

1st Edition

**LEARNER'S  
GUIDE**



**CORE COMPETENCY UNIT**

# **ADM.COR 002.1**

Identify ASEAN Humanitarian  
Procedures and Mechanisms



## **ASCEND**

ASEAN Standards and Certification  
for Experts in Disaster Management

## ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management

# IDENTIFY ASEAN HUMANITARIAN PROCEDURES AND MECHANISMS

ADM.COR.002.1

## Learner's Guide



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE



### Project Sponsors:



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The "ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND)" is under Priority Programme 5: Global Leadership of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021 - 2025 that envisions ASEAN as a global leader in disaster management.

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**ASCEND programme and  
Toolbox:**

# **Introduction**



**ASCEND**

**1.1**

## The ASCEND Programme

Southeast Asian governments, through the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), continue to invest in strengthening disaster management systems for a more secure and resilient region. However, the compounding risks and increasing uncertainty of disasters in our new climate reality threaten to set back the socioeconomic development gains of ASEAN societies. Widespread and recurring disaster damages and losses can overwhelm national capacities and worsen regional transboundary effects.

The Declaration on One ASEAN One Response (OAOR) at the 2016 ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, reaffirms ASEAN's vision to move towards faster and more integrated collective responses to disasters inside and outside the region. However, ASEAN's past experiences of responding to large-scale disasters showed that realising the OAOR can be challenging. Various responders from different countries, institutions, organisations, and companies seek to contribute to the overall response. Their goodwill is appreciated, and several provide much-needed assistance. But ASEAN and affected Member States sometimes found it challenging to determine what knowledge and skills responders have and how they can effectively contribute to national and regional efforts.

Learnings from past experiences and shared commitment to realising the OAOR vision increased the need to develop regionally recognised Competency Standards and a certification process for disaster management professionals. The increased support led to initiatives that eventually created the ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND) Programme. ASCEND is now part of Priority 5: Global Leadership of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025, a programme that envisions ASEAN as a global leader in disaster management.

**1.2**

## The objectives of ASCEND

- To enhance the capacity of the ASEAN countries in the implementation of ASCEND.

- To establish regionally recognised Competency Standards and assessment processes covering five professions in disaster management.
- To improve the capacity of the AHA Centre to serve as the ASCEND Secretariat.
- To promote understanding of the ASCEND Framework among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and other ASEAN sectors in preparation for the inclusion of ASCEND into the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

## 1.3

# Advantages and benefits of an ASCEND certification

### For ASEAN

The ASCEND certification can assist Member States in ensuring that competent disaster management professionals handle emergency assistance and disaster relief across the region. It also supports mutual recognition of disaster management competencies to facilitate acceptance of external aid and faster response.

### For AHA Centre

ASEAN, a rapidly developing and hazard-prone region, will need more competent disaster management professionals. The ASCEND certification can narrow current knowledge and skills gaps. It can also enable stronger cooperation and interoperability between disaster managers in their home countries and across regions.

### For disaster management professionals

Disaster management professionals can use their ASCEND certification to promote themselves professionally and serve as evidence of their experience and qualifications. It can also make it easier for organizations to determine the ability of certificate holders to perform critical work functions of specific occupations in the disaster management sector.

These ASCEND toolbox documents support the ASEAN Member States in identifying, building the capacity of, and mobilising competent disaster managers across Southeast Asia that are highly capable of contributing to reducing disaster risks and disaster losses in the region through timely and effective response.

**1.4**

## The ASCEND Toolbox

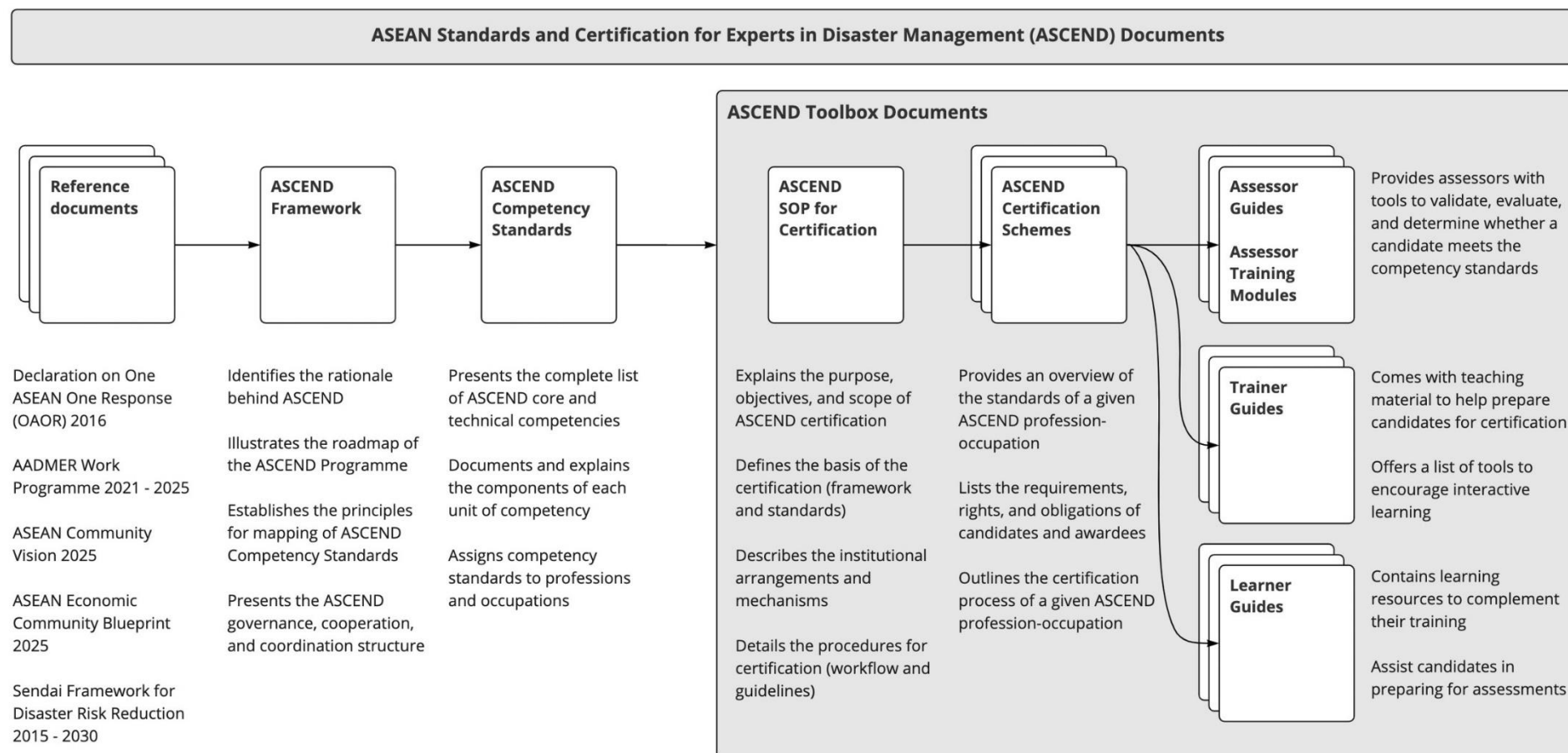
A set of technical requirements must exist before it is possible to implement the ASCEND programme in participating ASEAN Member States. The first requirement is the ASCEND Competency Standards, containing forty-three (43) regionally recognised core and technical competencies in selected disaster management professions. The Competency Standards outline the work elements and performance criteria that guide for certification of disaster management professionals across the region.

Another requirement is the development of an ASCEND Toolbox for five professions. These professions are Rapid Assessment, Humanitarian Logistics, Information Management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Shelter Management. The ASCEND Toolbox consists of an SOP, Certification Schemes, Assessor Guides, Trainer Guides, and Learner Guides. The ASCEND Competency Standards, approved by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, is the primary basis of the Toolbox documents.

The SOP defines the basis of ASCEND, describes the institutional arrangements and mechanisms, and details the certification procedures. Certification Schemes present an overview of the standards of each profession-occupation and certification requirements, the rights and obligations of candidates and certificate holders, and general guidelines on the certification process. Assessor Guides provide assessors with tools to validate, evaluate, and determine whether a candidate meets the Competency Standards. Trainer Guides come with PowerPoint slides and presenter notes to help trainers prepare candidates for certification. It also offers a list of tools trainers may use to encourage interactive learning. Learner Guides assist candidates preparing for ASCEND certification in their chosen disaster management profession and occupation. It contains learning resources and complementary readings to help prepare them to undergo the required assessment.

The ASCEND Toolbox documents can assist the ASEAN Member States to identify, build the capacity of, and mobilise competent disaster managers across Southeast Asia to help reduce disaster risks and disaster losses in the region through timely and effective response.

*Figure 1: Overview of ASCEND Toolbox Documents*







# The Learner Guide: Introduction for Candidates



**ASCEND**

Welcome and thank you for your interest in pursuing an ASCEND certification. This Learner Guide is for you to read. It contains learning resources and helps you prepare for the required assessments: oral interviews, written tests, and observation checklists.

## Competency-based learning and assessment

**Competency** is the attitude and ability to use or apply one's experience, knowledge, and skills-sets to perform critical job functions in a defined work setting.

*Table 1: Competency areas and descriptions*

Competency area	Description
<b>Experience</b>	Refers to the qualifications of the candidate that make them eligible to pursue certification. It includes the candidate's formal education, work experience, professional training, and job-relevant life experiences.
<b>Knowledge</b>	Refers to what the candidate needs to know to make informed decisions on how to perform the work effectively.
<b>Skills</b>	Refers to the ability of the candidate to apply knowledge to complete occupational tasks and produce work outcomes or results at the standard required.
<b>Attitudes</b>	Refers to associated beliefs, feelings, motivations, and values that influence a candidate to make decisions and act according to occupational standards and the professional work setting.

There is one Learner Guide for each unit of competency. The Competency Standards and Unit Descriptor section of this document outlines the content you will be studying – broken down into elements and performance criteria

that will be covered during training and assessed using competency-based methods. This guide contains a glossary of terms, a list of abbreviations, readings and activities, a self-assessment checklist, and information about the oral interviews and written tests.

