
- 2.2.2 Further strengthen ASEAN+3 financial cooperation, including through the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) and further enhancing AMRO's capabilities to support the regional financial safety-net;
- 2.2.3 Continuously strengthen the surveillance capacity of AMRO as a key pillar of the ASEAN+3 Finance Process, and encourage AMRO to maintain close monitoring of risks and challenges, and provide timely policy advice that will help members navigate an increasingly uncertain global environment;
- 2.2.4 Explore practical cooperation in Fin-tech area;
- 2.2.5 Support eligible ASEAN institutions to issue local currency-denominated bonds, including RMB-denominated bonds, to help reduce exchange rate risk and foster increased investment and trade;
- 2.2.6 Involve international financial institutions, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank Group, to better mobilise public sector resources and private capital, and enhance capacity building to support resilient infrastructure development through diversified and sustainable financing in the region;
- 2.2.7 Support the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI)'s contribution to the development of the local currency bond markets across the region, to allow the region's large savings to be channelled to finance its own investment needs and promote the issuance of and facilitate the demand for local currency denominated bonds, improve the regulatory framework and related infrastructure for the bond markets, provide technical assistance to ASEAN Member States, and support Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility's provision of guarantees for local currency-denominated bonds issued by corporations in the ASEAN+3 region;

- 2.2.8 Enhance support to climate and disaster risk financing to boost regional resilience against disaster and climate events;
- 2.2.9 Promote human resource development and capacity building in banking and financial sectors including through the ASEAN-China Inter-Bank Association and ASEAN Plus Three Inter-Bank cooperation mechanism, as appropriate; and
- 2.2.10 Promote greater financial inclusion for sustainable growth, by supporting initiatives that improve access to financial services and products for individuals and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

2.3 Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- 2.3.1 Enhance ASEAN-China agricultural cooperation through dialogue, exchanges of information, capacity building, and sharing of best practices in key areas of mutual interests to promote food security and food safety;
- 2.3.2 Further strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) in playing a bigger role in the regional food security frameworks, and strengthen the role of the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) in to improve data collection on regional commodity crops as well as enhance disaster monitoring and early warning capabilities;
- 2.3.3 Enhance policy exchanges and mutual learning, scientific and technological innovation including technology demonstration and application to increase the productivity of rice, corn, soybean and other major crops to ensure food availability by expanding the effective supply of diverse foods, including meats, and dairy products aquatic products, fruits and vegetables;
- 2.3.4 Increase support for innovation and investment in agricultural science and technology and advanced equipment, improve production, post-harvest loss reduction technologies, storage and logistics infrastructure to minimize food loss, enhance access to finance for small farmers to adopt waste-reduction practices, develop agro-processing industry, and diversify agricultural production as well as increasing food output;
- 2.3.5 Expand the cross-border e-commerce of agricultural products, and encourage cooperation between ASEAN and China research institutes to develop research capacity, innovation in green agriculture, digital agriculture and sustainable development;
- 2.3.6 Promote digitalisation in prevention and control of plant pests and animal and fish diseases, consider building pilot smart farms for demonstration and extension, consider exploring opportunity for data sharing such as weather and diseases information between ASEAN and China, and promote the application of digital technologies and transformation in capture fisheries and aquaculture;

- 2.3.7 Strengthen policy dialogue through ASEAN-China Forestry Forum and other relevant mechanisms, and promote forestry industry and technology cooperation;
- 2.3.8 Support the region in implementing the Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN, with a focus on decarbonisation, the reduction of harmful agrochemicals, digitalisation in agriculture, climate change adaptation, and enhancing public-private partnerships; and
- 2.3.9 Promote responsible fishing practices and addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

2.4 Quality Inspection

- 2.4.1 Implement MOU between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Cooperation and implementation of the Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP) Chapter of the ASEAN-China FTA; and
- 2.4.2 Hold regular meeting of the Sub-Committee on STRACAP, and the Sub-Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters (SPS Sub-Committee) to facilitate trade in goods between the Parties according to the Protocol to Incorporate Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures into the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China.

2.5 Maritime Cooperation

- 2.5.1 Encourage to establish partnership on blue economy, promote cooperation on marine environmental protection, marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources; and explore projects to cooperate in marine science and technology and maritime connectivity.

