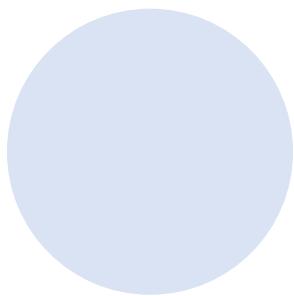
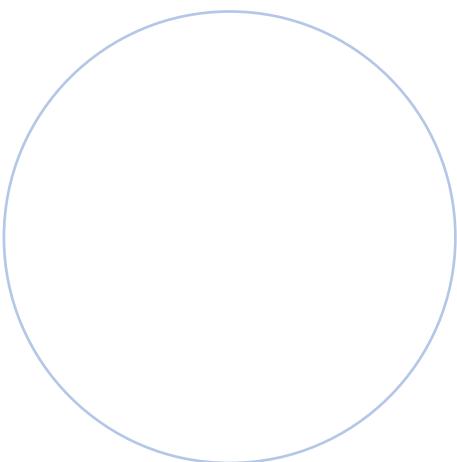
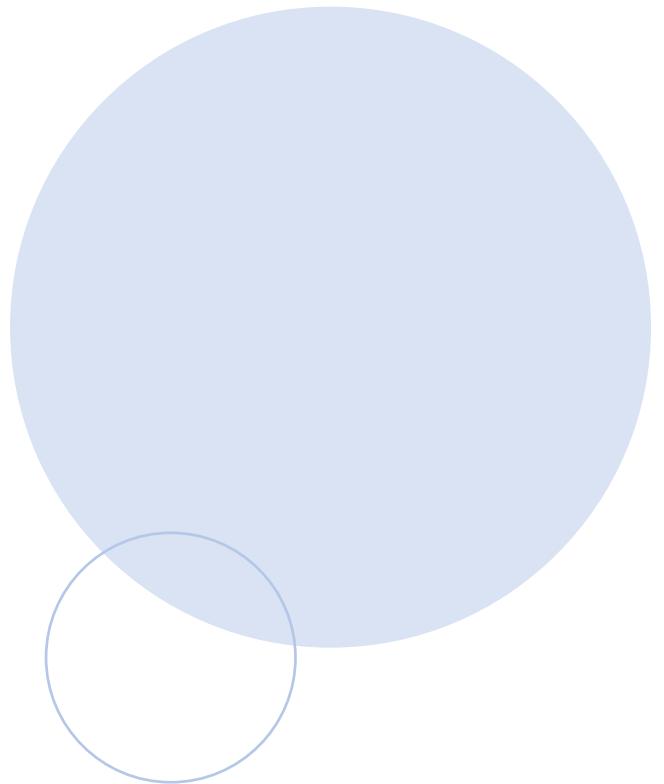




# UKRAINE-ASEAN: vision of cooperation

KYIV,  
February 2024





**The document “Ukraine-ASEAN: vision of cooperation” is produced by the Fourth Territorial Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.**

**It expresses Ukraine’s vision of cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and intends to strengthen relations and ensure effective cooperation between the Parties.**

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## QUOTATION



“ The global growth and international stability in the XXI century cannot be imagined without solid relations with [...] Southeast Asian countries [...].<sup>1</sup>

”

“ For Ukraine it is extremely important to have meaningful relations with the entire Southeast Asian region and every country in the region. We move on in this direction.<sup>2</sup>

”

“ As we ensure the resilience of our state, we are able to help other states maintain and develop the resilience as well. For example, we would like to consider cooperation with partners in the fields of Food Security, Digitalization and Cyber Security. We have an experience that can strengthen our partners, thus making new friends for Ukraine worldwide.<sup>3</sup>

”

Volodymyr Zelenskyy  
President of Ukraine

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<sup>1</sup> Speech by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the Conference of Ambassadors dd 23.12.2022, available at: <https://president.gov.ua/news/shodnya-vi-mayete-vidchuvati-sho-vid-vashoyi-roboti-zalezhit-80041>

