

# ASEAN Community & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

## Positioning Sustainability at the Heart of Regional Integration

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# Challenges & Research Question

**"ASEAN ... RESOLVED to ensure sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations, and to place the well-being, livelihood and welfare of the peoples at the centre of the ASEAN community building process."**

Source: Preamble, ASEAN Charter (2007)

- How can ASEAN promote the realisation of SDGs?
  - Learnt from the experience of MDGs (the predecessor to the SDGs?) and other relevant regional integration experiences (e.g. the EU)
  - Conducted mock exercise of formulating an ASEAN Agreement on SDGs (a workshop)
- Who could do what?

LEVELS OF ACTIONS	MDGs	SDGs	
		ACTIONS (recommended)	Lead Actors
High-level Expression of commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Declaration on the Attainment in ASEAN (2009) → 'relatively late'</li> </ul>	<p>Incorporate SDGs using pre-pre-existing mechanisms (UN-ASEAN Summit etc.) → 'timely'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN</li> <li>National SDGs focal points</li> </ul>
Policymaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporated as 'actions lines', mainly in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural pillar → 'complementary, yet fragmented'</li> <li>ASEAN Roadmap on the Attainment of the MDGs (2012)</li> </ul>	<p>Incorporate SDGs into ASEAN Community Roadmaps (2016 – 2025) (being developed) → 'timely'</p> <p>Establish ASEAN SDG Expert Committee, backed by 'SDGs Fund') → 'dedicated, independent from sectoral pillars'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National SDGs focal points</li> <li>ASEAN Dialogue Partners</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National agencies acted on agreed action lines at the ASEAN level</li> </ul>	<p>Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and National ASEAN Secretariats link to proposed 'regional SDG Expert Committee'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National agencies</li> <li>Supporting orgs. (esp. in terms of strengthening capacity)</li> </ul>
M&E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASEAN Secretariat, supported by ASEAN Member States and partners</li> </ul>	<p>Build on M&amp;E work of MDGs</p>	

# Other Issues/Recommendations

## Coordination

- Strengthen ASEAN Secretariat's capacity (regional)
  - Directly (core funds for ASEAN Secretariat operations)
  - Indirectly (project-based funds)
- Strengthen cross-sector, inter-ministry collaboration (national)

## Multi-stakeholder Participation and Contribution

- Increase the engagement and meaningful involvement of non-state actors (NGOs/CBOs, academia, private sector, supporting organisations etc.) in ASEAN meetings
  - Support the inter-ministry and multi-stakeholder coordination efforts of governments (being the 'bridge' or 'catalyst')
  - Related to the above, create 'Coalition of Willing' to realise alternative models of development (to counter 'BAU').

Thank you