

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
AND
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) with its Secretariat located in Jl. Sisingamangaraja No.70A Jakarta, Indonesia, and the Pacific Islands Forum (hereinafter referred to as “PIF”), an organisation established by treaty under the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 27 October 2005 acting through the Secretariat with its headquarters at Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji Islands, hereinafter are referred to singularly as the “Participant” and collectively as the “Participants”;

CONSIDERING ASEAN as an intergovernmental regional organisation whose purposes, as expressed in the ASEAN Charter, are, among others, to maintain the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners in a regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive, resilient, and rules-based;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of ASEAN to maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves;

RECOGNISING ASEAN’s vision as outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP);

CONSIDERING PIF as an intergovernmental organization whose purpose is to strengthen regional cooperation and integration, including through the pooling of regional resources of governance and the alignment of policies in order to further Forum Members shared goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, and security;

REAFFIRMING the value to the PIF of effective, inclusive, and enduring partnerships based on mutual accountability and respect;

RECOGNISING the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the long-term approach for regional cooperation in the Pacific region;

WELCOMING the opportunity for the cooperation between ASEAN and PIF to maintain and enhance peace and prosperity in both regions through the conclusion of mutually beneficial cooperation between them; and

DESIRING to strengthen cooperation between the two Participants for the benefit of their Member Countries,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

**PARAGRAPH 1
OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MoU”) is to set out practical cooperation between the Participants to be undertaken by their respective Secretariats.

PARAGRAPH 2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

The Participants will aim to act in a spirit of close cooperation through regular consultations on matters of common interest on prioritised areas and programmes, which might include joint initiatives to be decided by the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 3 AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants will prioritise their cooperation in the following areas:

- (a) **Priority areas of cooperation**, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and economic and other possible areas of cooperation;
- (b) **Blue Economy**, referring to the sustainable, resilient and inclusive use, governance, management and conservation of oceans, seas as well as marine and coastal resources and ecosystems for economic growth across various sectors, such as: fishery, aquaculture, maritime transport, renewable energy, tourism, climate change, and research and development, while improving human well-being and social equity;
- (c) **People-to-People Exchanges**, through seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions, documentaries, and other events facilitating exchange of ideas, and learning experiences;
- (d) **Disaster Risk Reduction**, by sharing best practices, experience and knowledge, and capacity building;

- (e) **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief**, through sharing of lessons learnt, best practice examples, experience and knowledge, capacity building opportunities and volunteer contributions, both in kind and in cash to support relief efforts among the Participants; and
- (f) **Digital and Green Economies**, and other areas of cooperation to be decided by the Participants such as supply chain resilience and smart cities.

PARAGRAPH 4 MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION

1. The Participants through their respective Secretariats will jointly review their cooperation and develop a 'Cooperation Plan' that would identify the specific activities or programmes to be implemented under this MoU.

2. The Participants will implement this MoU in conformity with their respective regulations, rules and administrative practices.

PARAGRAPH 5 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nothing in the MoU shall impose any financial or budgetary obligation upon either Participant. Without prejudice to specific agreements on a case-by-case basis, joint action will not give rise to any financial contribution, compensation, or reimbursement by either Participant.

PARAGRAPH 6
EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MoU serves only as a record of the Participants' intentions and does not constitute or create obligations under international and domestic law and will not give rise to any legal process and will not be deemed to constitute or create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, express, or implied.

PARAGRAPH 7
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

Any disputes or differences between the Participants concerning the interpretation, application, and/or implementation of the provisions of this MoU will be settled amicably through consultations and/or negotiations between the Participants, and will not be subject to any dispute settlement mechanism.

PARAGRAPH 8
OTHER RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Notwithstanding anything contained in this MoU, where the implementation of cooperation under this MoU affects any Participant's rights and interests with respect to its confidentiality or secrecy of documents, information and data, that Participant may take appropriate steps or consult with the other Participant to ensure that its right and interest are protected and safeguarded.

PARAGRAPH 9 FOCAL POINTS

The Participants agree that the focal points for senior level consultations and receipt of all communications are:

For ASEAN:

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political Security Community

Email: public@asean.org

For PIF:

Deputy Secretary General – Strategic Policy and Programming

Email: info@forumsec.org

PARAGRAPH 10 REVISION, MODIFICATION, AND AMENDMENT

1. Either Participant may request in writing a revision, modification, or amendments of all or any part of this MoU.
2. Any revision, modification, or amendment agreed to by the Participants will be reduced into writing and will form part of this MoU.
3. Such revision, modification, or amendment will enter into effect on such date as may be determined by the Participants.
4. Any revision, modification, or amendment will not prejudice the benefits and commitments arising from or based on this MoU before or up to the date of such revision, modification, or amendment.

PARAGRAPH 11
ENTRY INTO EFFECT, DURATION, AND TERMINATION

1. This MoU will enter into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect for a period of five years.
2. This MoU may be extended upon mutual consent of the Participants in writing.
3. This MoU may be terminated by either of the Participants by giving not less than six (6) months' written notice in advance of its intention to terminate this MoU to the other Participant. Such termination will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities or programmes which have been agreed upon prior to the date of termination.

SIGNED at Jakarta, Indonesia, on the Fourth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally valid.

For ASEAN:

For PIF:

DR. KAO KIM HOURN
Secretary-General of ASEAN

ESALA NAYASI
Deputy Secretary-General of PIF