



Maritime Security and Cooperation in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2025

Presentation by the ASEAN Secretariat

**8th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security
Manila, 6-7 April 2016**





APSC Blueprint 2025 Overview

- **Adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015 as a component of ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together**
- **Continuation of the APSC Blueprint 2009-2015 and contains ASEAN's aspirations and commitment for political-security cooperation over the next decade**
- **Comprised of key characteristics which are inter-related and mutually reinforcing, and shall be pursued in a balanced and holistic manner**





Key Characteristics

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**action lines/
measures**

**A. Rules-Based, People-Oriented,
People-Centred Community**

B. Peaceful, Secure, Stable Region

**C. ASEAN Centrality in a Dynamic
and Outward Looking Region**

**D. Strengthened Institutional
Capacity and Presence**



Peaceful, Secure and Stable Region

Comprehensive approach to security



B.1. Strengthen ASEAN ability to deal with existing and emerging challenges

B.2. Respond to urgent issues or crisis situations affecting ASEAN in an effective and timely manner

B.3. Enhance ASEAN capacity to address non-traditional security issues effectively and in a timely manner



Peaceful, Secure and Stable Region

Comprehensive approach to security



B.4. Resolve differences and disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and principles of international law, including refraining from the threat or use of force as well as adopting peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms while strengthening confidence-building measures, promoting preventive diplomacy activities and conflict resolution initiatives

B.5. Preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, while contributing to global efforts on disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy

B.6. Enhance maritime security and promote maritime cooperation in ASEAN region and beyond, through the strengthening of ASEAN-led mechanisms and the adoption of internationally accepted maritime conventions and principles



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B.6.1. Maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity, and cooperation

- i. Continue ASEAN current practice of close consultation among ASEAN Member States on matters pertaining to the South China Sea, including the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC);
- ii. Intensify dialogue and consultation between ASEAN and China on matters pertaining to the South China Sea;
- iii. Ensure the full and effective implementation of the DOC, including the effective monitoring and assessment of its implementation;
- iv. Intensify negotiation between ASEAN and China for the early adoption of the COC and ensure its full and effective implementation;
- v. Resolve territorial and jurisdictional disputes among parties concerned by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);



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B.6.1. Maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity, and cooperation

- vi. Exercise self-restraint by all parties in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features;
- vii. Undertake possible joint cooperative activities, measures and projects as provided for in the DOC based on consensus among parties concerned, and which will lead to eventual realisation of the COC;
- viii. Explore or undertake cooperative activities among parties concerned on marine environmental protection;
- ix. Explore or undertake cooperative activities among parties concerned on marine scientific research and other agreed activities;
- x. Ensure freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS;



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B.6.1. Maintain the South China Sea as a sea of peace, prosperity, and cooperation

- xi. Promote and enhance trust and confidence between ASEAN and China, including through the effective implementation of the agreed early harvest measures;
- xii. Combat transnational crimes, including but not limited to trafficking in illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and illegal traffic in arms;
- xiii. Pursue further confidence-building and preventive diplomacy measures in the South China Sea, including developing SOP to prevent incidents such as unplanned encounters at sea; and
- xiv. Promote sharing of best practices and lessons learnt regarding maritime dispute settlement and maritime cooperation.



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B.6.2. Promote maritime cooperation to comprehensively address maritime issues

- i. Enhance coordination among ASEAN mechanisms on maritime cooperation, such as the ASEAN Maritime Forum, to comprehensively address maritime issues;
- ii. Promote dialogue and cooperation on maritime issues in other ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum while ensuring ASEAN centrality;
- iii. Enhance maritime security and safety in the region in order to ensure greater maritime connectivity, anchored on secure and safe sea lines of communication and freedom of navigation;
- iv. Enhance maritime security cooperation, especially maritime law enforcement, including through information sharing, to identify maritime security challenges and their potential impact on regional peace and security;
- v. Promote linkages between national, regional and international mechanisms on maritime cooperation, particularly in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;
- vi. Promote closer maritime cooperation in the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including the sustainable use of maritime resources and the protection of biodiversity;



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B.6.2. Promote maritime cooperation to comprehensively address maritime issues

- vii. Expand ASEAN maritime cooperation to effectively combat transnational crimes such as maritime terrorism, smuggling of goods, people and weapons, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, piracy, hijacking, armed robbery against ships, as well as to address transboundary challenges including oil spill incidents and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, through concrete and practical activities, while maintaining the respective reporting lines;
- viii. Strengthen ASEAN cooperation in enhancing maritime domain awareness and its increased impact on security, safety, economy and environment of the region;
- ix. Enhance cooperation in maritime safety and search and rescue as well as strengthen implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on Cooperation in Search and Rescue of Persons and Vessels in Distress at Sea, through activities such as information sharing, technological cooperation, exchange of visits of authorities concerned, tabletop exercises and field training exercises at sea, as well as collaboration with Dialogue Partners and relevant international maritime organisations;



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B.6.2. Promote maritime cooperation to comprehensively address maritime issues

- x. Strengthen existing maritime cooperation mechanisms, in cooperation with relevant external parties, with a view to augmenting the capacity to combat illegal activities at sea;
- xi. Enhance cooperation with relevant external parties in combating piracy in cases affecting nationals of ASEAN Member States in other regions; and
- xii. Strengthen and expand activities on capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies in the region, including through engaging external parties, particularly Dialogue Partners.



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B.6.3. Ensure peaceful, safe, free and unimpeded international navigation and overflight, in accordance with international laws

- i. Support the effective implementation of the relevant international laws and conventions, including the 1982 UNCLOS;
- ii. Promote hotlines of communication among relevant agencies in ASEAN Member States to respond immediately to incidents and emergency situations at sea;
- iii. Enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States and with relevant external parties in ensuring safety of navigation and overflight in the region, including through workshops and seminars to share experiences and best practices;
- iv. Enhance dialogue and cooperation with relevant international organisations, such as the UN, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization to ensure the effective implementation of conventions and instruments related to maritime cooperation, including, but not limited to, safety of life at sea, the welfare of seafarers, and prevention of pollution from ships; and
- v. Enhance the implementation of the MoU on ASEAN Cooperation Mechanism for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Responses as a regional collaborative mechanism to build capacities and capabilities and promote mutual assistance.



The Role of the ARF

B.1.3. Strengthen the ASEAN Regional Forum process in support of the ASEAN Community

Eight action lines, e.g.:

- i. Enhance the ARF as an action-oriented mechanism that develops concrete and effective responses to the common challenges confronting the Asia-Pacific region**
- iv. Implement the decision of the ARF Ministers to move the ARF towards the stage of preventive diplomacy while continuing to strengthen confidence-building measures**
- v. Develop concrete and mutually beneficial cooperation programmes, as appropriate, between ARF and relevant regional and international organisations, including those of the UN system**



Thank you!

For further information, please contact
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<http://aseanregionalforum.asean.org>