**Competency-based methods** help ensure that the ASCEND certification process is relevant, valid, acceptable, flexible, and traceable – in alignment with the ASEAN Guiding Principles.

The relevance principle confirms that the ASCEND certification reflects the current professional needs in the disaster management sector. The validity principle relates to the consistency and equitability of the assessment process. The acceptability principle is about aligning the ASCEND certification to other disaster management professional standards and good practices. The flexibility principle refers to the responsiveness of the ASCEND certification to changes or differences in disaster management work settings and job requirements. The traceability principle ensures that evidence is sufficient to grant the ASCEND certification.

**Competency-based assessment (CBA)** is the process for evaluating whether a professional is qualified and competent to perform in a particular occupation. CBA is used to determine if the candidate's experience, knowledge, skills, and attitudes meet the standards and performance criteria defined in a unit of competency.



# ASCEND Competency Standards and Unit Descriptor



# ASCEND

**3.1**

## Competency standards

Competency standards are a set of industry-accepted benchmarks that defines the experience, knowledge, skills, and attitudes professionals need to perform well in an occupation. It also reflects the requirements of work settings and considers the developments in the disaster management profession.

**3.2**

## ASCEND Competency Standards

The ASCEND Competency Standards identifies the key features of work in selected disaster management professions and performance standards professionals need to meet to be deemed competent. It also provides the list of the forty-three (43) core and technical competencies that serve as the basis for defining the regionally recognised disaster management qualifications across the ASEAN Member States. The five (5) professions covered by the ASCEND Competency Standards include Rapid Assessment, Humanitarian Logistics, Information Management, WASH, and Shelter Management. Under these professions are five (5) categories of occupations: Manager, Coordinator, Officer, Promoter, and Engineer. Overall, there are fifteen (15) profession-occupation combinations (e.g., humanitarian logistics manager, information management coordinator, WASH promoter).

Each ASCEND Competency Standard has its dedicated Toolbox documents: an SOP, Certification Scheme, Assessor Guide, Trainer Guide, and Learner Guide. Only one SOP applies to all profession-occupation combinations covered by the ASCEND certification. The Certification Schemes, one for each of the profession-occupation combinations. Both these documents align with the AQRf Level Descriptors, Section 4: Guiding Principles and Protocols for Quality Assurance of the AGP, and ASEAN Disaster Management Occupations Map. The Certification Schemes also outline the ASCEND competencies under selected professions and occupations, eligibility criteria, basic requirements and rights of candidates, and obligations of certification holders. Assessor Guides describe the components of particular competency standards and offer tools to determine the candidate's qualifications. Trainer and Learner Guides expound on a given competency standard's elements and performance criteria for learning and assessment preparation purposes.

The Toolbox documents may also serve as a reference for ASEAN Member States' seeking to develop and implement national-level competency-based certification processes based on their respective capacities and needs. The ASCEND Competency Standards and its derivative Toolbox documents will be reviewed and updated every five (5) years to ensure it reflects changes in the disaster management profession and remains relevant. Table 2 describes its main components.

*Table 2: Components of the ASCEND Competency Standards*

Component	Description
<b>Unit title</b>	Describes the critical work function to be performed in an occupation
<b>Unit number</b>	<p>A coding system to organise the units of competency. It also indicates the types of competency standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADM.<b>COR</b>.000.0 are core competencies. These are general professional knowledge and skills related to international humanitarian principles and disaster management standards, including ASEAN mechanisms and procedures.</li> <li>ADM.<b>TEC</b>.000.0 are technical competencies. These are specific knowledge and skills needed to perform effectively in work areas under their chosen disaster management profession and occupation.</li> </ul>
<b>Unit description</b>	Provides information about the critical work function covered by the unit.
<b>Elements</b>	Presents the occupational tasks required to perform the critical work function in the unit.
<b>Performance criteria</b>	Lists the expected outcomes or results from the occupational tasks to perform and the standard required.

**3.3**

## Unit descriptor

**Unit title** : **Identify ASEAN Humanitarian Procedures and Mechanisms**

**Unit number** : **ADM.COR.002.1**

**Unit description** : This unit deals with the knowledge, skills and attitude required to describe the essential elements of fundamental principles, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action context based on the ASEAN Declaration, ASEAN Pillars, and ASEAN Charter

### Element 1.

#### **Identify ASEAN Human Rights Declaration**

##### **Performance Criteria**

- 1.1 Identify General Principles
- 1.2 Identify Civil and Political Rights
- 1.3 Identify Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

### Element 2.

#### **Identify ASEAN Pillars**

##### **Performance Criteria**

- 2.1 Identify ASEAN Political-Security Community
- 2.2 Identify ASEAN Economic Community
- 2.3 Identify ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

### Element 3.

#### **Identify the ASEAN Charter**

##### **Performance Criteria**

- 3.1 Identify the Purpose of the ASEAN Charter
- 3.2 Identify Principles of the ASEAN Charter

## 3.4

# Glossary of Terms and List of Abbreviations

Terms and abbreviations	Descriptions
<b>ACIA</b>	ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement
<b>ACMP</b>	ASEAN Communications Master Plan
<b>AEC</b>	ASEAN Economic Community
<b>AECC</b>	ASEAN Economic Community Council
<b>AHRD</b>	ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
<b>AMCAP</b>	ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan
<b>AMRO</b>	ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office
<b>APAEC</b>	ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation
<b>APASTI</b>	ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>APG</b>	ASEAN Power Grid
<b>APSC</b>	ASEAN Political-Security Community
<b>AQRF</b>	ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework
<b>ASAM</b>	ASEAN Single Aviation Market
<b>ASCC</b>	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
<b>ASCCO</b>	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Office?
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations



<b>ASSM</b>	ASEAN Single Shipping Market
<b>ATGA</b>	ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement
<b>ATSA</b>	ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement
<b>CCI</b>	Coordinating Committee on Investment
<b>CCT</b>	Clean Coal Technology
<b>CEP</b>	Comprehensive Economic Partnership
<b>CLMV</b>	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>ERIA</b>	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
<b>FAF</b>	Food, Agriculture and Forestry
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Area
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GRP</b>	Good Regulatory Practice
<b>GRTKTCE</b>	Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, And Traditional Cultural Expressions
<b>GVC</b>	Global Value Chains
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>HRD</b>	Human Resource Development
<b>IAI</b>	Initiative for ASEAN Integration
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology

<b>IP</b>	Intellectual Property
<b>IPR</b>	Intellectual Property Rights
<b>ISEAS</b>	Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MPAC</b>	Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity
<b>MRAs</b>	Mutual Recognition Arrangements
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and Development
<b>RE</b>	Renewable Energy
<b>ROO</b>	Rules of Origin
<b>RSIS</b>	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
<b>SEANWFZ</b>	Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
<b>SOCA</b>	Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>TAC</b>	Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in South East Asia
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>ZOPFAN</b>	Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality



# Unit Readings and Activities



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

## ASCEND

**4.1**

## **Element 1. Identify ASEAN Human Rights Declaration**

On November 18, 2012, The Association adopted ASEAN Human Rights Declaration along with the Phnom Penh Statement at the 21st ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. It has been ASEAN's first regional instrument on human rights norms and principles.

The declarations aim to protect many of the universal human rights; guarantees freedom and equality in dignity and rights, forbid discrimination; support the preservation of human life, the protection of one's honour, family, and property; and affirm the human right to education, medical and social care and protection, as well as a clean environment. It also upholds that development is an inalienable part of human rights and encourages the rights of peace for everyone.

### **1.1 Identify General Principles**

#### **A. Introduction**

ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) has divided into several parts. One of them is the General Principles 1 to 9. The General Principles serve to guide how the succeeding provisions in the Declaration are to be read and applied. They are the principles by which all the provisions in the Declaration should be interpreted.

#### **B. General Principles**

There are 9 Articles for the General Principles. Each Principle emphasises the general rights of every person regardless of the differentiating factors.

- **Article 1**  
“All persons are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of humanity.”
- **Article 2**  
“Every person is entitled to the rights and freedoms set forth herein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, gender, age, language,

religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, disability or other status.”

- **Article 3**

“Every person has the right of recognition everywhere as a person before the law. Every person is equal before the law. Every person is entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law.”

- **Article 4**

“The rights of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and vulnerable and marginalised groups are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

- **Article 5**

“Every person has the right to an effective and enforceable remedy, to be determined by a court or other competent authorities, for acts violating the rights granted to that person by the constitution or by law.”

- **Article 6**

“The enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms must be balanced with the performance of corresponding duties as every person has responsibilities to all other individuals, the community and the society where one lives. It is ultimately the primary responsibility of all ASEAN Member States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

- **Article 7**

“All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. All human rights and fundamental freedoms in this Declaration must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. At the same time, the realisation of human rights must be considered in the regional and national context bearing in mind different political, economic, legal, social, cultural, historical and religious backgrounds.”

- **Article 8**

“The human rights and fundamental freedoms of every person shall be exercised with due regard to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. The exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and meeting the just

requirements of national security, public order, public health, public safety, public morality, as well as the general welfare of the peoples in a democratic society.”

- **Article 9**

“In the realisation of the human rights and freedoms contained in this Declaration, the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-discrimination, non-confrontation and avoidance of double standards and politicisation, should always be upheld. The process of such realisation shall take into account peoples’ participation, inclusivity and the need for accountability.”

## **1.2 Identify Civil and Political Rights**

### **A. Introduction**

Civil and Political Rights are derived from the inherent dignity of human beings. In accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all human family members is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. Furthermore, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom and freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his civil and political rights, as well as his economic, social and cultural rights.

### **B. The Civil and Political Rights**

Civil and political rights are a class of rights that protect individuals' freedom from infringement by governments, social organizations and private individuals, ensuring one's ability to participate in the civil and political life of the society and state without discrimination or repression.

The Civil and Political Rights in ASEAN Human Rights Declaration consists of 16 points mentioned in Article 10 - Article 25.

- **Article 10**

“ASEAN Member States affirm all the civil and political rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specifically, ASEAN Member States affirm the following rights and fundamental freedoms.”

