

THE ASEAN WORK PLAN ON SECURING COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS 2016-2025

I. INTRODUCTION

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025* was adopted by the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (AMMD) held in Singapore on 19-20 October 2016. The Work Plan details the components and proposed activities for its effective implementation to address illicit drug activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society.

II. BACKGROUND

ASEAN has always been committed in combating the drug menace in the region. The region's ultimate goal shall be to achieve a 'Drug-Free ASEAN.' The realisation of a Drug-Free ASEAN is to successfully and effectively address illicit drug activities and mitigate its negative consequences to society, through significant and sustainable reduction in illicit crop cultivation, illicit manufacture and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crimes, and prevalence of illicit drug use.

The ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters (ASOD) has been the main ASEAN body responsible for handling drug-related matters. It is the main body to monitor the implementation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025*, and is supported by five working groups, namely, Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Law Enforcement, Research, and Alternative Development. To further provide political impetus and to take a more focused and combined effort, the AMMD has been institutionalised. The ASOD will report the progress of implementation of the Work Plan to the AMMD which will meet once every two years beginning in 2016.

III. ASEAN WORK PLAN ON COMBATING ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND USE 2009-2015

This *ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs 2016-2025* represents a continuation of the previous *ASEAN Work Plan on Combating Illicit Drug Production, Trafficking and Use 2009-2015* adopted at the 30th ASOD Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2009. Aligned with the vision of Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 focused on successfully and effectively addressing illicit drug activities and mitigating its negative consequences to society, which includes significant and sustainable reductions in (i) illicit crop cultivation; (ii) illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crimes; and (iii) the prevalence of illicit drug use.

The ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 was implemented and annually reported through the ASOD Standardized Country Report. A mid-term review and final assessment were undertaken in 2012 and 2014, respectively, to monitor, review and evaluate the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015. The mid-term review for a Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 concluded that whereas ASEAN's commitment to combating illicit drugs remains resolute and there are significant achievements,

challenges are still prevalent and new threats are emerging. Therefore, the Review recommended that a strong effort in both supply and demand reduction still need to be undertaken.

The final assessment to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation progress of the ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015 was conducted by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2014. The outcomes were reflected in the "*Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015*" report. The Report discovered that the drug situation in the region is worsening due to the reported proliferation of methamphetamine and new psychoactive substances (NPS). The Report concluded that the governments of the ASEAN Member States need a more holistic approach to overcome the challenges posed by illicit drug trafficking. The Report underlined the importance for the ASEAN's drug agencies and authorities to evolve from a one-dimensional control approach to multi-dimensional management approaches.

The new Work Plan has taken into account the above-mentioned report and its recommendations.

IV. COMPONENT OF THE ASEAN WORK PLAN ON SECURING COMMUNITIES AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS 2016-2025

The proposed activities range from national and regional level, preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, research, alternative development, and extra-regional cooperation.

In developing the Work Plan, the following considerations were taken into account:

- i. conditions in the region and the rapidly changing drug market;
- ii. the lessons learnt from previous Work Plans;
- iii. increase multilateral and collective cooperation without undermining pro-active individual efforts and actions in addressing the drug problem in each country;
- iv. include a broad and balanced approach that includes efforts to significantly reduce the supply and demand of illicit drugs;
- v. reinforce existing collective efforts and exercise a strong collaboration among ASEAN Member States; and
- vi. set achievable targets and measures in order to develop an effective and foreseeable Work Plan.

The references used in developing the Work Plan include the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025 and Report of the Drug Free ASEAN 2015: Evaluation and Recommendations Post-2015. This Work Plan also represents a continuation of the previous ASEAN Work Plan 2009-2015.

The Work Plan is divided into 7 sections with 26 components, namely, (i) General (ii) Preventive Education (iii) Law Enforcement (iv) Treatment and Rehabilitation (v) Research (vi) Alternative Development and (vii) Extra-regional Cooperation.

No.	Components	Activities	Implementation Status
I. GENERAL			
1.	Strengthen the role of the AMMD in coordinating a coherent, comprehensive, and effective ASEAN strategy in realising the aspiration of a Drug-Free ASEAN.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene the AMMD biennially on rotational basis beginning 2016; and b. Collaborate with other Sectoral Bodies, including sharing information on drug matters, such as drug trafficking, transnational crime and drug-related health issues. 	