<sup>2</sup> Every new result achieved for Ukraine means a shorter time to victory - address by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, dd 13.02.2023, available at: <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/kozhen-novij-zdobutij-dlya-ukrayini-rezultat-ce-skorochennya-80965>

<sup>3</sup> Speech by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the Conference of Ambassadors dd 23.12.2022, available at: <https://president.gov.ua/news/shodnya-vi-mayete-vidchuvati-sho-vid-vashoyi-roboti-zalezhit-80041>



## FOREWORD

Ukraine is willing to achieve a longstanding, dynamic and broad-based relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

We share commitments of everlasting amity and cooperation, respect of the independence, sovereignty and national identity with ASEAN member states. We also support Association's belief and attitude of partnership through Sectoral Dialogue cooperation.

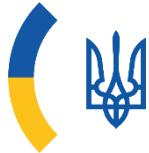


For the past few years, we have observed a significant increase in the level of cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN member states. The dialogue between our highest officials, strong bilateral parliamentarian ties and direct communication between the authorities demonstrate the significance of these relations for both sides.

At the same time, we would like to make a new step forward in order to develop strong sectoral ties in such domains as Food and Agriculture, Digital Sector, Trade, Energy, Disasters Management, Demining, Social and Cultural Cooperation.

We trust that through deepening the interaction, we would be able to reach the full potential of relations between Ukraine and ASEAN member states for all of us today and for the generations to come.

*Dmytro Kuleba  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine*



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## PREAMBLE

*Taking into account that,*

- ◆ Ukraine considers Asia as the most dynamic region in the world, and the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with Asian countries, their associations, and regional organizations is one of the promising areas of Ukraine's foreign policy;<sup>4</sup>
- ◆ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) opened its doors to External Parties in 1987 by amending its fundamental Treaty on Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC);
- ◆ On 20 May 2013, ASEAN acknowledged the first Ambassador of Ukraine to ASEAN, and starting from that time, Ukraine has always been represented within the Association;
- ◆ On 25 August 2021, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) granted the status of Observer to the Parliament of Ukraine;
- ◆ On 21 December 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified the accession of Ukraine to the TAC;
- ◆ Ukraine shares the vision of an integrated, peaceful, and stable community of ASEAN expressed in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025;
- ◆ Pursuant to the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, "*Ukraine shall make efforts to institutionalize relations with ASEAN*";<sup>5</sup>
- ◆ The intensification of cooperation between Ukraine and the ASEAN region is part of the Asian Strategy adopted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, has stated that ASEAN member states are of particular interest to Ukraine due to "*political support, defence, agriculture, IT, mutually beneficial trade*"<sup>7</sup> and "*development of cooperation with ASEAN is one of the key elements of our foreign policy*";<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ In January 2024, Lao People's Democratic Republic has officially taken over the rotating Presidency in ASEAN.

*Ukraine intends to become ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner in the domains of common interest as well as maintain strong mutually beneficial relations with ASEAN and its member states.*

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<sup>4</sup> Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, Articles 140 and 141, available at: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/448/2021?lang=en>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Article 149.

<sup>6</sup> Press statement "Dmytro Kuleba: Ukraine and Ukrainian entrepreneurs will get new opportunities in the ASEAN region" dd 10.11.2023, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/dmitro-kuleba-ukrayina-ta-ukrayinskij-biznes-otrimayut-novi-mozhlivosti-v-regioni-asean>

<sup>7</sup> Press statement "MFA opens new horizons for Ukraine in Southeast Asia" dd 04.11.2022, available at: <https://mfa.gov.ua/news/dmitro-kuleba-vidvidaye-kambodzhu-mzs-vidkrivaye-novi-gorizonti-dlya-ukrayini-v-pivdenno-shidnjii-aziyi>

<sup>8</sup> Press statement "Why Asia's support is important for Ukraine" dd 09.11.2022, available at: <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/chomu-ukrayini-vazhliva-pidtrimka-aziyi-poyasnenna-1667990693.html>