- **Article 11**  
“Every person has an inherent right to life which shall be protected by law. No person shall be deprived of life save in accordance with law.”
- **Article 12**  
“Every person has the right to personal liberty and security. No person shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, search, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty.”
- **Article 13**  
“No person shall be held in servitude or slavery in any of its forms, or be subject to human smuggling or trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of trafficking in human organs.”
- **Article 14**  
“No person shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”
- **Article 15**  
“Every person has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Every person has the right to leave any country including his or her own, and to return to his or her country.”
- **Article 16**  
“Every person has the right to seek and receive asylum in another State in accordance with the laws of such State and applicable international agreements.”
- **Article 17**  
“Every person has the right to own, use, dispose of and give that person’s lawfully acquired possessions alone or in association with others. No person shall be arbitrarily deprived of such property.”
- **Article 18**  
“Every person has the right to a nationality as prescribed by law. No person shall be arbitrarily deprived of such nationality nor denied the right to change that nationality.”
- **Article 19**  
“The family as the natural and fundamental unit of society is entitled to protection by society and each ASEAN Member State. Men and women of full age have the right to marry on the basis of their free and full

consent, to found a family and to dissolve a marriage, as prescribed by law.”

- **Article 20**

(1) Every person charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a fair and public trial, by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, at which the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

(2) No person shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed and no person shall suffer greater punishment for an offence than was prescribed by law at the time it was committed.

(3) No person shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he or she has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each ASEAN Member State.

- **Article 21**

“Every person has the right to be free from arbitrary interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence including personal data, or to attacks upon that person’s honour and reputation. Every person has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”

- **Article 22**

“Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. All forms of intolerance, discrimination and incitement of hatred based on religion and beliefs shall be eliminated.”

- **Article 23**

“Every person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information, whether orally, in writing or through any other medium of that person’s choice.”

- **Article 24**

“Every person has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.”

- **Article 25**



- (1) Every person who is a citizen of his or her country has the right to participate in the government of his or her country, either directly or indirectly through democratically elected representatives, in accordance with national law.
- (2) Every citizen has the right to vote in periodic and genuine elections, which should be by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, in accordance with national law.

## 1.3 Identify Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

### A. Introduction

Economic, social and cultural rights are part of the body of human rights law that developed in the aftermath of World War II. Human rights law includes all economic and social rights, as well as civil and political rights like the right to free speech and the right to a fair trial. These rights are deeply intertwined: for example, the right to speak freely means little without a basic education, the right to vote means little if you are suffering from starvation. Similarly, the right to work means little if you are not allowed to meet and assemble in groups to discuss work conditions. In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights.

### B. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic, Social, and Culture Rights in ASEAN Human Rights Declaration consists of 9 points mentioned in Article 26 - Article 34

- **Article 26**

“ASEAN Member States affirm all the economic, social and cultural rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specifically, ASEAN Member States affirm the following:”

- **Article 27**

- (1) Every person has the right to work, to the free choice of employment, to enjoy just, decent and favourable conditions of

work and to have access to assistance schemes for the unemployed.

(2) Every person has the right to form trade unions and join the trade union of his or her choice for the protection of his or her interests, in accordance with national laws and regulations.

(3) No child or any young person shall be subjected to economic and social exploitation. Those who employ children and young people in work harmful to their morals or health, dangerous to life, or likely to hamper their normal development, including their education, should be punished by law. ASEAN Member States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labour should be prohibited and punished by law.

- **Article 28**

“Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family, including:

- The right to adequate and affordable food, freedom from hunger and access to safe and nutritious food;
- The right to clothing;
- The right to adequate and affordable housing;
- The right to medical care and necessary social services;
- The right to safe drinking water and sanitation;
- The right to a safe, clean and sustainable environment.

- **Article 29**

(1) Every person has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and reproductive health, to basic and affordable healthcare services, and to have access to medical facilities.

(2) The ASEAN Member States shall create a positive environment in overcoming stigma, silence, denial and discrimination in the prevention, treatment, care and support of people suffering from communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

- **Article 30**

(1) Every person shall have the right to social security, including social insurance where available, which assists him or her to secure the means for a dignified and decent existence.

(2) Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period as determined by national laws and regulations before and after childbirth. During such period, working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.

(3) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. Every child, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

- **Article 31**

(1) Every person has the right to education.

(2) Primary education shall be compulsory and made available free to all. Secondary education in its different forms shall be available and accessible to all through every appropriate means. Technical and vocational education shall be made generally available. Higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(3) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of his or her dignity. Education shall strengthen the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN Member States. Furthermore, education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in their respective societies, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial and religious groups, and enhance the activities of ASEAN for the maintenance of peace.

- **Article 32**

“Every person has the right, individually or in association with others, to freely take part in cultural life, to enjoy the arts and the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or appropriate artistic production of which one is the author.”

- **Article 33**

“ASEAN Member States should take steps, individually and through regional and international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realisation of economic, social and cultural rights recognised in this Declaration.”

- **Article 34**

“ASEAN Member States may determine the extent to which they would guarantee the economic and social rights found in this Declaration to non-nationals, with due regard to human rights and the organisation and resources of their respective national economies.”

## 4.2

## Element 2. Identify ASEAN Pillars

### 2.1. Identify ASEAN Political-Security Community

#### A. Introduction

To build on what has been constructed over the years in the field of political and security cooperation, the ASEAN Leaders have agreed to establish the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC). The APSC shall aim to ensure that countries in the region live at peace with one another and the world in a just, democratic and harmonious environment by accelerating political and security cooperation in ASEAN.

The ASEAN Political-Security Society is open, based on a comprehensive security approach and is not intended to form a joint defence / military alliance or foreign policy pact. Coordination of ASEAN cooperation in politics and security is carried out through the ASEAN Political-Security Community Council.

#### B. ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint

The APSC Blueprint envisages ASEAN as a rules-based Community of shared values and norms; a cohesive, peaceful, stable and resilient region with shared responsibility for comprehensive security and a dynamic and outward-looking region in an increasingly integrated and interdependent region world. The APSC Blueprint is guided by the ASEAN Charter and the principles and purposes contained therein. It provides a roadmap and timetable to establish the APSC by 2015. It also leaves room for flexibility to continue programmes/activities beyond 2015 in order to retain its significance and have an enduring quality. The APSC Blueprint provides a roadmap and timetable to establish the APSC by 2015. The APSC Blueprint would also have

the flexibility to continue programmes/activities beyond 2015 in order to retain its significance and have an enduring quality.

The APSC subscribes to a comprehensive approach to security, which acknowledges the interwoven relationships of political, economic, social-cultural and environmental dimensions of development. It promotes renunciation of aggression and the threat or use of force or other actions in any manner inconsistent with international law and reliance on peaceful settlements of dispute. In this regard, it upholds existing ASEAN political instruments such as the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN), the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in South East Asia (TAC) and the Treaty on the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), which play a pivotal role in the area of confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy and pacific approaches to conflict resolution. It also seeks to address non-traditional security issues

## C. Characteristics and Elements of the APSC

ASEAN Political-Security Society Community envisages the following four key characteristics:

### 1 A Rules-based, People-oriented, People-centred Community

ASEAN political-security cooperation aims to promote ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms, and principles of international law governing peaceful conduct among States, thereby enhancing regional peace and stability. This cooperation aims to strengthen ASEAN unity and cohesiveness to build a more democratic, transparent, just, rules-based and inclusive community that shares the values of tolerance and moderation. The key elements of the rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred community are:

- **Adhere to and promote ASEAN fundamental principles, shared values and norms as well as principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations**
  - **Implement fully and effectively the ASEAN Charter**  
Ensure the effective implementation of all provisions of the ASEAN Charter to enable ASEAN to fully function as a rules-based organisation and ensure the early ratification and effective implementation of the legal instruments of the ASEAN Charter.

- **Implement ASEAN agreements signed/ratified**  
Ensure the early ratification of ASEAN agreements signed; and the effective implementation of those agreements already ratified by the ASEAN Member States.
- **Uphold the principles of international law governing the peaceful conduct of relations**  
Respect the United Nations (UN) Charter and international law governing the peaceful relations among states.
- **Respect the principles of independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, and national identity**  
Abstain from participation in any policy or activity; promote consultations and strengthen cooperation in addressing threats and challenges and awareness and understanding of the principles and norms in key ASEAN Instruments; and lastly, disseminate information on key ASEAN instruments to the general public.
- **Promote awareness of our people-oriented, people-centred Community**  
Encouraging the promote awareness can be done by holding events (academic conferences, workshops and seminars) and releasing periodic publications on ASEAN for dissemination to the public. Consider developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)/guidelines on consular assistance, and continue exploring the feasibility of an ASEAN common visa for non-ASEAN nationals and an ASEAN business travel card to facilitate business movement.
- **Promote understanding and appreciation of the political and legal systems, culture and history of ASEAN Member States**  
Promote the inclusion of the study about the ASEAN Member States in school curricula; develop a pool of experts to promote understanding, knowledge and appreciation of diversity; as well as encourage the exchange of students at high school and university levels to increase their knowledge of the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN cooperation

- **Strengthen respect for and recognition of the purposes and principles of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia**  
Conduct activities to promote the adherence to the underlying principles of the TAC among High Contracting Parties.
- **Strengthen democracy, good governance, the rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as combat corruption**
  - Promote principles of democracy
  - Instil the culture of good governance and mainstream the principles thereof into the policies and practices of the ASEAN Community
  - Instil the culture of integrity and anti-corruption and mainstream the principles thereof into the policies and practices of the ASEAN Community
  - Establish programmes for mutual support and assistance among the ASEAN Member States in the development of strategies for strengthening the rule of law, judicial systems and legal infrastructure
  - Promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice to ensure our peoples live with dignity, peace, harmony and prosperity
  - Increase the engagement and participation of entities associated with ASEAN and relevant stakeholders in moving forward the ASEAN Political-Security Community
- **Embed the culture of peace, including the values of tolerance and moderation, as a force for harmony, peace and stability in our region and beyond**
  - Promote the culture of peace, inter alia, respect for diversity, promotion of tolerance and understanding of faith, religion and culture.