2.	Recognise the need to address the continuing threat posed by the production and related distribution of illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborate on information gathering; and b. Enhance regional cooperation to address this threat. 	
3.	Combine the management of risks and national standards on drug control measures in order to reduce the threat of drugs.	a. Review the national drug control plans to identify challenges to drug control and develop responses appropriate to the circumstances of each country;	
		b. Consider increasing resources to meet the identified challenges in (a); and	
		c. Increase and enhance partnerships between public and private sectors and civil society organisations in response to the abuse of illicit drugs.	
4.	Integrate an increased understanding among national drug agencies in relation to the economic impact of regional connectivity on the supply and demand of drugs.	a. Governments of the ASEAN Member States shall facilitate greater cooperation between relevant national agencies and authorities by conducting and participating in cross-sectoral seminars, workshops, and/or trainings;	
		b. Exchanges of information through ASOD-related meetings/activities; and	
		c. Monitoring of illicit drug trend on both supply and demand through the ASEAN Drug Monitoring Network (ADMN).	

5.	Increase participation among relevant national agencies, including those responsible for education, health, social matters and home affairs, to address various aspects of drug control and challenges.	a. Coordinate with other relevant Ministries/agencies in anti-drug efforts, which may include drug enforcement, education, health, drug and food control, social and family agencies as part of an overall drug management strategy; and	
		b. Conduct cross-Ministries/agencies workshops, trainings and/or seminars.	
II. PREVENTIVE EDUCATION			
6.	Promote awareness through the convening of education campaign across the region with a common message to build the resilience of youth against drugs and educate communities on the impact of drugs on at-risk groups.	a. Adopt the green-and-white ribbon developed by Singapore as ASEAN's common symbol for preventive education activities and campaigns against drugs;	
		b. Develop an ASEAN campaign in preventing drug abuse, especially focusing on building resilience of youth against harmful substance and educating the general public about the risk of drug addiction;	
		c. Convene national and regional-scale preventive education campaign;	
		d. Develop national campaign, as appropriate, in preventing trafficking of illicit drugs by vulnerable individuals/groups;	

		e. Announce the prohibition and serious punishment of drug smuggling in international flights and display such warnings at land/sea border checkpoints; and	
		f. Integrate prevention curriculum programme into the national educational system and/or other educational institutions.	
7.	Develop and implement regional programs on how to reach out-of-school youth and other highly at-risk groups.	a. Continue sharing experience and best practices among ASEAN Member States;	
		b. Collaborate with national agencies and social organisations, where relevant, in conducting workshops and/or seminars on developing programmes on how to reach out-of-school youth and other highly at-risk groups; and	
		c. Consider to include self-resilience component in early intervention programmes for highly at-risk groups including out-of-school youth.	
8.	Formulate and implement, where appropriate, family-based, school-based, community-based, work place-based and environment-based	Adopt evidence-based prevention intervention and policies based on international standards in prevention, where applicable, to each ASEAN Member State's	

	prevention, intervention and policies based on scientific evidence.	unique situations.	
III. LAW ENFORCEMENT			
9.	<p>Work towards a significant and sustainable reduction in illicit manufacturing and trafficking of drugs and drug-related crime, where appropriate, to each country's unique national drug situation, which includes:</p> <p>(i) increase in the number of drug related operations and investigations, seizure of precursors, number of cases/arrests involving precursor traffic;</p> <p>(ii) reduction in diversion of pharmaceuticals, number of illicit drug production facilities, and number of hectares used for illicit cultivation; and</p> <p>(iii) gradual decrease in national or regional traffic of precursors.</p>	a. Enhance ASEAN Member States' national efforts in the eradication of illicit crop cultivation and illicit drug manufacture and trafficking;	
		b. Strengthen national capacities of law enforcement and regulatory agency personnel in the field of precursor control, which may include the scientific laboratory capacity of ASEAN Member States in precursor identification and drug signature analysis;	
		c. Enhance cross-border and transnational law enforcement collaboration, cooperation, and capacity building on drug control including air, land, sea and waterways, such as the Mekong River, without prejudice to freedom of navigation and transportation;	
		d. Sharing information concerning the profile of drug crime syndicates as well as the watch-list of their drug activities through the existing mechanisms as well as ASOD-related meetings and identifying commonly targeted drug	