# UKRAINE-ASEAN RELATIONS





Ukraine is the largest country located entirely within Europe – 603,500 km<sup>2</sup>. It has easy access to the top European business centres (under 2500 km to London, Paris, Berlin, and Stockholm), systematically improving road quality, well-developed infrastructure – 13 seaports, 16 river ports, and 19700 km of railways.<sup>9</sup>

Ukraine is among the top countries open for trade with 18 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for 46 countries, including FTAs with the EU, the UK, the European Free Trade Association, Canada and others. According to the World Bank, Ukraine's GDP is expected to expand by 4% in 2024.<sup>10</sup>

It is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Science & Technology Global Contribution and 17<sup>th</sup> (both out of 169) in World Order Global Contribution.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the economic openness index of the country amounts to 90%.<sup>12</sup>

As the world's top agricultural producer and exporter, Ukraine plays a critical role in supplying oilseeds and grains to the global market. More than 55% of Ukraine's land area is arable land. Agriculture provides employment for 14% of Ukraine's population.

Ukraine holds leading position as the world's top producer of sunflower meal, oil, and seed; the world's top exporter of sunflower meal and oil; 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exporter and 6<sup>th</sup> largest producer of rapeseed, with shipments totalling \$1,7 billion in 2021; 9<sup>th</sup> largest producer and 7<sup>th</sup> largest exporter for soybeans, with sales valued at \$600 million in 2021; 7<sup>th</sup> largest wheat producer.<sup>13</sup>

It is a leading actor in Digital technologies with an IT sector represented by more than 280,000 highly qualified specialists. The domain provides about 4% of the country's GDP and almost 40% of Ukrainian export of services.<sup>14</sup> Such famous start-ups as Ajax Systems, Delfats, Esper Bionics, FuelWell, Gitlab, Grammarly, People.AI, RefaceAI, Re-leaf Paper, SOC Prime, and many others were born here. Ukrainian state-made unique IT product Diia is now shared around the world as a tool that helps transform the way people connect with their governments,<sup>15</sup> as well as such systems as Diia.Engine,<sup>16</sup> Diia.Education,<sup>17</sup> Diia.Business Export<sup>18</sup> and Trembita.<sup>19</sup>

As of today, Ukraine's Energy industry remains one of the most powerful in Europe. Ukraine is among the top 10 European countries in terms of installed

<sup>9</sup> Opportunities for trade with Ukraine, available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/trade-with-ukraine/>

<sup>10</sup> Ukraine's economic outlook by World Bank dd October 2023, available at: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/d5f32ef28464d01f195827b7e020a3e8-0500022021/related/mpo-ukr.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The Good Country Index, available at: <https://index.goodcountry.org/>

<sup>12</sup> Opportunities for trade with Ukraine, available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/trade-with-ukraine/>

<sup>13</sup> Ukraine's Agricultural Production and Trade, available at:

<https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Ukraine-Factsheet-April2022.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ukraine as a digital country, available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/digitalization/>

<sup>15</sup> Press statement "The Ministry of Digital Transformation will help Estonia to create an application based on Diia" dd 02.09.2022, available at: <https://thedigital.gov.ua/news/the-ministry-of-digital-transformation-will-help-estonia-to-create-an-application-based-on-dia>

<sup>16</sup> Press statement "The Ministry of Digital Transformation presents Diia.Engine tool accelerating the development of a digital state" dd 19.09.2023, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/mintsyfry-prezentovaly-instrument-diiengine-iakyi-pryshydshui-rozvytok-tsyfrovoi-derzhavy>

<sup>17</sup> About the DIIA.Education, available at: <https://osvita.diiia.gov.ua/en/about>

<sup>18</sup> About the DIIA.Business, available at: <https://business.diiia.gov.ua/en>