- Promote tolerance and moderation to bridge differences, defuse tensions, resolve disputes and counter violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations

## **2 Peaceful, Secure and Stable Region**

In building a peaceful, secure and stable region, ASEAN adopts a comprehensive approach to security which enhances our capacity to deal with existing and emerging challenges, resolves differences and disputes by peaceful means, ensures that our region remains free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as well as enhances maritime security and cooperation. The key elements of the peaceful, secure and stable region are:

- **Strengthen ASEAN ability to deal with existing and emerging challenges**
  - Strengthen mechanism under the ASEAN Political-Security Community
  - Strengthen the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting to engage in strategic dialogue on defence and security issues as well as practical cooperation while enhancing ASEAN centrality in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus process
  - Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Forum process in support of the ASEAN Community
  - Strengthen the East Asia Summit process in support of the ASEAN Community
  - Strengthen the ASEAN Plus Three cooperation framework in support of the ASEAN Community
- **Respond to urgent issues or crises affecting ASEAN in an effective and timely manner**
  - Support the Chair of ASEAN in ensuring an effective and timely response to urgent issues or crises affecting ASEAN, including providing its good offices and such other arrangements to address these concerns immediately;



- Convene special meetings at the Leaders, Ministers, Senior Officials or CPR levels, including through video conferencing in the event of crises affecting ASEAN;
  - Activate the ASEAN Troika to address urgent situations affecting regional peace and stability in a timely manner;
  - Explore ways and means or applicable mechanisms which could be activated immediately to address urgent situations affecting ASEAN as well as regional peace and stability; and
  - Build on existing mechanisms to enhance early warning capability to prevent occurrence or escalation of conflicts
- **Enhance ASEAN capacity to address non-traditional security issues effectively and in a timely manner**
  - Strengthen cooperation in addressing and combating transnational crimes
  - Continue to enhance cooperation against terrorism
  - Pursue our aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN
  - Enhance cooperation against trafficking in persons and people smuggling
  - Work towards the elimination of the smuggling of small arms and light weapons
  - Strengthen cooperation in combating cybercrimes
  - Strengthen cooperation on border management
  - Strengthen ASEAN cooperation on disaster management and emergency response
  - Enhance ASEAN capacity to address transnational crimes and transboundary challenges
- **Resolve differences and disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and principles of international law, including refraining from the threat or use of force as well as adopting peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms while strengthening confidence-building measures, promoting preventive diplomacy activities and conflict resolution initiatives**
  - Promote confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy activities

- Promote greater transparency and understanding of defence policies and security perceptions
  - Build upon existing modes of peaceful settlement of disputes and consider strengthening these with additional mechanisms, as needed
  - Strengthen research activities on peace, conflict management and conflict resolution
  - Promote ASEAN Member States active participation in peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts, in accordance with the capacity of respective ASEAN Member States
  - Promote and strengthen peace-oriented values
- **Preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction while contributing to global efforts on disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy**
  - Ensure the effective implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and its Plan of Action
  - Develop a coordinated ASEAN approach to improve nuclear safety in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant partners
  - Support the establishment of regional nuclear-weapon-free Zones
  - Promote disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction while enhancing ASEAN capacity to address deliberate/accidental release of hazardous substances/agents of weapons of mass destruction
- **Enhance maritime security and promote maritime cooperation in the ASEAN region and beyond through the strengthening of ASEAN-led mechanisms and the adoption of internationally accepted maritime conventions and principles**

- Maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity, and cooperation
- Promote maritime cooperation to address maritime issues comprehensively
- Ensure peaceful, safe, free and unimpeded international navigation and overflight, in accordance with relevant international laws

### **3 ASEAN Centrality in A Dynamic and Outward-Looking Region**

In the rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, ASEAN upholds and strengthens ASEAN unity, cohesiveness and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture that is built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms. As an outward-looking community, ASEAN will continue to deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners, strengthen engagement with other external parties, reach out to new potential partners for mutually beneficial relations, and play a responsible and constructive role globally based on an ASEAN common platform on international issues. The key elements of ASEAN centrality in a dynamic and outward-looking region are:

- **Strengthen ASEAN unity, cohesiveness and centrality in shaping the evolving regional architecture built upon ASEAN-led mechanisms**
  - Strengthen ASEAN centrality in shaping the evolving regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based
  - Strengthen the effectiveness of ASEAN-led mechanisms, including streamlining their work processes
- **Deepen cooperation with Dialogue Partners, strengthen engagement with other external parties and reach out to new potential partners for mutually beneficial relations, as well as respond collectively and constructively to global developments**
  - Strengthen substantial and strategic cooperation with Dialogue Partners
  - Develop and maintain effective partnerships with external parties to support the ASEAN Community Vision 2025

- Explore substantial engagement with new potential partners
- Enhance ASEAN capacity to contribute and respond to key international issues of common interest and concern

#### **4 Strengthened ASEAN Institutional Capacity and Presence**

In order to materialise the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, ASEAN institutional capacity and presence shall be strengthened. This will be pursued by streamlining ASEAN work processes, increasing effectiveness, efficiency, and coordination in ASEAN Organs and Bodies, strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat, and increasing ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional, and international levels. The key elements of the strengthened ASEAN institutional capacity and presence are:

- **Streamline ASEAN work processes and improve coordination among ASEAN Organs, enhance the conduct of ASEAN external relations and strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat**

Implement the Report and Recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs as adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw

- **Strengthen ASEAN presence and awareness**

- Promote ASEAN institutional presence at the national, regional and international levels
- Raise the presence and awareness of ASEAN

These characteristics are inter-related and mutually reinforcing and shall be pursued in a balanced and consistent manner. To effectively realise the APSC, the APSC Blueprint is an action-oriented document with a view to achieving results and recognises the capacity and capability of ASEAN Member States to undertake the stipulated actions in the Blueprint.

### **D. Implementation and Review of APSC Blueprint**

ASEAN will ensure the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025 through relevant mechanisms, efficient mobilisation of resources, effective communication to all stakeholders and regular review and evaluation.

- **Implementation Mechanism**

- All the agenda and priorities relevant with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies under the APSC Pillar will be aligned and consolidated with those of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025
- Implement the APSC Blueprint 2025 at all levels (both national and ASEAN)
- Strengthen the coordination on cross-sectoral issues within the APSC and cross-pillar issues among the three Pillars;
- Strengthen the respective coordinating roles of all relevant key organisations pursuant to the Report and Recommendations of High-Level Task Force on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs, to achieve a seamless implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025; and
- Submit an annual assessment on the progress and implementation to the ASEAN Summit through the APSC Council.

- **Resource Mobilisation**

- Mobilise resources from the ASEAN Member States and external sources, in terms of, but not limited to, funding, expertise and capacity building support to implement the agreed measures.

- **Communication Strategy**

- Facilitate the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025 both at national and regional levels by undertaking communication activities, including in line with the ASEAN Communication Master Plan;
- The strategy aims to communicate the Blueprint 2025 to the stakeholders and enable all stakeholders to be involved in and contribute meaningfully to the process.

- **Review Mechanism**

- Review and evaluate aims to ensure that the activities are responsive to the needs and priorities of ASEAN, taking into account the changing dynamics of the regional and global landscape;
- The review and evaluation shall be conducted by the ASCCO in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Meanwhile, the mid-term and end of term reviews will be undertaken by the APSC Council, assisted by the ASCCO in 2020 and 2025. In the course of the review and evaluation, ASEAN Member States are given the flexibility to update the APSC Blueprint 2025;
- The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall report the results of the review and evaluation to the ASEAN Summit through the APSC Council.

## **2.2. Identify ASEAN Economic Community**

### **A. Introduction**

ASEAN began forming the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2003 at the 9th ASEAN Summit. In addition to the free movement of goods, AEC aimed at deepening integration through the free movement of services, investment, capital, and skilled workers. The AEC covers a wide range of areas, including mutual recognition of standards, intellectual property rights, competition policies, infrastructure development, and narrowing the development gap. The AEC furthers integration into the global economy by participating in global supply chains and actively promotes FTAs (Free Trade Agreement) with countries outside the ASEAN region. The AEC was established at the end of 2015 as planned, and ASEAN is currently implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025.

### **B. ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025**

The implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2015 has been substantively achieved in, among others, eliminating tariffs and facilitating trade; advancing the services trade liberalisation agenda; liberalising and facilitating investment; streamlining and harmonising capital market regulatory frameworks and platforms; facilitating skilled labour

mobility; promoting the development of regional frameworks in competition policy, consumer protection and intellectual property rights; promoting connectivity; narrowing the development gap; and strengthening ASEAN's relationship with its external parties.

## C. Characteristics and Elements of the APSC

The overall vision articulated in the AEC Blueprint 2015 remains relevant. The AEC Blueprint 2025 will build on the AEC Blueprint 2015 consisting of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics:

- 1 A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy;
- 2 A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN;
- 3 Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation;
- 4 A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and
- 5 A Global ASEAN

### 1 A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy

The main objective of this characteristic is to facilitate the seamless movement of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labour within ASEAN to enhance ASEAN's trade and production networks and establish a more unified market for its firms and consumers.

The key elements of a highly integrated and cohesive ASEAN economy include:

- **Trade in Goods**

The implementation of AEC Blueprint 2015 measures relating to tariff elimination in accordance with the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and trade facilitation have contributed to the greater free flow of goods. In AEC 2025, ASEAN will continue to reduce or eliminate border and behind-the-border regulatory barriers that impede trade to achieve competitive, efficient, and seamless movement of goods within the region.

Strategic measures include:

- Strengthen ATIGA further
- Simplify and Strengthen the Implementation of the Rules of Origin (ROO)
- Accelerate and Deepen the Implementation of Trade Facilitation Measures

- **Trade in Services**

The objective is to broaden further and deepen services integration within ASEAN, ASEAN's integration into the global supply chains in both goods and services, and enhance ASEAN Member States' competitiveness in services. A strong services sector facilitates industrial development, innovation, and efficiency. The result is the maximisation of the potential contribution of the services sector to economic development and growth.