		syndicates;	
		e. Sharing of information and best practices on efforts in tackling NPS through existing mechanisms as well as ASOD-related meetings;	
		f. Maximise the utilisation of the ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation Centre (ASEAN-NARCO) especially in sharing information and handling joint cases;	
		g. Implement or strengthen preventive, enforcement, and legislative measures such as asset forfeiture and anti-money laundering to combat drug-related crimes; and	
		h. Enhance collaboration with concerned authorities on the nature, use, extent and impact of cybertechnology on trafficking of dangerous drugs, precursor and essential chemicals used for illicit drug production.	
10.	Work towards the improvement of access to equitable justice for all individuals in the ASEAN region while respecting the sovereignty, national legislation and policies of each country.	a. Review national policies in order to ensure that financial and technical resources are in place to meet the demands of an equitable system of justice; and	
		b. Strengthen the capacity of the criminal	

		justice system particularly law enforcement officials on drug control.	
11.	Improve levels of governance by adopting a transparent approach in the enforcement of drug laws.	a. Publish drug enforcement statistics;	
		b. Advertise national programmes against drugs;	
		c. Publish information on drug-related programmes and assistance to different risk groups; and	
		d. Ensure that the information as stated in point 11(a)-11(c) is available to the general public via official website or in any other public publishing platform.	
12.	Tackle the problem of corruption and the direct impact of corrupt practices on illicit drug production, traffic, and trade.	Put in place anti-corruption strategies within the drug enforcement agencies which focus on the most vulnerable units or groups that may face enticement of corruption in carrying out their duties.	
13.	ASEAN Member States should strengthen and expand existing arrangements such as provision of mutual legal assistance (MLA), cross-border liaison offices (BLOs), port intelligence and controlled units, the Airport and Seaport Interdiction Task Force,	a. Continue convening annual meetings of the ASEAN Airport Interdiction Task Force (AAITF), ASEAN Seaport Interdiction Task Force (ASITF), Inter-sessional Working Group and sharing best practices of BLOs operation among ASEAN Member States; and	
		b. Develop the ASEAN-NARCO database	

	including land border, and the regional data collection mechanism.	for data/information sharing on fugitives and commonly targeted drug syndicates.	
14.	Develop intelligence in countering drugs, precursor and essential chemicals.	a. Increase activities that strengthen capacities, capabilities, and systems to better gather and share information, such as sharing of best practices; and	
		b. Provide transfer of knowledge on best practices on the control and the disposal of precursor and essential chemicals.	
IV. TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION			
15.	Increase access to treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare services to drug users, where appropriate, to each country's unique national drug situation, for the purpose of ensuring full reintegration into society.	a. <u>Accessibility</u> Scale up treatment coverage and widen the social net for drug users in order to facilitate accessibility to treatment services.	
		b. <u>Treatment and Rehabilitation Modality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide and/or support range of treatment and rehabilitation modalities for specific groups of drug users; ii. develop treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug dependent offenders in prison/ custodial settings; 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. develop treatment and rehabilitation as well as aftercare programmes for vulnerable/specific groups in the population; and iv. adopt evidence-based treatment protocols based on international standards in treatment, where applicable, to each ASEAN Member State's unique situations. 	
		<p>c. <u>Aftercare</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. expand community-based supervision and aftercare programmes; ii. optimise family and community support and involvement in the recovery process; and iii. provide aftercare services for rehabilitated drug users to assist them in their reintegration into society. 	
		<p>d. <u>Capacity Building/Enhance Cooperation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide capacity building and skills development of service providers with the possible cooperation with external partners; ii. provide support and technical know-how, where possible, to the 	

		<p>establishment and maintenance of treatment and rehabilitation centres;</p> <p>iii. provide marketable job skills for drug users undergoing treatment and rehabilitation with the possible partnership with relevant organisations including communities, civil service and the private sector; and</p> <p>iv. develop an effective management information system for monitoring treatment progress, discharge status, and follow-up evaluation as a mechanism to refine programme operations and improve treatment service delivery effectiveness.</p>	
V. RESEARCH			
16.	Establish a regional clearing house to share best practices, publish research findings (including scientific research), and collect international knowledge.	Build a repository of research findings and international knowledge related to recent developments for supply and demand reduction.	
17.	Ensure that all relevant stakeholders in the ASEAN Member States have access to the most recent methods for supply and demand reduction.	a. Develop a website which will collate, publish, and disseminate research findings and international knowledge related to the recent developments for supply and demand reduction; and	