<sup>19</sup> Further information about the Trembita system is available at: <https://trembita.gov.ua/about>



power generation capacity, among the top 3 gas producers and has the largest underground gas properties in Europe. Extensive and reliable transportation systems of gas, oil, petroleum products and electricity transmission are interconnected between Ukraine, the EU member states and Moldova. Ukraine has one of the highest shares of carbon-neutral generation in Europe. About 70% of electricity is produced by nuclear, hydro and renewable generation.<sup>20</sup>

For Ukraine, Disaster Management and Demining are at the forefront in responding to immediate needs resulting from natural, man-made, and war-related damage due to Russian aggression. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine is the main institution responsible for civil protection and disaster risk management in Ukraine. It has been actively providing essential and immediate support to vulnerable populations. Nuclear security is a top priority for Ukraine as well, given its past and recent nuclear history.

In Social and Cultural cooperation, Ukraine relies on its thousand-year-old culture and traditions.<sup>21</sup> It is home to more than 130 national minorities, which include Crimean Muslim Tatars, Hungarians, Romanians and many others.<sup>22</sup> Ukraine considers horizontal connectivity as a key to effective social and cultural cooperation with the Association.

ASEAN is the most significant Association in Asia, covering the surface of 4 522 518 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of over 663,9 million people.<sup>23</sup> It is a major global hub of manufacturing and trade, as well as one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world, which seeks to deepen ties and capture an even greater share of global trade.<sup>24</sup> Ukraine is its stable partner, whose market and knowledge present noteworthy opportunities for ASEAN countries and which shares the same values of peace, amity, and security.

For the past decade, the Ambassadors of Ukraine to ASEAN have been working on bringing Ukraine closer to ASEAN and its member states. Since the development of relations with ASEAN is one of the main objectives of Ukrainian diplomatic efforts in the region, the question of deepening the relations with ASEAN has been constantly discussed during bilateral meetings with representatives of ASEAN member states.

Ukraine has an extensive network of diplomatic missions in the region, which serve as focal points for strengthening relations between Ukraine and ASEAN. Ambassador of Ukraine to ASEAN (Mr. Vasyl Hamianin) as well as Ukraine's diplomatic missions to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam cover 10 ASEAN member states and possess the respective accreditations for the above purpose.

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<sup>20</sup> Recovery Plan of Ukraine, Page 7, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/recoveryrada/ua/energy-security.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> "Origins and history of Ukraine", available at: <https://ukraine.ua/explore/origins-history-of-ukraine/>

<sup>22</sup> "Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine", available at: <https://ukraineworld.org/en/articles/russian-aggression/indigenous-peoples-ukraine-you-may-have-never-heard-about>

<sup>23</sup> ASEAN statistical highlights 2022, available at: <https://www.aseanstats.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/ASEAN-Highlights-2022-v03.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> "Understanding ASEAN" by Vinayak HV, Fraser Thompson, Oliver Tonby, available at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/understanding-asean-seven-things-you-need-to-know>



The efforts resulted in the Parliament of Ukraine obtaining the Observer status of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) on 25 August 2021. Following the above, the delegations of the Parliament of Ukraine participated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (20-23 November 2022) and 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (5-10 August 2023) of the AIPA, where they had numerous meetings with ASEAN's member states parliamentarians and high officials.

Starting in 2021, Members of the Parliament of Ukraine also took part in various webinars of the AIPA with regards to "Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems" (25 November 2021), "Growing Challenge of Confronting Fisheries Crime in ASEAN" (15 February 2022), "Technology and Innovation Solutions to address Marine Debris in Southeast Asia" (6 July 2023).

Furthermore, on 19 October 2021, the first ASEAN Research Centre in Ukraine was inaugurated by Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine within the Educational and Scientific Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. The Center's activities aim at establishing effective interaction between researchers and scientists as well as promoting humanitarian, educational, and interpersonal contacts between Ukraine and ASEAN member states.

On 21 December 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified the accession of Ukraine to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, following the consent regarding Ukraine's accession by all ASEAN member states, achieved during the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 10 November 2022). The Treaty establishes a legal framework for maintaining regular political, economic, cultural and humanitarian contacts and developing mutually beneficial projects between Ukraine and ASEAN.