2.6 Digital and Artificial Intelligence Cooperation

- 2.6.1 Continue policy and regulations dialogue and exchanges, including on digital cooperation, through the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with China and other ASEAN-China mechanisms; conduct dialogue and exchanges to further deepen policy discussion on cybersecurity;
- 2.6.2 Implement effectively the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Communications and Digital Technology, which was signed in 2024;

- 2.6.3 Promote development of digital economy in the region, enhance e-commerce cooperation, including the implementation of ASEAN-China Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on E-Commerce and the Digital Economy Chapter under the ACFTA 3.0 Upgrade, digitalisation within the agriculture sector, cooperation on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development, ASEAN-China Cyber Dialogue and digital governance, and support the development of the tourism industry, etc.;
- 2.6.4 Promote cooperation on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and digital transformation, including smart manufacturing and green industrialisation;
- 2.6.5 Promote private sector cooperation, jointly carry out capacity-building activities, promote regional payment connectivity; and promote cross-border e-commerce between ASEAN and China through the implementation of the ASEAN-China Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on E-Commerce;
- 2.6.6 Promote policy and regulations exchanges and dialogues on artificial intelligence (AI) governance and explore potential collaboration;
- 2.6.7 Promote the interconnection of digital infrastructure and deepen international cooperation on areas such as planning and construction, resilience and security, industrial development, and international governance; and
- 2.6.8 Conduct technology research and capacity building on AI to enhance its application, innovation and security.

2.7 Science, Technology and Innovation

- 2.7.1 Create a vibrant Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem to facilitate research and development (R&D), deployment, commercialisation and technology transfer in mutually agreed areas of importance;
- 2.7.2 Strengthen STI policy frameworks to support research and capability building in mutually agreed areas such as innovation management for joint collaboration and technology transfer;
- 2.7.3 Explore policy exchanges and dialogue on space technology and application in accordance with the mutually agreed priorities of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and China's relevant agencies;
- 2.7.4 Promote collaboration on emerging technologies, such as material science, battery technology, and quantum computing;
- 2.7.5 Mobilise resources to support STI development that benefits both regions and create mutually beneficial initiatives to foster deeper cooperation in STI; and
- 2.7.6 Strengthen cooperation in frontier and emerging sectors related to digital economy such as UAVs and EVs.

2.8 Transport

- 2.8.1 Further strengthen policy dialogue and exchanges through the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM+China) and other relevant mechanisms;
- 2.8.2 Promote comprehensive civil aviation cooperation under the framework of the ATM+China, particularly to pursue the further expansion of air services between and beyond ASEAN and China, with the aim of facilitating deeper regional integration and promoting the seamless movement of goods and people, thereby contributing to tangible economic and social benefits;
- 2.8.3 Enhance cooperation on efforts to realise the ASEAN Single Shipping Market (ASSM) and bolster the adoption of sustainable and smart shipping solutions with the objective of improving connectivity in all ASEAN Member States and China;
- 2.8.4 Make use of the ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation Fund on new projects to further maritime-related practical cooperation;
- 2.8.5 Implement Protocols 1, 2, and 3 of the ASEAN-China Air Transport Agreement (AC-ATA), and pursue further liberalising of the air services regime between and beyond ASEAN and China;
- 2.8.6 Enhance broader civil aviation cooperation between ASEAN and China, focusing on areas such as aviation safety, sustainable aviation, particularly Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), with capacity-building activities potentially supported by the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF); and
- 2.8.7. Promote connectivity cooperation in areas such as railways, highways, port and harbours, and airports with the objective of improving connectivity in ASEAN Member States and China.

2.9 Tourism

- 2.9.1 Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on tourism including through the establishment of the Meeting of the ASEAN-China Tourism Ministers and National Tourism Organisations;
- 2.9.2 Explore measures and policies to increase tourism flows between ASEAN and China through joint promotion campaigns, including activities carried out by the ASEAN-China Centre;
- 2.9.3 Support the development of quality, inclusive and accessible tourism, including, but not limited to, blue- and eco- tourism, through, where appropriate, the promotion of tourism investment, and capacity-building programmes for sustainable and inclusive tourism development; and
- 2.9.4 Promote the safety of tourists and sharing of information and knowledge in the areas of preservation and conservation of tourist attractions.