The services sector will be further integrated through the implementation of the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA) as the legal instrument for further integration of services sectors in the region, and continuing efforts to:

- Review existing flexibilities, limitations, thresholds and carve-outs, as appropriate;
  - Enhance mechanisms to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in the services sectors, including but not limited to foreign equity participation to support GVC activities;
  - Explore alternative approaches for further liberalisation of services;
  - Establish possible disciplines on domestic regulations to ensure the competitiveness of the services sector, taking into consideration other non-economic or development or regulatory objectives;
  - Consider the development of sectoral annexes; and
  - Enhance technical cooperation in the services sector for human resource development (HRD), joint promotion activities to attract FDI in the services sector, and exchange best practices.
- **Investment Environment**

ASEAN aims to enhance further its attractiveness as an investment destination globally by establishing an open, transparent and predictable investment regime in the region. The improvement in the investment environment in ASEAN is being achieved through the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which:



- provides for progressive liberalisation of existing investment restrictions in manufacturing, agriculture, fishery, forestry and mining and the services incidental to these sectors;
- significantly strengthens investment protection; and
- ensures transparency of investment laws, regulations and administrative guidelines

Strategic measures include the following:

- Complete the built-in agenda of the ACIA, including the effective implementation of the modality on the elimination or improvement of investment restrictions and impediments;
- Identify appropriate approaches or mechanisms for the phasing out and/or reduction of the ACIA Reservation Lists;
- Continue to undertake and, where necessary, enhance the Coordinating Committee on Investment (CCI) Peer Review Mechanism; and
- Continue to undertake joint promotion of ACIA, as well as of ASEAN as an investment destination

- **Financial Integration, Financial Inclusion, and Financial Stability**

Ensuring that the financial sector is inclusive and stable remains a key goal of regional economic integration. The financial sector integration vision for 2025 encompasses three strategic objectives, namely financial integration, financial inclusion, financial stability, and three cross-cutting areas (Capital Account Liberalisation, Payment and Settlement Systems, and Capacity Building).

Strategic measures include the following:

- Strengthen financial integration to facilitate intra-ASEAN trade and investment by increasing the role of ASEAN indigenous banks, having more integrated insurance markets, and having more connected capital markets

- Promote financial inclusion to deliver financial products and services to a wider, under-served community, including MSMEs.
- Ensure financial stability through the continuous strengthening of regional infrastructure, particularly in times of regional stress.

The measures under the three key cross-cutting areas are as follows:

- Enhance capital account liberalisation to encourage greater flows of capital among the ASEAN Member States to facilitate cross-border investment and lending in the region
- Payment and Settlement Systems will be further enhanced in several areas
- Capacity Building will help to narrow the financial development gap in the region. This can be achieved through the conduct of learning programmes and exchanges of knowledge and experiences and best practices

- **Facilitating Movement of Skilled Labour and Business Visitors**

The objective of facilitating the movement of skilled labour in ASEAN began with MRAs that would allow practitioners in eight professions to practice in the other ASEAN Member States through mutual recognition of their qualifications and, where appropriate, through the implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). These arrangements aim to facilitate the temporary cross-border movement of natural persons and business visitors engaged in trade in goods, services, and investment.

Strategic measures include the following:

- Expand and deepen commitments under the ASEAN Agreement on MNP where appropriate; and
- Reduce, if not standardise, documentation requirements.

If necessary, ASEAN will consider further improvements to existing MRAs and consider the feasibility of additional new MRAs to facilitate the mobility of professionals and skilled labour in the region.

- **Enhancing Participation in Global Value Chains**

broader objective of becoming a highly integrated and cohesive economy is to enhance the region's participation in global value chains (GVCs). The benefits entailed from deep regional integration include a better realisation of economies of scale, collective efficiency and the organic formation of regional innovation systems. A more strategic approach to GVCs can also be pursued through specific initiatives such as:

- Regional branding, roadshows and other joint marketing strategy;
- Trade facilitation initiatives focusing on both imports and exports;
- Harmonisation with international standards and support for standard compliance capacity building;
- Better information sharing; and
- Greater focus on connectivity, lessening the trade-restrictive effects and costs of NTMs, and domestic regulatory reform.

## **2 A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN**

The objective of this characteristic is to focus on elements that contribute to increasing the region's competitiveness and productivity by:

- engendering a level playing for all firms through effective competition policy;
- fostering the creation and protection of knowledge;
- deepening ASEAN participation in GVCs; and
- strengthening related regulatory frameworks and overall regulatory practice and coherence at the regional level.

The key elements of a competitive, innovative and dynamic ASEAN include:

- **Effective Competition Policy**

It is necessary to have operational and effective rules on competition to become a competitive region with well-functioning

markets. The fundamental goal of competition policy and law is to provide a level playing field for all firms, regardless of ownership. Enforceable competition rules that proscribe anti-competitive activities are an important way to facilitate liberalisation and a unified market and production base, as well as to support the formation of a more competitive and innovative region.

Strategic measures include the following:

- Establish effective competition regimes by putting in place competition laws for all remaining ASEAN Member States that do not have them, and effectively implement national competition laws in all ASEAN Member States
- Strengthen capacities of competition-related agencies in the ASEAN Member States
- Foster a “competition-aware” region that supports fair competition
- Establish Regional Cooperation Arrangements on competition policy and law
- Achieve greater harmonisation of competition policy and law in ASEAN by developing a regional strategy on convergence;
- Ensure alignment of competition policy chapters that ASEAN negotiates under the various FTAs with Dialogue Partners and other trading nations with competition policy and law in ASEAN to maintain consistency on the approach to competition policy and law in the region; and
- Continue to enhance competition policy and law in ASEAN, taking into consideration international best practices.

- **Consumer Protection**

Consumer protection is an integral part of a modern, efficient, effective and fair marketplace. Consumers will demand the right of access to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices, effective redress, and products and services that meet standard and safety requirements. Increased cross-border trade, use of e-Commerce and other new trading methods resulting from globalisation and technological advancement require governments to find innovative ways of protecting and promoting the interests of consumers. This will require comprehensive and well-functioning national and

regional consumer protection systems enforced through effective legislation, redress mechanisms and public awareness.

Strategic measures include the following:

- Establish a common ASEAN consumer protection framework through higher levels of consumer protection legislation, improve enforcement and monitoring of consumer protection legislation, and make available redress mechanisms.
- Promote a higher level of consumer empowerment and knowledge
- Build higher consumer confidence and cross-border commercial transactions
- Encourage consumer-related matters in ASEAN policies
- Promote consumer protection measures in products and services sectors.

- **Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights Cooperation**

Intellectual Property (IP) has an important role in contributing to achieving national and regional socio-economic development goals. Hence, protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) is critical for the ASEAN Member States to move higher up in the technology ladder, encourage technology transfer, and stimulate innovation and creativity. The approach in the next ten years will be based on the need to support the economic development in the region through the effective use of IP and creativity. The future landscape will be more competitive and productive as IP contributes to enhancing exports' volume and value, domestic and foreign direct investment flows, and improved global competitiveness ranking.

Strategic measures include the following:

- Strengthen IP offices and build IP Infrastructure to ensure the development of a more robust ASEAN IP system\
  - Develop regional IP platforms and infrastructure
  - Expand the ASEAN IP Ecosystem
  - Enhance regional mechanisms to promote asset creation and commercialisation, including the development of supporting schemes for MSMEs and creative sectors
- **Productivity-Driven Growth, Innovation, Research and Development, and Technology Commercialisation**

ASEAN's long-term competitiveness rests on significantly improving ASEAN Member States' labour productivity and total factor productivity performance if ASEAN moves up the GVCs. Labour productivity and total factor productivity, in turn, are determined by efficiency in the use of inputs and advancement of knowledge, innovation and technological progress.

Given the critical role of technology adaptation and diffusion innovation in ASEAN's productivity growth and long-term competitiveness, ASEAN Member States need to take a concerted effort to improve their innovation and technological capability.

More attention needs to be given to the development of national and cross-border mechanisms that promote – among others - Information sharing and networking to stimulate ideas and creativity at the universities and business-level; Place a greater focus on entrepreneurship and development of business incubator programmes for commercialisation; Promote programmes that enhance ASEAN participation in global and regional value chains and production networks.

- **Taxation Cooperation**

Tax cooperation serves as one of the key elements to support regional competitiveness in ASEAN by addressing fiscal barriers.

- **Good Governance**

ASEAN recognises the need to continue engaging the various stakeholders to build a more dynamic AEC 2025.

- **Effective Efficient, Coherent and Responsive Regulations, and Good Regulatory Practice**

The regulatory environment has a substantial impact on the behaviour and performance of companies. The challenge for ASEAN Member States is to ensure that they effectively address the identified problem while minimising the cost of compliance and preventing unwarranted distortions and inconsistency arising from the regulations.

In view of global competition and of social, economic and technological changes and imperatives, ASEAN Member States need to ensure that the regulatory regime is relevant, robust,

effective, coherent, transparent, accountable, and forward-looking in terms of regulatory structures and design, as well as implementation processes, by strengthening governance through greater transparency in the public sector and in engaging with the private sector.

- **Sustainable Economic Development**

ASEAN recognises the importance of sustainable economic development as an integral part of the region's growth strategy. Protection of the environment and natural resources supports economic growth and vice versa. ASEAN would actively promote green development by developing a sustainable growth plan.

- **Global Megatrends and Emerging Trade-Related Issues**

Necessary to formulate appropriate strategies on global megatrends and emerging trade-related issues to sustain and enhance the region's economic dynamism and be a progressive region with a high quality of life.

ASEAN would need to engender and maintain an industrial relations environment that facilitates, as smoothly as possible, investing in workers and firms as learning centres for industrial upgrading and managing labour adjustments in the integrating ASEAN. This may involve deepening the social dialogue process of shared responsibility and enhanced synergy among firms, workers and the government to ensure greater competitiveness, dynamism and inclusiveness of ASEAN Member States.

ASEAN can further maximise the benefits of regional integration and cooperation by capitalising on global megatrends, such as the expanding interconnected global cross-border flows and accelerating digital technology advancement that increasingly defines international production, trade, services and investment.

To enable ASEAN to seize the opportunities associated with these megatrends, all sectoral working groups will need to proactively consider the impact of these trends and integrate it into their future work programmes. Consultations with relevant stakeholders in such undertakings would be imperative as they are often at the forefront of these trends.

### **3 Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation**

The main objectives of this characteristic are to enhance economic connectivity involving various sectors, namely, transport, telecommunication and energy, in line with and in support of the vision and goals of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and its successor document, as well as to further integrate and cooperate in key sectors that complement existing efforts towards creating an integrated and sustainable economic region, to maximise their contribution in improving the overall competitiveness of ASEAN and strengthening soft and hard networks in the region.