During the above 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits, Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine had a meeting with Mr. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN (2018-2022). It was agreed to take concrete steps to deepen cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN in Trade, Digital Sector, and Agriculture, as well as strengthen political dialogue and mutual support. The parties also agreed to hold a series of political contacts and bilateral events to bring political and economic collaboration to a qualitatively new level: presentation of investment opportunities between Ukraine and ASEAN, a business forum for establishing direct business contacts, exchange of experience in the use of the Ukrainian digital platform NAZOVNI and the Asian Access system.<sup>25</sup>

Ukraine also welcomes ASEAN's support starting from 24 February 2022, when a full-scale invasion of Ukraine began by the Russian Federation. In 2022, ASEAN issued statements, where called on "peaceful resolution",<sup>26</sup> "immediate

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<sup>25</sup> Press statement "Dmytro Kuleba: Ukraine and Ukrainian entrepreneurs will get new opportunities in the ASEAN region" dd 10.11.2023, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/dmitro-kuleba-ukrayina-ta-ukrayinskij-biznes-otrimayut-novi-mozhlivosti-v-regioni-asean>

<sup>26</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the situation in Ukraine, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ASEAN-FM-Statement-on-Ukraine-Crisis-26-Feb-Final.pdf>



*ceasefire*,<sup>27</sup> and produced the “Statement on the reported killing of civilians”.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, ASEAN called for “cessation of hostilities” in the joint vision statement as a result of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit,<sup>29</sup> as well as in the Chairman’s Statement of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summits.<sup>30</sup> It also “reaffirmed the need to respect sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine” in the Chairman’s Statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United States Summit.<sup>31</sup> As a result of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit 2022, it was stated that “most members [i.e. leaders] strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy”.<sup>32</sup>

In 2023, ASEAN “continued to reaffirm respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity [of Ukraine]”,<sup>33</sup> “underlined the importance of an immediate cessation of hostilities to stop the war”,<sup>34</sup> “called for the facilitation of rapid, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance for those in need in Ukraine”,<sup>35</sup> demanded “complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine [of the Russian Federation]” and stated that “use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible”.<sup>36</sup>

On 29 January 2024 the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN issued the statement, where they “reaffirm[ed] respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity [of Ukraine]”, as well as “[...] called for the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and persons in vulnerable situations”.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Statement calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ASEAN-Foreign-Ministers-Statement-calling-for-Ceasefire-in-Ukraine-EN.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Statement on the reported killing of civilians in Ukraine, available at: [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ASEAN\\_FM\\_Statement\\_on\\_killing\\_of\\_civilians\\_in\\_Ukraine\\_final\\_8\\_April.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ASEAN_FM_Statement_on_killing_of_civilians_in_Ukraine_final_8_April.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Joint Vision Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Special Summit 2022, Clause 27, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Final-ASEAN-US-Special-Summit-2022-Joint-Vision-Statement.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Chairman’s Statement of The 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits, Clause 106, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/01-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-40th-and-41st-ASEAN-Summits-rev.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Chairman’s Statement of The 10th ASEAN-United States Summit, Clause 26, available at: [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/6\\_-Final-CS-10th-ASEAN-US-Summit.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/6_-Final-CS-10th-ASEAN-US-Summit.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Joint Leader’s Statement of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit 2022, Clause 46, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Final-ASEAN-EU-Commemorative-Summit-2022-Joint-Leaders-Statement.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> Joint Communique of the 56th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM), Clause 147, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-56th-AMM-Joint-Communique.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Chairman’s Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Sessions with the Dialogue Partners and Trilateral Meetings, Clause 18, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FINAL-Chairmans-Statement-PMC-101-with-DPs-and-Trilateral-.pdf>; Chairman’s Statement of The 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Clause 45, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FINAL-Chairman-Statement-13th-EAS-FMM.pdf>; Chairman’s Statement of the 30th ASEAN regional forum, Clause 27, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Chairmans-Statement-of-30th-ARF-2023-FINAL-1.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Chairman’s Statement of The 43rd ASEAN Summit, Clause 163, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/CHAIRMAN-STATEMENT-OF-THE-43RD-ASEAN-SUMMIT-FIN-2.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> Chairman’s Statement of The 11th ASEAN-United States Summit, Clause 28, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FINAL-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-11th-ASEAN-US-Summit.pdf>; Chairman’s Statement of The 26th ASEAN-Japan Summit, Clause 34, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FINAL-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-26th-ASEAN-Japan-Summit-.pdf>; Chairman’s Statement of The 3rd Annual ASEAN-Australia Summit, Clause 30, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FINAL-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-3rd-ASEAN-Australia-Summit.pdf>; Chairman’s Statement of The 18th East Asia Summit (EAS), Clause 39, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Final-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-18th-East-Asia-Summit.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Press Statement by the Chair of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Retreat dd 29.01.2024, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Press-Statement-by-the-Chair-of-the-AMM-Retreat-29-Jan-2024-Final.pdf>



