



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
AND
THE FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
ON
CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOTBALL**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with its Secretariat located in Jl. Sisingamangaraja No.70A Jakarta, Indonesia, and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), with its registered office at FIFA-Strasse 20, 8044 Zurich, Switzerland, hereinafter are referred to singularly as the "Participant" and collectively as the "Participants";

CONSIDERING ASEAN as an inter-governmental organisation whose purposes, as embodied 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 and inclusive;

CONSIDERING FIFA as the world football's governing body, an association governed by Swiss law, founded in 1904 and composed of 211 member associations, whose vision is to promote the game, protect its integrity and bring it to all;

CONSIDERING that one of FIFA's statutory objectives is to improve the game of football constantly and to promote its global reach in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and

humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

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;

RECALLING the aspirations of the Vientiane Declaration on Sports Cooperation in ASEAN adopted by the Second ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS-2) on 5 December 2013, in Vientiane, Lao PDR, whereby cooperation in sports was to be strengthened to realise the vision of an ASEAN Community, to forge a common regional identity and build a caring and sharing society, with the ultimate goal of achieving unity and solidarity among all nations and peoples of ASEAN;

RECALLING the ASEAN Declaration on Leveraging the Role of Sports in ASEAN Community-Building and Achieving the SDGs adopted in Phnom Penh, on 11 November 2022, which agreed to strengthen good governance and mechanisms to promote greater sports integrity and enhance the resilience of the sports sector, and to explore innovation to enhance the contribution of sports to ASEAN Community-building as well as the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, through inclusion and empowerment of societies through sports, among others;

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association signed on 2 November 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand, and expired on 2 November 2024;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to continue to collaborate with FIFA in alignment with FIFA's strategic roadmap "Strategic Objectives for the Global Game: 2023-2027"; and the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2026-2030; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the opportunity to promote sports, and in particular football, for all as a fundamental field of intervention for governments to achieve the full potential of physical activity for personal and social development,

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

PARAGRAPH 1 OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) are to foster synergies and guide the collaboration between the Participants in leveraging football as a catalyst for social development and healthy lifestyles, including by enhancing inclusive access to football, protecting the integrity of the game, expanding networks and professional capacity building in football, as well as instilling the values of its sportsmanship in the ASEAN Community-building process.
2. This MOU provides for a framework for strengthening and further developing synergies and collaboration between the Participants. This MOU in itself is not legally-binding and does not create legally binding rights or obligations under international or domestic law for either Participant. Specific agreements may be decided and executed by the Participants to carry out joint activities within this framework. ASEAN and FIFA will aim to collaborate by exchanging views on their respective activities and by preparing and implementing common strategies and programmes for the priorities and areas of shared interest as set out in this MOU.

PARAGRAPH 2

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

The Participants aim to act in a spirit of close collaboration 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 COLLABORATION AND KEY PRIORITIES

1. The priority areas of collaboration under this MOU are:

- (a) Promotion of Sports Integrity
 - (i) The Participants will collaborate to promote safe sport in football and beyond, by developing and implementing initiatives to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, harassment, discrimination, and other misconduct.
 - (ii) The Participants will collaborate to promote good governance, anti-corruption and anti-match manipulation measures in football and replication of best practices for cross-sectoral and inter-agency coordination.
 - (iii) The Participants will jointly implement awareness-raising strategies aimed at combatting anti-doping and the misuse of substances in sports. This strategy will include educational programs and campaigns designed to inform athletes, coaches, officials and athlete support personnel about the risks and consequences of doping.

- (b) Sports for Socio-Economic Development

- (i) The Participants will promote healthy and active lifestyles amongst the populations of ASEAN member states through football and related activities.
 - (ii) Football will be utilised as a tool for community-building and integration, fostering social cohesion and mutual understanding among diverse groups within and across the member states.
 - (iii) Cultural exchange between countries will be facilitated through football, encouraging mutual respect, and appreciation for cultural diversity through the sharing of sports traditions and values.
 - (iv) The Participants will collaborate to facilitate, in addition to cultural exchanges, the exchange of expertise, services, and research related to football through various programs, including but not limited to academic and football-related events.
- (c) Football Development on and off the Pitch
- (i) The Participants will collaborate to enhance the safety and security in the management of football stadiums and facilities, as well as during major events, to ensure a safe environment for all participants and spectators.
 - (ii) In an effort to advance football development, the Participants will explore the scaling-up of FIFA's Football 4 School Programme™. This includes the feasibility study for the establishment of the *ASEAN-FIFA Football School Competition*, which will be coordinated

with the ASEAN School Sports Council and the identification and development of young talents within the region.

(iii) The Participants will also collaborate in the further development of professionals and practitioners involved with football, including but not limited to sports science and medical practitioners, to further enhance the quality of such professionals, and in turn, football itself.

(d) Promotion of Inclusivity in and through Football

- (i) The empowerment of women and girls on and off the pitch will be a cornerstone of the Participants' efforts, promoting their full participation in all aspects of football.
- (ii) The inclusion of persons with disabilities and marginalised communities in football will be actively pursued by the Participants, ensuring that football remains accessible and welcoming to all sectors of society.

(e) Climate Change

- (i) A collaborative effort will be made to raise awareness among stakeholders in the football community about the impacts of climate change.
- (ii) Capacity-building initiatives will be developed to support the creation of climate-proof sport infrastructures, ensuring that football contributes positively to environmental sustainability and resilience.

2. The Participants agree that the areas of cooperation outlined above are of mutual interest and benefit, and they will

endeavour to implement the provisions of this MOU in good faith, guided by principles of mutual respect, equality, and shared benefit, as well as taking into account the relevant laws, regulations, and policies of each Participant.

PARAGRAPH 4 MODALITIES FOR COLLABORATION

1. Unless otherwise provided, nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as obliging either of the Participants to take part in, contribute to, or in any other way support any activities planned, or action proposed, or undertaken by the other Participant.
2. Each Participant will manage its own budget. Without prejudice to specific agreements on a case-by-case basis, joint action will not give rise to any financial contributions, compensation, or reimbursement by either Participant.

PARAGRAPH 5 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Participants will jointly review their collaboration and develop a 'Collaboration Plan' that would identify the specific activities or projects to be implemented. Such activities or projects will be jointly decided by the Participants through consultations and are to be developed and finalised by mutual agreement of the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 6 CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Each Participant will endeavour to observe the confidentiality and secrecy of documents, information, and other data received or supplied to the other Participant during the period of the implementation of this MOU or any other

agreements made pursuant to this MOU, except to the extent authorised in written form to do so by the Participant providing it.

2. The Participants accept that the provisions of this Paragraph will be applied between the Participants notwithstanding the termination of this MOU.

PARAGRAPH 7 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute or differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably through consultations or negotiations between the Participants through agreed channels without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

PARAGRAPH 8 AMENDMENT

1. This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the Participants which will be made in writing and will form part of this MOU.
2. Such amendments will come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Participants.

PARAGRAPH 9 COMMENCEMENT, DURATION, AND TERMINATION

1. This MOU will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain effective for a period of five (5) years. This MOU may be extended upon mutual consent of the Participants.

2. This MOU may be terminated by either of the Participant by giving no less than six months' written notice in advance 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 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twenty-sixth Day of October in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in two original copies in the English language, both texts being equally valid.

For ASEAN:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAO KIM HOURN'.

DR. KAO KIM HOURN
Secretary-General of ASEAN

For FIFA:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GIANNI INFANTINO'.

GIANNI INFANTINO
President of FIFA