- **Transport**

Transport cooperation will be working towards greater connectivity, efficiency, integration, safety and sustainability of ASEAN transport to strengthen ASEAN's competitiveness and foster regional inclusive growth and development.

Facilitating expanding economic opportunities and services and providing people with access and mobility, transport contributes to inclusive growth of new business opportunities, including MSMEs, is a key enabler for attaining the full potential of regional economic integration.

- **Information and Communication Technology**

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is recognised as a key driver in ASEAN's economic and social transformation. A strong ICT infrastructure with pervasive connectivity in ASEAN can create a business environment conducive to attracting and promoting trade, investment, and entrepreneurship.

- **E-Commerce**

Global electronic commerce (e-Commerce) has become an increasingly vital element of the global economy as part of a retailer's multi-channel strategy. E-Commerce has significantly lowered barriers to entry and operating costs for businesses, and is particularly beneficial for MSMEs. These could include, but are not limited to, strategic measures such as putting in place the following:

- Harmonised consumer rights and protection laws;
- Harmonised legal framework for online dispute resolution, taking into account available international standards;



- Inter-operable, mutually recognised, secure, reliable and user-friendly e-identification and authorisation (electronic signature) schemes; and
- Coherent and comprehensive framework for personal data protection

- **Energy**

In order to strengthen energy sector, ASEAN will implement ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 with a strategic theme “Enhancing energy connectivity and market integration in ASEAN to achieve energy security, accessibility, affordability and sustainability for all”

- **Food, Agriculture, and Forestry**

ASEAN cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry (FAF) plays a crucial role in the context of rising population, strong income growth and an expanding middle class. The FAF sector aims to ensuring food security, food safety and better nutrition, gaining from access to the global market as well as increasing resilience to climate change.

- **Tourism**

The AEC 2025 vision for tourism is for ASEAN to be a quality tourism destination offering a unique, diverse ASEAN experience and committed to responsible, sustainable and inclusive tourism development to contribute significantly to the socio-economic well-being of ASEAN peoples. The proposed two strategic directions and action programmes address the core challenges facing the sustainable development of quality tourism and its integration within ASEAN Member States:

- Enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN as a single tourism destination
- Achieve a more sustainable and inclusive pattern of ASEAN tourism

- **Healthcare**

Strong healthcare industry will contribute to better healthcare facilities, products and services to meet the growing demand for affordable and quality healthcare in the region. The development will include traditional knowledge and medicine, taking into account the importance of effective protection of genetic

resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions (GRTKTCE).

- **Minerals**

To support the AEC 2025 vision, the ASEAN Minerals Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025 (AMCAP-III) will create a vibrant and competitive ASEAN mineral sector for the well-being of ASEAN peoples through enhancing trade and investment, and strengthening cooperation and capacity for sustainable mineral development in the region. Cooperation in ASEAN minerals sector shall continue to involve partnership in policy development and in programme implementation.

- **Science and Technology**

The ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2016-2025 and its implementation plan will serve as important reference in identifying, planning and implementing initiatives that will contribute to making ASEAN innovative, competitive, vibrant, sustainable and economically integrated.

#### **4 A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN**

The AEC Blueprint 2025 seeks to significantly enhance the third characteristic of the AEC Blueprint 2015 on “Equitable Economic Development” by deepening existing elements and incorporating other key elements:

- **Strengthening the Role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises**

MSMEs are the backbone of the ASEAN economies. To face with globalisation, ASEAN work has focused mainly on enhancing networking, information flows and capacity building for government agencies working on issues and capabilities building in the following dimensions: access to finance, technology and innovation, markets, human resource development and enabling policy and regulatory environment. Some strategic measures would be implemented to enhance MSME competitiveness, resilience and to enable greater benefits from ASEAN integration.

- **Strengthening the Role of Private Sector**

The role of the private sector in ASEAN integration is important as a key stakeholder in the process, as the greater involvement of the private sector and more structured participation will be beneficial to the achievement of ASEAN goals. Private sector inputs and partnerships are essential in designing regional strategies and initiatives and identifying impediments to realising deeper regional economic integration.

Efforts must be made to engage the business sector and community-based organisations more effectively, both to provide easier access to official information on implementation, and to obtain timely feedback on policies.

- **Public-Private Partnership**

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is an important tool for decision-makers to strengthen economic and social development through the harnessing of private sector expertise, sharing of risks, and provision of additional sources of funding. ASEAN has been seeking to drive the PPP agenda further, particularly for infrastructure initiatives under the AEC and under the MPAC and its successor document.

- **Narrowing the Development Gap**

The Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) has been a key initiative to address narrowing the development gap (NDG) by providing support to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) to augment their capacity to implement regional agreements and accelerate the regional integration process as a whole.

Recognising that pockets of underdevelopment and development gaps exist in all countries, ASEAN has also continued coordinating closely with other sub-regional cooperation frameworks in the region. Effective engagement between ASEAN and sub-regional frameworks to translate cooperation into concrete and sustainable actions that harness each other's strengths and advantages will be continued.

- **Contribution of Stakeholders on Regional Integration Efforts**

Enhanced engagement could be undertaken to provide for better transparency of ASEAN activities and progress in ASEAN integration. The stakeholders, including civil society

organisations, can contribute to the integration efforts by communicating the initiatives undertaken by the governments on economic integration initiatives to the general public. These stakeholders could also contribute by providing feedback on the impact of the integration efforts on ASEAN peoples.

## **5 A Global ASEAN**

ASEAN continues to make steady progress towards integrating the region into the global economy through FTAs and comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPs) with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand. These FTAs/CEPs have strengthened ASEAN's position as an open and inclusive economic region and laid the foundation for ASEAN to retain its centrality in global and regional engagements, where possible.

Building on the gains from ASEAN's global engagement and its economic integration initiatives, ASEAN shall integrate the AEC into the global economy. Through these engagements, ASEAN can promote complementarities and mutual benefits for ASEAN.

## **D. Implementation and Review of APSC Blueprint**

- **Implementation Mechanism**

The ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC) shall be the principal body accountable for the overall implementation of the strategic measures in the AEC Blueprint 2025. Some strategic measures will be undertaken to ensure the effective implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025. The next phase of integration will require strong institutional support, further strengthening of ASEAN Secretariat and strategic collaboration with other institutions

- **Resources**

ASEAN will continue to facilitate the mobilisation of resources from the ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners and international institutions, in terms of, but not limited to, funding, expertise, and capacity-building support to implement the agreed measures.

In mobilising resources in the form of funds, expertise, or knowledge assets, consideration shall be given to the sustainability of efforts, initiatives, projects, and established mechanisms.

- **Communications**

Building upon the existing ASEAN Communications Master Plan (ACMP), ASEAN will step up its efforts to systematically disseminate information on implementing the various measures under the AEC Blueprint 2025 to the Community, within and outside of ASEAN. The measures, among others, include the strategies outlined in the ACMP

- **Review**

The AEC Blueprint 2025 shall be reviewed periodically as decided by the AECC, but not more than every three years unless otherwise agreed. Mid-term and end-of-term evaluations will be conducted to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes/impacts, including achievements and challenges from the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025, to enhance the level of economic integration in ASEAN. The mid-term and end-of-term evaluations may complement more regular monitoring and reporting of implementation progress.

## **E. Summary**

- The AEC Blueprint 2025 consist of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics: (i) A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy; (ii) A Competitive, Innovative, and Dynamic ASEAN; (iii) Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation; (iv) A Resilient, Inclusive, People-Oriented, and People-Centred ASEAN; and (v) A Global ASEAN.
- **Characteristics 1: A Highly Integrated and Cohesive Economy** aims to facilitate the seamless movement of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labour within ASEAN. The key elements of a highly integrated and cohesive ASEAN economy include (i) Trade in goods; (ii) Trade in services; (iii) Investment environment; (iv) Financial integration, inclusion and stability; (v) Facilitating the movement of Skilled labour and business Visitors; and (vi) Enhancing participation in Global Value Chains.
- **Characteristics 2: A competitive, innovative and Dynamic ASEAN** aims to focus on elements that contribute to increasing the region's competitiveness and productivity by (i) engendering a level playing for all firms through effective competition policy; (ii) fostering the creation and protection of knowledge; (iii) deepening ASEAN participation in GVCs; and (iv) strengthening related regulatory frameworks and overall regulatory practice and coherence at the regional level.

- **Characteristics 3: Enhanced connectivity and Sectoral cooperation** aims to enhance economic connectivity involving various sectors, including: (i) transport; (ii) information and communications technology; (iii) E-commerce; (iv) energy; (v) food, agriculture, and forestry; (vi) tourism; (vii) healthcare, (viii) minerals, and (ix) science and technology
- **Characteristics 4: A resilient, inclusive, people-oriented, and people-centred ASEAN** aims to reach "Equitable Economic Development" by deepening existing elements and incorporating other key elements, including (i) Strengthening the role of small and medium enterprises; (ii) Strengthening the role of the private sector; (iii) Public-private partnership; (iv) Narrowing the Development Gap; and (iv) Contribution of Stakeholders on regional integration efforts.
- **Characteristics 5: A Global ASEAN** aims to strengthen ASEAN's position as an open and inclusive economic region and lay the foundation for ASEAN to retain its centrality in global and regional engagements by integrating the region into the global economy through FTAs and comprehensive economic partnership agreements (CEPs)
- Implementation mechanism of AEC Blueprint 2025 will require strong institutional support, further strengthening of ASEAN Secretariat and strategic collaboration with other institutions.

## 2.3. Identify ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

### A. Introduction

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is the commitment to lifting the quality of life of its people through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards promoting sustainable development to face new and emerging challenges in ASEAN.

The ASCC is committed to opening a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise human development, resiliency and sustainable development through Member States' cooperation on a wide range of areas, including culture and information, education, youth and sports, health, social welfare and development, women and gender, rights of the women and children, labour, civil service, rural development and poverty eradication,

environment, transboundary haze-pollution, disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

## **B. ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025**

The ASCC Blueprint as an ASCC's strategy and planning mechanism was substantially implemented from 2009 to 2015. It was shown to be effective in developing and strengthening the coherence of policy frameworks and institutions and has helped to heighten commitment in the form of policy and legal frameworks.