On 24 October 2023 Ms. Ar. Siti Rozaimeriyanty Dato Haji Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the AIPA “highlight[ed] the pressing humanitarian crisis emanating from the ongoing conflict that calls for immediate action to safeguard fundamental human rights” during her video address at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimean Platform in Prague.<sup>38</sup>

Today, Ukraine intends to become ASEAN’s Sectoral Dialogue Partner. This reflects an unwavering commitment to partnership and openness to deeper understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation with the Association. Ukraine recognizes the significance of ASEAN as a key actor in today’s global landscape and seeks to actively cooperate with it for common development.

*“Southeast Asian countries have significant potential and prospects. Development of cooperation with them is one of the key elements of Ukrainian foreign policy”,<sup>39</sup> Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.*

In 2024, ASEAN is chaired by Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which took over the Presidency of the Association from Indonesia during the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and other related summits on 4-7 September 2023. Since becoming a member of ASEAN on 23 July 1997, Lao PDR chaired ASEAN twice: the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2004-2005 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 2016. In 2024, Lao PDR is honored to chair ASEAN for the third time.

The Lao PDR’s Presidency theme in 2024 is “Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”. In the face of challenges from economic and financial difficulties, climate change, natural disasters, cyber and traditional security issues, Lao PDR realises the significance of increasing connectivity and resilience as a way to reinforce the ASEAN Community and effectively deal with current and emerging threats.<sup>40</sup>

In 2024, the goal of Ukraine is to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN under the Presidency of Lao PDR and in cooperation with other ASEAN member states in Food and Agriculture, Digital Sector, Trade, Energy, Disasters Management, Demining, Social and Cultural Cooperation. It also intends to support the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and innovations, contributing to the growth of all relevant Parties. Ukraine trusts that an active engagement in the ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue shall open up new opportunities to expand horizons and contribute to a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership aimed at shared prosperity and sustainability.

<sup>38</sup> Video Message AIPA SG in the Second Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform, available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zm20W5z5bM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zm20W5z5bM)

<sup>39</sup> Press statement “Not only the West. Why Southeast Asia is important for Ukraine” dd 09.11.2022, available at: <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/tiki-zahid-chomu-pivdenno-shidna-aziya-vazhliva-1667985955.html>

<sup>40</sup> Press statement “Laos announces theme, logo of ASEAN Chairmanship 2024” dd 03.11.2023, available at: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/laos-announces-theme-logo-of-asean-chairmanship-2024/270672.vnp>



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# TOWARDS SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP





**A**SEAN “shall develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with countries and sub-regional, regional and international organisations and institutions”, states its Charter.<sup>41</sup> ASEAN External Relations sets out the framework for ASEAN to widen and deepen its relations with external parties through the conferment of the formal status of, among others, Sectoral Dialogue Partner.<sup>42</sup>

On 21 December 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine ratified the accession of Ukraine to the TAC, which created the basis for further deepening cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN towards the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

To date, ASEAN has established Sectoral Dialogue Partnerships with Brazil, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates. The sectoral partnership is formalized via the establishment of the relevant institutional framework, subject to accession to TAC (all except Switzerland).