2.10 Energy

- 2.10.1 Strengthen policy exchanges and dialogue on energy as well as sharing of information, best practices and experiences on clean energy development;
- 2.10.2 Strengthen cooperation in the development and application of new and emerging energy technologies, the mobilisation of green investment/financing, capacity building, promote regional interconnectivity and support the development of the ASEAN Power Grid, the just transition of energy and upgrading of industrial structures;
- 2.10.3 Strengthen practical cooperation through the establishment of the ASEAN-China Clean Energy Cooperation Centre to achieve low-carbon economic development as well as green and sustainable growth;
- 2.10.4 Encourage investment in potential energy infrastructure development in regional power trade integration, clean, renewable and alternative energy, and civilian nuclear energy for peaceful use;
- 2.10.5 Enhance information sharing, joint research and development and technical exchange in the energy efficiency and the development of new and renewable energy sources and technologies such as bioenergy, hydropower, wind, solar, ocean energy, geothermal, coal and carbon management, clean coal technology, gas-fired power plant, hydrogen and fuel cell; and
- 2.10.6 Conduct policy dialogue and information exchanges on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear technology, personnel training and experience sharing on nuclear security and safety, nuclear emergency response, nuclear counter-terrorism and nuclear technology education.

2.11 Minerals

- 2.11.1 Support ASEAN in promoting its region as an investment destination for sustainable minerals development, including through the regular conduct of the China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Forum and other mining investment promotion activities;
- 2.11.2 Support ASEAN in the implementation of the ASEAN Principles on Sustainable Minerals Development, including through technical discussion, experience sharing and capacity buildings; and
- 2.11.3 Enhance geological and mineral cooperation through capacity building programmes on innovative technologies such as but not limited to digitalisation, green and resource efficient mining technologies in mining and processing operation.

2.12 Customs

- 2.12.1 Promote cooperation and continue exchanging views in areas related to customs such as single window, customs automation and digitalisation through the ASEAN-China Customs Consultation at annual Meeting of the

ASEAN Directors-General of Customs and relevant meetings of sectoral bodies to promote trade facilitation;

- 2.12.2 Strengthen cooperation in smart customs, Single Window, exchange of electronic Certificates of Origin(e-COs) under the RCEP and ACFTA framework, risk management and anti-smuggling enforcement through China ASEAN Customs Consultation cooperation mechanism to facilitate trade;
- 2.12.3 Share experience in the prevention and control of cross-border animal and plant diseases through capacity building and promote exchanges in Customs and SPS policies, laws, regulations and expertise; and
- 2.12.4 Hold regular ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on SPS Cooperation to promote and strengthen cooperation on the application of SPS measures, enhance exchanges of information on SPS related issue between relevant authorities at different levels.

2.13 Intellectual Property

- 2.13.1 Strengthen cooperation in the field of intellectual property through implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property; and
- 2.13.2 Continue exchanges of views in the field of intellectual property through the ASEAN-China Heads of Intellectual Property Office meeting.

2.14 Competition and Consumer Protection

- 2.14.1 Promote cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to competition and consumer protection policy and law, including on enforcement actions, transparency and technical cooperation activities;
- 2.14.2 Explore competition and consumer protection measures to address emerging issues through policy exchanges and dialogue; and
- 2.14.3 Encourage joint advocacy efforts to promote fair markets and empower consumers by increasing the awareness of competition and consumer protection policy and law among relevant stakeholders.

2.15 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Startups

- 2.15.1 Strengthen policy consultations and exchange of expertise between the concerned authorities including relevant stakeholders on MSMEs, to strengthen cooperation to create development pathways for MSMEs and startups, including enhancing specialized, high-end and innovative capabilities through various opportunities, for pragmatic MSMEs cooperation;

- 2.15.2 Support closer ties between MSMEs-support institutions of ASEAN Member States and China, and cooperate in MSMEs trade and investment, personnel training and leverage existing industrial parks;
- 2.15.3 Support MSMEs in integrating and participating in the global market and global value chains, conducting innovation collaboration with large enterprises and among themselves, accelerating digital transformation including by encouraging the provision of “small, fast, light and precise” digital products and solutions, promoting cluster development of MSMEs, facilitating financing, and improve their productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability;
- 2.15.4 Encourage active participation of ASEAN Member States in the China International SMEs Expo, as well as participation of ASEAN Member States and China in other relevant trade shows and activities with more support and facilitation for MSMEs of both sides to expand their markets;
- 2.15.5 Promote stronger networking, cooperation, and knowledge sharing between ASEAN Member States and China to facilitate innovative startup ecosystem development; and
- 2.15.6 Support ASEAN in advancing women’s and youth economic participation and empowerment, including through private sector engagement and e-commerce capacity building, to promote women and youth entrepreneurship.