Given the complex challenges in the region, the ASCC envisions an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community where people enjoy the benefits of being part of ASEAN. The ASCC Blueprint 2025 will thus strive for a community that engages and benefits the people and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. To do this, the ASCC is working towards:

- A committed, participative and socially responsible community for the benefit of ASEAN peoples;
- An inclusive community that promotes a high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all and promotes and protects human rights;
- A sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection;
- A resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and other new challenges; and
- A dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture and heritage.

## **C. Characteristics and Elements of ASCC Blueprint 2025**

The AEC Blueprint 2015 consists of five interrelated and mutually reinforcing characteristics: (1) Engages and Benefits the People; (2) Inclusive; (3) Sustainable; (4) Resilient; and (5) Dynamic

### **1 Engages and Benefits the People**

The ASEAN Community shall be characterised as one that engages and benefits its peoples, upheld by the principles of good governance, and focused on multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagements. The objective is to enhance commitment, participation and social responsibility of ASEAN peoples through an accountable and engaging mechanism for the benefit of all, towards a community of engaged and



empowered ASEAN peoples who are provided with the platforms to participate in ASEAN processes as well as to enjoy the benefits from the various initiatives.

The key result areas and corresponding strategic measures are as follows:

- **Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN processes**

Strategic Measures:

- Institutionalise ASEAN policies on relevant stakeholders' consultations and engagement in the work of ASEAN Organs and Bodies
- Promote partnership frameworks and guidelines in engaging the stakeholders for the effective implementation of ASEAN initiatives and promotion of public awareness

- **Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions**

Strategic Measures:

- Increase competencies and resilience of relevant stakeholders with advanced technological and managerial skills to improve institutional capacity
- Harness the use of information and communication technologies across different age groups
- Promote participation of local governments/authorities, provinces, townships, municipalities and cities through the central government
- Promote non-discriminatory laws, policies and practices by developing effective, responsive, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;
- Strengthen civil service through effective capacity building, human resource development and collaboration programmes;
- Promote ASEAN awareness among government officials, students, children, youths and all stakeholders as part of building ASEAN identity;
- Work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

## **2 Inclusive**

This Characteristic focuses on addressing the concerns of all peoples of ASEAN on matters related to welfare, social protection, women empowerment, gender equality, promotion and protection of human



rights, equitable access to opportunities, poverty eradication, health, decent work, education and information.

The objective of this Characteristic is an inclusive ASEAN Community that promotes an improved quality of life, addresses barriers to the enjoyment of equitable access to opportunities by ASEAN peoples, and promotes and protects human rights.

### **3 Sustainable**

The objective of this Characteristic is to promote and ensure balanced social development and a sustainable environment that meet the needs of the peoples at all times. The aim is to strive for an ASEAN Community with equitable access to a sustainable environment that can support its social development and its capacity to work towards sustainable development. The ASCC envisions the achievement of a sustainable environment in the face of social changes and economic development.

The key result areas and corresponding strategic measures are as follows:

- **Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources**

This strategy ensures strong regional cooperation on sustainable forest management to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems resources, combat desertification, halt biodiversity loss, and halt and reverse land degradation. Hence it is necessary to enhance and promote cooperation, good management practices, policy and capacity, and capacity building in a continuous effort to have sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources.

Furthermore, these strategies can support the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

- **Environmentally Sustainable Cities**

Urban planning and management for sustainable urbanisation towards a clean and green ASEAN become the key factor for sustainable cities. This requires a strong national capacity and local institutions, especially in policy, strategy, coordination, and positive economic, social and environmental linkages.

- **Sustainable Climate**

This aims to strengthen human and institutional capacity to adapt and mitigate climate change, especially in vulnerable and marginalised communities. They should be facilitating the development of comprehensive and coherent responses to climate change challenges by strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders (both government and private/community) and global partnerships and support the implementation of relevant international agreements and frameworks, as well as related to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) problems.

- **Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Adoption and implementation of environmentally sound technologies, sustainable consumption, sound waste management, energy efficiency and green lifestyle at all levels can be done by strengthening public-private partnership and environmental education, awareness and capacity. Sustainable Consumption and Production strategy and best practices can be integrated into national and regional policies or as part of CSR activities.

#### **4 Resilient**

Resilience is an essential aspect of human security and a sustainable environment, which is addressed by integrating policies, capacity and institution-building, stakeholder partnerships in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, and community empowerment. The objective of this Characteristic is to achieve an enhanced capacity to respond and adapt to current challenges and emerging threats collectively.

This recognises that socio-cultural resilience has cross-pillar linkages within the ASEAN Community as an effective force for moderation for the common good and prepared for natural and human-induced disasters and socio-economic crises, while fully embracing the principles of comprehensive security.

The key result areas and corresponding strategic measures are as follows:

- **A Disaster Resilient ASEAN that is able to Anticipate Respond, Cope, Adapt, and Build Back Better, Smarter, and Faster**

Enhance regional mechanisms and capacities to enable ASEAN to respond to disasters within and outside the region by

strengthening and promoting regional standards and local communities' and institutionalising resilience, policy, local wisdom, and capacity.

- **A Safer ASEAN that can Respond to all Health-related Hazards, including Biological, Chemical, and Radiological-nuclear, and Emerging Threats**

Safer ASEAN will focus more on strengthening health systems to be resilient in preparedness for effective response to health-related hazards by promoting regional standards and enhancing institutional and human capacities.

- **A Climate Adaptive ASEAN with Enhanced Institutional and Human Capacities to Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change**

Expand regional cross-sectoral platforms and establish shared strategies to respond to the impacts of climate change can be done by promoting and considering sound scientific and evidence-based policies and indigenous and traditional knowledge and practice

- **Strengthened Social Protection for Women, Children, Youths, the Elderly/Older Persons, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Minority Groups, Migrant Workers, Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups, and People Living in At-risk Areas, including People Living in Remote and Border Areas and Climate Sensitive Areas, to Reduce Vulnerabilities in Times of Climate Change-related Crises, Disasters and other Environmental Changes**

This strategy can be one by encourage risk and vulnerability assessment and other scientific and evidence-based measures for policies and plans and establish a platform to empower people living in at-risk areas

- **Enhanced and Optimised Financing Systems, Food, Water, Energy Availability, and other Social Safety Nets in Times of Crises by making Resources More Available, Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable**

Cross-sectoral and cross-pillar coordination should be enhanced to ensure the strategy goes well and target the poor, vulnerable and marginalised people. The key strategic measure explores financial and insurance mechanisms and strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

- **Endeavour towards a “Drug-Free” ASEAN**

The strategy will start by supporting, developing and implementing coordination with relevant stakeholders in policy formulation and preventive programs and enhancing the awareness and responsibility of the community.

## **5 Dynamic**

The objective of this Characteristic is to strengthen the ability to continuously innovate and be a proactive member of the global community. It aims to provide an enabling environment with policies and institutions that engender people and firms to be more open, adaptive, creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial.

## **D. Implementation and Review of ASCC Blueprint 2025**

- **Implementation Mechanism**

The ASCC Blueprint 2025 is guided by the ASEAN Charter and other key ASEAN instruments and documents, which provide the principles and frameworks for ASEAN socio-cultural cooperation and their implementation. Such implementation is also guided by relevant domestic laws, regulations and policies

Institution Mechanism:

- The sectoral bodies under the ASCC shall be responsible for operationalising the strategic measures relevant to their mandate by translating them into specific action lines or programmes, projects and activities as part of their respective sectoral work plans based on the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) approach to ensure realisation.
- The ASCC Council is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and, with the support of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA) and the sectoral bodies, shall be the principal body responsible for coordinating matters that require cross-sectoral and cross-pillar collaboration
- The ASCC Council and the sectoral bodies shall promote multi-stakeholder engagement to share the needs and mutually

beneficial cooperation frameworks to support the ASCC Blueprint 2025 through dialogue partners and regional entities associated with the ASEAN

#### Institution Strategies:

- The implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 shall employ strategies and approaches that will maximise the role of ASEAN Organs and Bodies, encourage stakeholder engagement and enhance capacity building mechanisms in disseminating relevant knowledge to the peoples of ASEAN. Furthermore, the ASCC will intensify strategies, work programmes and initiatives of sectoral bodies under the ASCC Pillar to narrow the development gap.

#### Strengthened ASEAN Institutional Capacity and Presence

- The ASEAN Secretariat shall also enhance its capacities and responsiveness to support the work of the ASCC and in collaboration with other sectors, pillars, and stakeholders
- National Focal Points of Sectoral Bodies shall be encouraged to strengthen their coordination with their National Secretariats and ASCC National Focal Points to ensure timely sharing of information and effective and efficient consultation

- **Resources**

- Indicative multi-year and annual budget is necessary to support the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 to foster the predictability of the availability of funds.
- Sectoral bodies have to ensure financial sustainability if they plan to establish centres to support the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 or their sectoral work plans.
- Resources in the form of funds, technical expertise and knowledge assets will be mobilised by the ASEAN Member States and respective ASEAN Organs and Bodies to ensure the sustainability of projects and established mechanisms

- **Communication**

The ASCC, in close collaboration with relevant ASEAN Organs and Bodies and stakeholders, will develop necessary platforms, mechanisms, strategies and initiatives to promote awareness and appreciation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 in order to achieve greater communication impact.

- **Review**

- The review and assessment of ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation shall utilise the existing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system (implementation-focused monitoring system and the ASCC Scorecard)
- A Results Framework shall form part of this M&E system are compiled, synthesised and aligned with the Characteristics and Elements in this Blueprint
- A Mid-Term Evaluation and an End-of-Term Evaluation will be conducted to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes/impacts of achieving the objectives of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.
- Develop indicative result/outcome-based indicators to measure impacts of the implementation, supporting the SMART approach
- Establish a compliance monitoring system for the implementation of all ASEAN Declarations relevant to the ASCC Pillar.

## **E. Summary**

- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is the commitment to lifting the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented, people-centred, environmentally friendly, and geared towards promoting sustainable development.
- The ASCC 2025 vision is for an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the peoples and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic
- **Characteristics 1: Engages and Benefit the People**

A committed, participative and socially responsible community through an accountable and inclusive mechanism for the benefit of all ASEAN peoples, upheld by the principles of good governance.

