

Summary of Key Points Raised at the
Special Panel Discussion on Regional Dimensions of
Promoting Sustainable Development:
Developing Complementarities Between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025
24 September 2016, 09.00-10.45 hrs,
Conference Room 7, UNHQ, New York

1. **Overview:**

1.1 Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development exist and should be promoted. Even though the nomenclature and terminologies used in the two organizations and documents are different, ultimately, there are shared goals within the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.2 All Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important but priority areas are also needed to stimulate actions within the next 2-5 years.

1.3 Key principles that participants felt should guide ASEAN's efforts on this initiative people-oriented, people-centred, leaving no one behind, and the rule of law.

1.4 It is necessary to secure a buy-in from all relevant stakeholders at the grass roots in order to ensure that the support for SDGs and Community-building process are sustainable, bearing in mind the lessons from Brexit.

2. The Panel also exchanged views on possible priority areas in promoting complementarities, particularly those that are cross-cutting in nature and can contribute to a number of SDGs simultaneously, as follows:

2.1 Poverty Eradication and Elimination of Inequality;

2.2 Enhancing Connectivity;

2.3 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) including Energy Efficiency, Capacity Building, and Resource Management;

2.4 Promoting good governance;

2.5 Promoting gender mainstreaming, gender equality and empowerment;

2.6 Environment and climate change;

2.7 Improving financial systems;

2.8 Developing good database and analytical framework that could support the review and evaluation of project implementation.

3. The Panel recognized **the value-added that regional organizations, such as ASEAN, can contribute to the attainment of SDGs, while at the same time promoting regional integration** as follows:

3.1 Set the standard and facilitate best-practices sharing from within and across the region;

3.2 Enhance regional connectivity which is crucial to trade and investment promotion as well as narrowing development;

3.3 Serve as a platform to brainstorm ideas, stimulate action and mobilize financing resources for development;

3.4 Serve as a foundation for South-South cooperation;

3.5 Address transboundary and cross-cutting issues;

3.6 Forge a common identity among Member States that will help Member States think beyond national policies.

4. However, the Panelists also pointed out that the majority of the work needed to be done to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will have to be at the national level. Therefore, the regional efforts should not detract from national ones.

5. Cooperation to achieve SDGs at the regional and global levels can be achieved in tandem.

6. Sustainable development is only one part of the bigger picture of ASEAN-UN cooperation which should continue to be promoted.

7. The success of this complementarities will be measured by the implementation. Therefore, specific projects leading to specific results need to be identified. This can focus on particular actions line linking up to specific SDGs.

8. There needs to be sources of funding for the development and implementation of projects. The UN agencies offered to help explore options in this regard.