2.16 Industrial Manufacturing

- 2.16.1 Explore cooperation in the field of industrial manufacturing, including through sharing of information, best practices, and experiences, particularly in the areas of industrial manufacturing techniques and safety management, and promoting business matching between both sides.

2.17 Housing and Urban-Rural Development

- 2.17.1 Strengthen cooperation and exchanges and promote sustainable development in the field of housing and urban-rural development.

3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

3.1 Public Health

- 3.1.1 Enhance policy dialogues and exchanges through ASEAN-China Health Ministers’ Meeting, ASEAN-China Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development and other relevant mechanisms;
- 3.1.2 Implement the ASEAN-China Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation, which outlines priority areas and forms of cooperation, including implementation arrangements, once adopted and signed;
- 3.1.3 Carry out cooperative initiatives on universal health care, health promotion, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response through ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), One Health

approaches; in strengthening health systems, by focusing on primary healthcare, including resilient and sustainable health system including hospital management, food safety systems; and maximising digital health technologies;

- 3.1.4 Hold the ASEAN-China Health Cooperation Forum as a platform to further advance health exchanges and collaboration, and to promote equitable health development across the region, focusing on addressing the unique health challenges faced by both sides;
- 3.1.5 Promote cooperation and exchange of information and expertise in the prevention and control of non-communicable and chronic diseases, including mental health, focusing on the social determinants of health and addressing health inequities;
- 3.1.6 Promote exchanges on occupational health including diagnosis, treatment and prevention of occupational diseases;
- 3.1.7 Enhance exchanges on traditional, complementary medicine, as well as vaccine, therapeutic and diagnostic research and development, prioritising evidence-based practices and ensuring safety and efficacy;
- 3.1.8 Strengthen cooperation in healthy and active ageing, including with the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) and other relevant centres and institutions, with a focus on developing age-friendly communities and promoting healthy lifestyles among older persons;
- 3.1.9 Enhance cooperation and exchanges on reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health through the ASEAN-China Women and Children's Health Cooperation Centre (ACWCC) and activities based on the agreed areas of cooperation and Terms of Reference of the ACWCC; and
- 3.1.10 Enhance ASEAN-China pragmatic cooperation by implementing technical exchange initiatives and training programs focused on human resource development in the health sector and health emergency management capacity-building.

3.2 Biosafety and Biosecurity

- 3.2.1 Enhance coordination and cooperation in the field of biosafety and biosecurity in support of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity through regular joint workshops, practical cooperation programs and other activities to be agreed upon, for a collective effort to strengthen national framework and capacity, biosafety and biosecurity in the region, and improve global biosafety and biosecurity governance.

3.3 Education

- 3.3.1 Leverage the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week and the ASEAN-China Centre to foster comprehensive, multi-level, and wide-ranging

exchanges and cooperation, that enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges between ASEAN and China;

- 3.3.2 Support cooperation in education across the educational levels from preschool to higher education, including technical and vocational education, and lifelong learning, with a focus on digital transformation and make education more responsive to evolving labour market needs and trends;
- 3.3.3 Promote student mobility and youth exchange programmes between ASEAN Member States and China; continue the provision of Chinese Government scholarships to welcome excellent students from ASEAN Member States to study in China, including through expanding the number of recipients of the ASEAN-China Young Leaders Scholarship, while also facilitating greater opportunities for Chinese students to study in ASEAN countries, contributing to building a common space in Southeast Asian higher education;
- 3.3.4 Expand student exchanges in the science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and sustainable development and social science fields, and explore collaboration in teacher training, joint activities, and the joint organisation of student programmes;
- 3.3.5 Make full use of joint research institutes and international organisations, promote the exchanges and cooperation of universities and research institutes between ASEAN Member States and China, with a focus on enhancing East Asian and Southeast Asia studies through mutually agreed activities by all parties involved;
- 3.3.6 Strengthen exchanges and cooperation between technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, to facilitate knowledge sharing and skills development;
- 3.3.7 Encourage the establishment of sister school relationships between schools of ASEAN Member States and China, enhance inter-school exchanges;
- 3.3.8 Encourage the cooperation of higher educational institutions to conduct joint scientific research, talent cultivation and personnel exchanges and enhancing cooperation platforms;
- 3.3.9 Promote capability building of education leaders and teachers, improving school management and teachers' teaching abilities through training programs for school leaders and teachers, to facilitate the professional development of education professionals;
- 3.3.10 Promote the joint construction and sharing of quality digital education resources between ASEAN Member States and China, advance the formulation of digital education standards and the development of smart education within the region; and
- 3.3.11 Support language exchanges between ASEAN Member States and China to enhance mutual understanding of cultures among youth in the region.