- **Characteristics 2: Inclusive**

An inclusive community that promotes a high quality of life, equitable access to opportunities for all, and promotes and protects human rights of women, children, youths, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and vulnerable and marginalised groups.

- **Characteristics 3: Sustainable**

A sustainable community that promotes social development and environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet the current and future needs of the peoples

- **Characteristics 4: Resilient**

A resilient community with enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and emerging threats and challenges.

- **Characteristics 5: A Global ASEAN**

It is a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture, and heritage with the strengthened ability to innovate and proactively contribute to the global community

## 4.3

### Element 3. Identify the ASEAN Charter

The ASEAN Charter was signed at the 13th ASEAN Summit on 20 November 2007 in Singapore by 10 Heads of State / Government of ASEAN member countries. The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance. It aims to transform ASEAN from a loose political association into an international organization with a strong legal basis and clear rules. It has an effective organisational structure and efficiency.

#### 3.1. Identify the Purpose of the ASEAN Charter

## A. Introduction

As ASEAN Charter gives personality to ASEAN, the purposes of the ASEAN Charter are in accordance with the ASEAN goals applied in three ASEAN Pillars. The purpose focused on enhancing and ensuring peace, security, relationship, and international cooperation among the ASEAN Member States.

## B. The Purpose of the ASEAN Charter

- To maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and further strengthen peace-oriented values in the region;
- To enhance regional resilience by promoting greater political, security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation;
- To preserve Southeast Asia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction;
- To ensure that the peoples and Member States of ASEAN live in peace with the world at large in a just, democratic and harmonious environment;
- To create a single market and production base which is stable, prosperous, highly competitive and economically integrated with effective facilitation for trade and investment in which there is a free flow of goods, services and investments; facilitated movement of business persons, professionals, talents and labour; and free flow of capital;
- To alleviate poverty and narrow the development gap within ASEAN through mutual assistance and cooperation;
- To strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, with due regard to the rights and responsibilities of the Member States of ASEAN;
- To respond effectively, in accordance with the principle of comprehensive security, to all forms of threats, transnational crimes and transboundary challenges;



- To promote sustainable development to ensure the protection of the region's environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, the preservation of its cultural heritage and the high quality of life of its peoples;
- To develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning, and in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and the strengthening of the ASEAN Community;
- To enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice;
- To strengthen cooperation in building a safe, secure and drug-free environment for the peoples of ASEAN;
- To promote a people-oriented ASEAN in which all sectors of society are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building;
- To promote an ASEAN identity through the fostering of greater awareness of the diverse culture and heritage of the region; and
- To maintain ASEAN's centrality and proactive role as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners in a regional architecture that is open, transparent, and inclusive.

## 3.2. Identify Principles of the ASEAN Charter

### A. Introduction

There are two main principles of the ASEAN Charter. The first principle mentioned the fundamental principle in declarations, agreements, conventions, concords, treaties and other instruments of ASEAN. Meanwhile, the second principle contains 14 principles in which the ASEAN Member States should act according to these 14 principles. These principles will become the guide for the ASEAN Member States in establishing the activities to achieve the purpose of ASEAN Charters.

## B. Principles of the ASEAN Charter

- **Principle 1**

In pursuit of the set Purposes stated in Article 1, ASEAN and its Member States reaffirm and adhere to the fundamental principles contained in the declarations, agreements, conventions, concords, treaties and other instruments of ASEAN.

- **Principle 2**

ASEAN and its Member States shall act in accordance with the following Principles:

- (1) Respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all ASEAN Member States;
- (2) Shared commitment and collective responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity;
- (3) Renunciation of aggression and the threat or use of force or other actions in any manner inconsistent with international law;
- (4) Reliance on peaceful settlement of disputes;
- (5) Non-interference in the internal affairs of ASEAN Member States;
- (6) Respect for the right of every Member State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion and coercion;
- (7) Enhanced consultations on matters seriously affecting the common interest of ASEAN;
- (8) Adherence to the rule of law, good governance, the principles of democracy and constitutional government;
- (9) Respect for fundamental freedoms, the promotion and protection of human rights and the promotion of social justice;
- (10) Upholding the United Nations Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law, subscribed to by the ASEAN Member States;

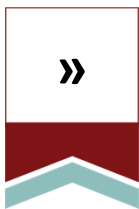
- (11) Abstention from participation in any policy or activity, including the use of territory, pursued by any ASEAN Member State or non-ASEAN State or any non-State actor, which threatens the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political and economic stability of ASEAN Member States;
- (12) Respect for the different cultures, languages and religions of the peoples of ASEAN, while emphasising their common values in the spirit of unity in diversity;
- (13) The centrality of ASEAN in external political, economic, social and cultural relations while remaining actively engaged outward-looking, inclusive and non-discriminatory; and
- (14) Adherence to multilateral trade rules and ASEAN's rules-based regimes for effective implementation of economic commitments and progressive reduction towards eliminating all barriers to regional economic integration in a market-driven economy.



# Self-assessment Checklist



**ASCEND**



## Self-assessment Checklist

Please use the checklist below to help you determine whether you are prepared to be assessed in this unit of competency. The boxes without tick mark indicate that there may be some areas you need to work on to become ready for assessment.

### Instructions

Please tick (✓) the box if your answer is yes

### Questions

☐

Have I read the Learner Guide and understood its contents?

☐

Have I attended, participated in, and completed all training sessions and activities?

☐

Have I reviewed the learning resources to reinforce what I've learned in training?

☐

Am I able to demonstrate my understanding of each element and performance criteria of this unit of competency by writing a summary in my own words?

☐

Am I able to communicate how my experience, knowledge, skills-sets, and attitudes make me qualified and competent enough to perform the job related to this unit of competency?



ONE RESPONSE

# Oral Interview and Written Test Guide



## ASCEND

## Oral interview and written test guide

This section guides candidates on how to communicate, demonstrate, or present evidence, responses, and their work in a professional manner. There are three primary ways the candidates will be assessed: through observation, oral interview, and written test. The assessor will determine the final assessment methods and tools depending on several factors like the local context, professional needs, and the like.

### On observations

Assessors will observe the candidate over a period of time to collect evidence of their capability to meet the required standards and performance criteria. Assessors may attend selected learning sessions, if any, to witness how candidates complete their activities and participate in exercises. In doing so, assessors can get a sense of the candidate's key strengths and areas for improvement concerning the unit of competency. It will benefit candidates to ensure that their work is always complete and presentable.

### On oral interview

Assessors will conduct oral interviews to confirm and evaluate the candidate's experience, knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding the unit of competency under assessment.

Please review the Unit Readings and complete the Self-assessment Checklist in this document. It may include verification questions about what you learned from the training content and material. It may also include competency questions about your knowledge and skills. Assessors may ask you what knowledge or skill will you use or apply to address a specific occupational issue or problem. Candidates need to think about how they will carry out their critical job functions in a defined work setting.

Finally, the interview may also include behavioural questions that focus on attitudes. Assessors may ask for examples of what you will do when a particular situation happens or when circumstances change. Candidates will need to support their answers with reflections on their own or other's experiences and the lessons learned from those.

### On written tests

Assessors will also present a written test to candidates to confirm whether candidates learned and understood the training content and material concerning the unit of competency under assessment.

Accuracy, brevity, and clarity are the ABCs of good writing. The first thing candidates are suggested is to answer the questions as accurately as possible. It helps structure your response and sharpen your main points in an outline before writing them down. Candidates are advised to use short and simple sentences and paragraphs. The key messages and transitions between your sentences and paragraphs must be clear. Your answers need to be easy to read and understand. It includes removing and leaving out irrelevant material. Candidates are also expected to write coherently and logically so that readers can follow their thought.

Proofread and correct errors in your work before submitting it. How you format your work also matters. If you are using a computer, please check whether your indentions, margins, spacing, listings (bullets, numerical sequencing), and page numbers are in order.





ONE RESPONSE

# Recommended Readings



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

## ASCEND

## Recommended readings

ASEAN Secretariat. (2008). *The ASEAN Charter*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2009). *ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2009). *ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2013). *ASEAN Human Rights Declaration*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2015). *ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2016). *ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN Secretariat. (2016). *ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025*. Accessible [here](#)

International Commission of Jurists. (2013). *The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration: Questions and Answer*. Accessible [here](#)

## Learning resources

ASEAN. (n.d). *ASEAN Economic Community*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN. (n.d). *ASEAN Political-Security Community*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN. (n.d). *ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN. (n.d). *Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations*. Accessible [here](#)

ASEAN. (n.d). *Overview*. Accessible [here](#)

Human Rights in ASEAN (n.d). *ASEAN and Human Rights Timeline*. Accessible [here](#)

Center for Economic and Social Rights (n.d). *What are Economic, Social and Cultural rights?* Accessible [here](#)



# Training Evaluation Sheet



**ASCEND**



## Training evaluation sheet

### Name of Training

### Competency unit title and number

ADM.COR.002.1 Identify ASEAN Humanitarian Procedures and Mechanisms

### Location of training

### Date of training

### Instructions

Please tick (✓) your level of agreement with the statements below

**Strongly Agree**

**Agree**

**Neither Agree or Disagree**

**Disagree**

**Strongly Disagree**

### Training content and facility

The training objectives were clearly defined and met.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

The training content was organized and easy to follow.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

The training material was relevant and useful to me.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

The training facility is adequate and comfortable.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

### Training delivery and activities

The trainers/presenters were knowledgeable and well prepared.

☐☐☐☐☐

The trainers/presenters were engaging and helpful.

☐☐☐☐☐

The length of the training was sufficient for learning.

☐☐☐☐☐

The pace of the training was appropriate to the content and attendees.

☐☐☐☐☐

The activities and exercises encouraged participation and interaction.

☐☐☐☐☐

**What did you like most about this training?**

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**What parts of the training could be improved?**

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**Other comments and feedback:**

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**Thank you for completing this training evaluation form.  
Your response is appreciated.**



ONE ASEAN  
ONE RESPONSE

# ASCEND

ASEAN Standards and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management

**THE AHA CENTRE**

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