		b. Publish and disseminate research findings and international knowledge related to the recent developments for supply and demand reduction through the website developed.	
VI. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT			
18.	Work towards a significant and sustainable reduction in illicit crop cultivation through the utilisation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development as a guideline, where appropriate.	a. Allocate funds from the government and private sector as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to provide support to farmers and communities that stop illicit opium poppy and cannabis cultivation;	
		b. Integrate relevant policies in national development plans to mainstream alternative development in the economic environment and communities;	
		c. Involve all levels of stake holders for the process of alternative development namely, the central government, local authorities, local leaders and communities;	
		d. Continue the implementation, if applicable, of annual opium and cannabis surveys to identify and measure illicit cultivation and production;	
		e. Develop effective information	

		management systems on illicit opium poppy and cannabis cultivation;	
		f. Provision of sustainable livelihood to former illicit crops-producing farmers;	
		g. Strengthen the rule of law, good governance and security in order to provide a conducive environment that enhances peace, stability and trust at all levels of stakeholders;	
		h. Promote the access to productive land, land rights and formal or informal land tenure systems to ensure a sufficient and sustainable livelihood; and	
		i. Address the root causes, such as socio-economic factors, which motivate farmers to cultivate illicit crops.	
19.	Promote wider access for alternative development products in markets within the country and the region consistent with national and international obligations and applicable multilateral trade rules.	a. Coordinate with relevant Ministries in promoting and marketing alternative development products at national and regional levels;	
		b. Develop a marketing strategy that is suitable for each country to promote alternative development; and	
		c. Promote the diversification of source of income and value added of alternative	

		development products. The private sector can play a valuable role by sharing skills, providing financial and technical support and marketing assistance for alternative development products.	
20.	Develop technical assistance that would help each other in identifying new alternative crops as substitute to illicit crops and institute sustainable policy reforms.	a. Increase partnership with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private enterprises, and international organisations;	
		b. Organise trainings, workshops and/or seminars in identifying alternative crops as substitute to illicit crops;	
		c. Conduct survey with farmers for feedback on the alternative development programmes. In addition, other methods of survey can include satellite imagery and cheaper imagery alternatives by using drones;	
		d. Collect baseline data for every new alternative development programmes; and	
		e. Conduct research and/or comparative study to provide applicable recommendations to formulate	

		sustainable policy reforms.	
VII. EXTRA-REGIONAL COOPERATION			
21.	Enhance cooperation with external parties, including Dialogue Partners and international organisations, on combating drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.	a. Collaboration between ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners and external parties in implementing activities set out in Plan of Actions, Declarations and/or Agreements on eradication of illicit drug trafficking and alternative development; and	
		b. Increase collaboration in practical projects and initiatives between ASOD and its Dialogue Partners, through organising trainings, workshops, seminars and/or video conference.	
22.	Consider to engage with external parties to strengthen cooperation on transnational challenges with a focus on the diversion of precursor chemicals, tackling criminal syndicates and improving law enforcement efforts.	a. Continue the existing cooperation dialogue with China through the ASOD-China Coordination Meeting; and	
		b. Establish a cooperation dialogue with India.	
23.	Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing funding mechanism to facilitate regional cooperation and to support drug agencies at the national level in the	Maximise the utilisation of other existing funding mechanism in ASEAN, i.e. ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0, ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund	

	implementation of relevant projects.	(APTCF), ROK-ASEAN Special Cooperation Fund (SCF), etc.	
24.	Strengthen and expand the existing bilateral and regional cooperation regimes including MLA, BLOs, port intelligence and control units, AAITF, ASITF and the regional data collection mechanism, Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP).	Conduct research, projects, workshops and seminars to strengthen and expand the existing cooperation regimes.	
25.	Adopt and support a cooperation framework that includes all governments and has support from regional and international organisations. The framework should build on existing agreements and seek to become a dynamic vehicle for monitoring progress; increasing regional cooperation; establishing links with non-ASEAN governments; and mobilising resources.	Develop an updated framework for cooperation that takes into account previous efforts, including ACCORD, ASEAN-NARCO, AAITF and ASITF.	
26.	Encourage ASEAN Member States to participate at UN-related forums, including the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Meeting of	Increase participation of ASEAN Member States at these meetings.	

	Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) to demonstrate ASEAN unity and solidarity.		
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V. REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

An internal review of this Work Plan will be undertaken in 2018 and 2022 by ASOD. The mid-term and end-of-term reviews of this Work Plan will be undertaken in 2020 and 2024 by ASOD, assisted by the ASEAN Secretariat. The results of the reviews and evaluation shall be reported to the AMMD.

The ASEAN Member States are encouraged to monitor the progress and the implementation of this ASEAN Work Plan and to evaluate achievements and address challenges.