3.4 Culture

- 3.4.1 Continue policy dialogues among culture and arts policymakers through the ASEAN-China Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts Meeting and ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Culture and Art Meeting;
- 3.4.2 Deepen cooperation in various areas of culture and the arts including cultural exhibitions and museums, mutual translation of classic books, creative cultural industries, cultural and film festivals and folk art and traditions;
- 3.4.3 Enhance capacity building and regular exchanges between art troupes and institutions between ASEAN and China, including joint workshops and training programmes for professionals in the creative cultural industries;
- 3.4.4 Continue to convene the ASEAN-China Cultural Forum on relevant cultural and artistic themes;
- 3.4.5 Promote knowledge-sharing in managing tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including exchanges of expertise in cultural heritage preservation;
- 3.4.6 Foster collaboration on digital cultural initiatives, including the development of virtual museums, digital libraries, digital archives of folk art, and online cultural festivals to enhance access to and preservation of cultural assets and heritage between ASEAN and China;
- 3.4.7 Facilitate joint research initiatives on relevant topics such as cultural diversity, shared history, trends and technological innovations in the creative and cultural sectors through academic and cultural research projects to be published in digital and physical formats, serving as educational resources for future generations;
- 3.4.8 Facilitate networking for cultural exchanges through a wide range of cultural activities utilising institutions such as ASEAN-China Centre and other relevant cultural entities established within ASEAN Member States and China; and
- 3.4.9 Promote exchanges and dialogue among civilizations and cultures to advance mutual understanding, friendship and respect for diversity.

3.5 Media

- 3.5.1 Facilitate policy dialogues between ASEAN and China through forums or workshops on media policies and development;
- 3.5.2 Promote exchange and discussion between mainstream media of ASEAN Member States and China and mutual visits and exchanges of journalists, and cooperation in news reporting;
- 3.5.3 Encourage media content cooperation, and collaboration in the co-production of films, TV series, documentaries, and new media;
- 3.5.4 Promote the broadcasting of films and TV series, and artists;

- 3.5.5 Promote media education, literacy, and training through exchanges and workshops as well as capacity building to tackle disinformation for media professionals from ASEAN and China;
- 3.5.6 Strengthen cooperation on news coverage and materials, uphold reliable and objective news reporting, and encourage information dissemination in promoting mutual understanding and coordinated economic and social development to foster stronger synergy between ASEAN and China;
- 3.5.7 Encourage media companies to participate in the film and TV festivals hosted in China and ASEAN countries; and
- 3.5.8 Collaborate in media technology R&D and equipment production, promote information exchange and cooperation on the application of cutting-edge technologies and conduct of industry cooperation in digitalisation, analytics, and network connectivity.

3.6 Sports

- 3.6.1 Expand sports exchanges through the ASEAN Plus China sports cooperation mechanism, including traditional sports and games; and
- 3.6.2 Encourage local sports cooperation, enhance athlete performance through collaborations for coaches, sports medicine professionals, and sports science practitioners and support each other in hosting sports events.

3.7 Labour and Civil Service Matters

- 3.7.1 Promote cooperation in labour through the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM+3) or the South-South Triangular Cooperation, on areas of mutual interests, including but not limited to, social dialogue, human resource development, employment, occupational safety and health, social protection, inclusive growth and sustainable development, labour migration, as appropriate, as a response to the ASEAN economic integration and demographic shifts;
- 3.7.2 Promote exchange of expertise and cooperation on occupational safety and health policies, laws, and regulations and technical standards, safety supervision and law enforcement, and promote safety management, training and exchange of visits;
- 3.7.3 Strengthen policy exchanges, dialogue, and technical cooperation through the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM+3), towards building agile, future ready, efficient and people-centric civil service in ASEAN through trainings, study visits, conferences and other activities, on issues related to e-governance; human resource management and human resource development; productivity in the public sector; good governance; public sector reform; local administration capacity building and cooperation; research, development and innovation; and other areas of mutual interests; and

- 3.7.4 Encourage dialogue, exchange of visits and sharing of experiences among local governments, including governors and mayors.

