

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN
NATIONS
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND**

The Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN") and the United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNICEF"); herein referred to singularly as "a Participant", and collectively as "the Participants",

CONSISTENT with the goal of ASEAN to realising the ASEAN Community, comprising of three pillars, namely political and security, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

INSPIRED by the purposes of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 to, among others, 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 in both development and humanitarian settings;

INSPIRED by the aspiration of ASEAN to lift the quality of life of its peoples through cooperative activities that are people-oriented as stipulated in all of the ASEAN Community Blueprints and Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III;

RECOGNISING the mandate and role of UNICEF as the

United Nations organisation designated to advance children's rights to survival, protection, and development, as guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) whereby UNICEF, working in partnership with national governments, promotes the principles of child-focused development with equity in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals (SDGS) adopted on 25 September 2015 in New York City;

ACKNOWLEDGING the commonality of aims, goals, and concerns between ASEAN and UNICEF in ensuring sustainable survival, growth, full development, and participation of children in line with the CRC which all ASEAN Member States are parties to, and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals (SDGS) adopted on 25 September 2015 in New York City; and

CONVINCED that an enhanced partnership between ASEAN and UNICEF will contribute to the attainment of the Participants' objectives and will also complement the existing bilateral cooperation frameworks and projects between UNICEF and individual ASEAN Member States,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

I. AREAS OF COOPERATION

1. The Framework Agreement for Cooperation between ASEAN and UNICEF (hereinafter referred to as "Framework Agreement") will focus on the following areas of cooperation:

- a) Support for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals (SDGS) with equity, with a particular focus on:
- achieving universal access to primary education;
 - reducing child mortality;
 - improving maternal health; and
 - reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS, particularly elimination of mother-to-child transmission and reduction of effect of HIV and AIDS on children.
- b) Promotion of information sharing and technical cooperation in the areas of health, social welfare and development, particularly on:
- equity focused situation analysis on children;
 - equitable access to secondary education;
 - a multi-sectoral system approach to child protection and child welfare;
 - child participation, including support for the ASEAN Children's Forum and youth participation;
 - early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), and nutrition surveillance;
 - equitable and sustainable access for children to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene;
 - community and family support, including the establishment of an ASEAN network for family development;
 - gender sensitive capacity building of social workers, including support of the ASEAN

Social Work Consortium (ASWC) and other childcare workers and organisations working on children's issues;

- gender-sensitive school curriculum and equal access to education for girls, as-well as education on children rights;
- child protection network;
- prevention of child rights abuse, child pornography, violence against children, and exploitation of children, including trafficking of children, and elimination of child labor;
- children who are poor and marginalised, including children with disability, children living under disadvantaged and vulnerable conditions (including living in slums, children in street situation or children of ethnic and/or indigenous groups and children living in remote areas);
- advocacy on de-mining Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and victim assistance, especially assistance to child victims; and
- regional Workshop on SDGs.

c) Development of standards and guidelines to improve quality of child-related social policies and services for vulnerable groups through:

- assistance in documentation of the existing national frameworks on registration, licensing, accreditation, and regulation of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) working on children and their best practices in accordance with respective internal processes;

- benchmarking social protection legislation or policies with other countries outside ASEAN;
 - prevention and elimination of violence against children in schools; and
 - human rights education for children.
- d) Strengthening the capacity and supporting the work of ASEAN in promoting and protecting the rights of children in the region.
- e) Addressing the impacts of emerging issues in the region, such as climate change and issues arising out of urbanisation as they relate to children's welfare and strengthening resilience especially through child-centered community-based risk reduction in full consultation with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies.
- g) Pursuing collaboration in social protection, including development of coordinated national support systems for children and their families that assure that families receive resources and support that will maximise their children's growth and development with respect to the diversity of families and communities.

2. The Participants agree that for the above-mentioned areas of cooperation, specific objectives and implementing actions for the next five years will be elaborated in a plan of action which will be jointly developed by UNICEF and ASEAN. This plan of action may be updated from time to time upon mutual consent of the Participants without the need to amend this Framework Agreement. The Participants may agree to invite other UN agencies or international organisations to

collaborate in or support the implementation of the plan of action.