3.8 Youth

- 3.8.1 Encourage cooperation between youth organizations of ASEAN countries and China to expand youth exchanges and cooperation; and
- 3.8.2 Share experiences on youth policy among youth policy coordination agencies of ASEAN countries and China.

3.9 Social Protection and Poverty Reduction

- 3.9.1 Strengthen exchanges of policy, dialogue and share of experiences in these areas through ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD+3) Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development Plus Three (SOMSWD+3), as well as ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE+3);
- 3.9.2 Strengthen cooperation in poverty reduction, rural revitalisation, and empowerment of rural communities, including but not limited to the framework of the ASEAN Villages Network (AVN);
- 3.9.3 Promote and protect the well-being of all individuals, with a specific focus on people in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youths, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and ethnic groups;
- 3.9.4 Promote sustainable and inclusive development, strengthen cooperation with ASEAN countries in the areas of policy communication, personnel exchanges, and poverty reduction aiming at enhancing social development and regional food security;
- 3.9.5 Promote cooperation on community services aimed at enhancing people's well-being and experience sharing on capacity building of community administration; and
- 3.9.6 Enhance cooperation on social welfare of older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children and supporting efforts to share experiences/studies on social welfare and protection policies, including adaptive social protection and social service workforce strengthening.

3.10 Environment and Climate Change

- 3.10.1 Strengthen cooperation through dialogue on environment and climate change issues, including the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum, the ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers' Meeting, and ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation National Focal Points Meeting;

- 3.10.2 Promote dialogue and exchange of experiences in managing urban and rural environmental protection and implement demonstration projects on ecologically friendly urban and rural environment to improve environmental quality of life in the region;
- 3.10.3 Enhance cooperation to promote the use and sharing of environmental data and information as well as collaboration to improve national environmental data management capacities;
- 3.10.4 Enhance capacity building and education programmes, joint-training courses, joint research, and staff exchange programmes on key issues of environmental management including integrated water resources and drought management, coastal and marine environment, cooperation in STI for management of natural resources, and public environmental awareness in the region;
- 3.10.5 Continue to implement the ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program to jointly improve capacity of ASEAN and China in environment management and addressing climate change, and welcome the possible upgrading of the Program;
- 3.10.6 Promote cooperation to provide access to clean water, clean air, basic healthcare, and other social services;
- 3.10.7 Conduct dialogue and promote cooperation on climate change, including through ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change and the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, and consider exploring cooperation in blue economy and carbon markets to enhance regional climate resilience and green development;
- 3.10.8 Enhance cooperation to support the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), including cooperation with regard to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC), the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) and the Second Roadmap for ASEAN Cooperation on Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (2023-2030) and the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (2023-2030);
- 3.10.9 Strengthen exchanges and cooperation on combating marine plastic debris, low-carbon development and circular economy, green finance, climate investment and finance, to improve the level of environmental management and low carbon development of coastal cities in the region, as well as their capabilities in marine environmental governance and climate adaptation, including through the ASEAN-China Partnership for Eco-Friendly Urban Development;
- 3.10.10 Conduct cooperative initiatives, including through the promotion of ASEAN Heritage Parks and ASEAN Flyway Network Programmes, on the conservation and management of biodiversity in the region, in particular in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), China-ASEAN

Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC), and potentially the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD), to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity, as well as to facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, improve awareness and capacity in biodiversity conservation policies, and promote protection and sustainable utilisation of biological resources;

- 3.10.11 Promote, where feasible, cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices in water and wastewater management (including water quality management, digitalisation and non-conventional water resources) and pollution control to enhance environmental protection and address climate change; and
- 3.10.12 Carry out capacity building and technical cooperation around the implementation of international environmental conventions on ozone layer protection, biodiversity, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury, as well as promote regional innovative solutions.