3. The Participants will pursue the broadest possible scope of cooperation, including within the context of South-South cooperation for child rights and encompassing the full range of activities and priorities relevant to children and common to the Participants, including:

- a) consultations, exchange, and dissemination of information on children's issues;
- b) conferences, seminars, trainings, and workshops to be jointly organised or co-sponsored;
- c) technical assistance;
- d) joint research and studies as well as joint production of publications that document good practices, share knowledge, and promote dialogue on child rights;
- e) advocacy and awareness-raising; and
- f) reciprocal invitations, where feasible and relevant to the identified areas of cooperation, to attend each other's meetings, conferences, seminars, and workshops.

II. MODALITIES OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

1. In consideration of the UNICEF's operations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam under the oversight of the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), UNICEF-EAPRO and the ASEAN Secretariat will be designated as the primary counterparts for the

cooperation of the Participants set out herein.

2. The Participants agree to designate focal points for the implementation of this Framework Agreement as follows:

- a) For ASEAN: Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC); and
- b) For UNICEF: Regional Director for East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO).

3. The focal points will be responsible for establishing effective communication and liaison between ASEAN and UNICEF and facilitating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of this Framework Agreement.

4. The joint activities to implement this Framework Agreement will be guided by the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and UNICEF and endorsed through the respective processes.

5. The implementation of any specific activity, programme, or project to be decided by the Participants under this Framework Agreement will be subject to the Participants' respective established procedures.

6. Each Participant will bear its own costs arising out of or related to the collaboration contemplated in this Framework Agreement, unless otherwise decided in writing on a case-by-case basis. Where there is a transfer of funds from one Participant to the other so as to support implementation of the approved activities, this will be documented in accordance with the established procedures described in paragraph 5.

III. PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Neither Participant will use the name, acronym, emblem, or official logo of the one Participant without prior written approval of the other Participant in accordance with its internal rules and procedures.
2. Ownership of intellectual property rights arising out of the implementation of this Framework Agreement will be determined and decided upon by the Participants on a case-by-case basis and documented in accordance with the procedures referred to in paragraph 5 of Section II (Modalities of Cooperation and Coordination).
3. Neither Participant will be allowed to make statements to the media on behalf of the other Participant relating to this Framework Agreement unless otherwise agreed to by the Participants. All publicity materials such as press releases and statements related to the Framework Agreement will be jointly approved by both Participants prior to their release to the media or the public.
4. Neither Participant will disclose or distribute any confidential information, document or data received or supplied to by the other Participant in the course of the implementation of this Framework Agreement or any other arrangements made by the Participants pursuant to this Framework Agreement, to any third party unless expressly authorised in writing to do so by the other Participant.
5. The Participants accept that the provisions of this Section III will survive and continue to apply notwithstanding expiration or the termination of this

Framework Agreement.

IV. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any difference or dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation, or application of this Framework Agreement will be settled amicably through consultation and negotiations between the Participants.

V. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in or related to this Framework Agreement and any arrangements made pursuant to this Framework Agreement will be deemed to constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the immunities, privileges, exemptions and facilities enjoyed by either Participant in accordance with their respective constituent agreements.

VI. COMMENCEMENT, DURATION, AND REVIEW

1. This Framework Agreement will be effective for a period of five (5) years from the date of signature and may be extended for another period of five (5) years, subject to the arrangement of the Participants, and based on a joint review and a new five (5)-year plan of action to implement this Framework Agreement.

2. This Framework Agreement may be terminated at any time by either Participant, by giving the other Participant six (6)-months written notice in advance. The termination of this Framework Agreement will not prejudice the completion of ongoing programmes and projects as decided by the Participants in accordance

with the established procedures referred to in paragraph 5 of Section III (Modalities of Cooperation and Coordination).

3. This Framework Agreement may be amended by arrangement of the Participants in accordance with their respective rules and procedures and will form an integral part of this Framework Agreement. Such amendment will become effective on such date as may be determined by the Participants.

4. A joint review of this Framework Agreement may be convened by the Participants thirty-six (36) months after this Framework Agreement becomes effective, and at the final year of the term, to assess the achievements and challenges in implementation and the need for expansion or adjustments in the areas of cooperation. Additional interim meetings to review the joint activities, programmes and projects under this Framework Agreement may be convened as decided upon by the Participants.

DONE AT Jakarta, Indonesia, this Twenty-Ninth Day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty One, in duplicate, in the English Language.