3.11 Disaster Management

- 3.11.1 Improve capacity building and disaster response coordination through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management Plus China, while further enhancing disaster management cooperation;
- 3.11.2 Strengthen cooperation on disaster risk assessment, information management and personnel capacity building, including through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre); and
- 3.11.3 Hold ASEAN-China disaster management workshops, seminars and forums to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience and improve disaster management capacity.

3.12 People-to-people Exchanges

- 3.12.1 Consolidate the foundation of friendship by enhancing exchanges and cooperation through relevant mechanisms between ASEAN and China; and
- 3.12.2 Promote cooperation among cities and local governments between China and ASEAN Member States.

4. CROSS-PILLARS COOPERATION

4.1 Mutually Beneficial Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

- 4.1.1 Advance cooperation in the priority areas identified in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, sustainable development, and economic and other areas of cooperation, to develop enhanced strategic trust and win-win cooperation among countries in the region, as guided by the purposes and principles of the TAC; and

- 4.1.2 Promote mutually beneficial and high-quality cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and the AOIP.

4.2 Connectivity

- 4.2.1 Strengthen cooperation and regular dialogue between ASEAN and China through China's engagement with ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC), ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meetings and other relevant bilateral and multilateral platforms to enhance closer collaboration on connectivity;
- 4.2.2 Enhance connectivity between ASEAN and China in line with the *ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Synergising the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)* and Connecting the Connectivities, towards contributing to regional connectivity, stability, economic prosperity and sustainable development;
- 4.2.3 Welcome interested ASEAN Member States to participate in the development of China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity – New International Land and Sea Trade Corridor; and
- 4.2.4 Jointly develop flagship projects, capacity building programmes, and sharing of best practices in key areas of mutual interest, including policy coordination; high-quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure; seamless logistics and industrial and supply chains resilience; financial cooperation; smart and sustainable urban development; digital innovation; and people-to-people connectivity.

4.3 Smart City

- 4.3.1 Explore cooperation on smart city standards by promoting cooperation in the communication, mutual recognition, development and use of suitable international standards and related policies and conformity assessment schemes, regarding smart city technology industries, key fields of application and integrated solutions; and
- 4.3.2 Strengthen cooperation in enhancing smart and sustainable urban development through making use of the relevant ASEAN platforms and initiatives, including the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS).

4.4 Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing Development Gap

- 4.4.1 Intensify support and assistance, financially and technically, for ASEAN's efforts in narrowing the development gap between ASEAN Member States as well as integration efforts by implementing the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025) and its successor document through enhancing, among others, human resource development, digital integration, MSMEs development, and regional and sub-regional development.

4.5 Development Cooperation

- 4.5.1 Encourage participation in the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and explore practical cooperation on GDI priority areas, with a view to further promoting cooperation with ASEAN initiatives, and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the priority areas under the framework of AOIP;
- 4.5.2 Support ASEAN institutions and mechanisms that help facilitate sustainable development cooperation in the region, including but not limited to the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD) and the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE); and
- 4.5.3 Continue to support Timor-Leste in its fulfilment of the objective and criteria-based Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.

4.6 Academia and Think-Tank Cooperation

- 4.6.1 Explore an ASEAN-China Network of Academies on Governance and Public Administration and Think Tanks, as a platform for dialogue, capacity building and joint research; promote cooperation among think-tanks, including through forums, seminars, roundtable meetings and joint research projects; and
- 4.6.2 Promote common interests in East Asia and cope with common challenges through the East Asia Forum, Network of East Asia Think Tanks (NEAT), Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks (NACT), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and other mechanisms.

5. SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION

- 5.1 Continue to strengthen cooperation under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, the BIMP-EAGA-China Cooperation and other relevant sub-regional framework and cooperation mechanisms to support efforts to foster regional integration and narrow the development gap in the region.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND MONITORING

- 6.1 Implement projects and activities under this Plan of Action utilising appropriate funding support from ASEAN Member States and China, including the ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF) and other funds;
- 6.2 Established ASEAN-China mechanisms, and concerned sectoral bodies in ASEAN and agencies in China, undertake consultation and jointly draw up specific work programmes/projects to implement the action lines outlined in this Plan of Action; and
- 6.3 Review this Plan of Action through:

- (a) PMC 10+1 Session with China and meetings of the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations and ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee; and
- (b) Submission of a progress report of the implementation of this Plan of Action to the annual ASEAN-China Summit through the PMC 10+1 Session with China.

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