Country	Accession to TAC	Ambassador to ASEAN	ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner	Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee
Brazil	16.11.2011	Since 2011	03.08.2022	01.12.2022
Morocco	06.09.2016 <sup>43</sup>	Yes	04.09.2023 <sup>44</sup>	n/a
Norway	01.07.2013	Since 2009	04.08.2015	11.12.2015
Pakistan	02.07.2004	Yes	23.07.1993	05.02.1999
South Africa	10.11.2020	Yes	11.07.2023	n/a
Switzerland	No	Since 2009	24.07.2016	28.11.2016
Türkiye	23.07.2010	Since 2011	05.08.2017	30.05.2018
UAE	03.08.2022	Since 2010	03.08.2022	07.06.2023
Ukraine	21.12.2023 <sup>45</sup>	Since 2013	n/a	n/a

Table “The way to Sectoral Dialogue Partnership”<sup>46</sup>

In addition to the above, the candidate countries institutionalise Sectoral Dialogue relations through the establishment of relevant Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committees (JSCC). Brazil, Norway, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates established JSCC with ASEAN after obtaining the Sectoral Dialogue Partner status. Pakistan has waited a couple of years for the above, and the recent Sectoral Dialogue Partners Morocco and South Africa have not yet convened or did not share publicly relevant information.

<sup>41</sup> Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Article 41 (Conduct of External Relations), available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/archive/publications/ASEAN-Charter.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> Overview of ASEAN’s External Partners, available at: <https://asean.org/our-communities/asean-political-security-community/outward-looking-community/external-relations/>

<sup>43</sup> “Morocco Receives Agreement in Principle to Obtain Status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner from ASEAN”, available at: <https://www.maroc.ma/en/news/morocco-receives-agreement-principle-obtain-status-sectoral-dialogue-partner-asean#:~:text=Morocco%20joined%20the%20ASEAN%20Treaty,institutionally%20or%20geographically%20to%20ASEAN>

<sup>44</sup> Statement on grant of the Status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to Morocco, available at: <https://morocco-embassy.vn/en/latest-news/statement-2106.html#:~:text=The%20agreement%20in%20principle%20for,and%20the%20United%20Arab%20Emirates>

<sup>45</sup> Ratification date of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the Parliament of Ukraine.

<sup>46</sup> Overview of ASEAN’s External Partners, available at: <https://asean.org/our-communities/asean-political-security-community/outward-looking-community/external-relations/>



Following the JSCC, the parties adopt the Terms of Reference of JSCC and agree to develop a list of Practical Cooperation Areas with ASEAN, a detailed cooperation document, which serves as a practical guide to further substantiate the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with a focus on areas of mutual interests, guided by and aligned with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

An essential part of the cooperation is drafting a Priority Plan between ASEAN and the country concerned, which sets out the overall broad framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between the parties. It also serves as a foundation for practical cooperation to further substantiate the partnership. As of today, ASEAN established the Priority Plans with Norway and Switzerland.

The most recent example – Morocco – had proposed a cooperation action plan, targeting areas of cooperation of common interest to contribute to ASEAN's vision for 2025 in February 2018<sup>47</sup> and obtained the Sectoral Dialogue Partner status on 4 September 2023.

On 8 June 2023, Ukraine submitted a draft Priority Plan for the ASEAN and Ukraine Sectoral Dialogue Partnership to the Secretariat of ASEAN, which is subject to consideration as of February 2024.

Taking into account ASEAN's historical experience, Ukraine intends to establish the "ASEAN-Ukraine Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee" (JSCC ASEAN-Ukraine). The competence of the JSCC ASEAN-Ukraine may include coordination and monitoring of achievement of common goals, development and adoption of the legal framework for cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN, providing recommendations on improving cooperation efficiency, as well as setting of working groups in the relevant areas. It is also important to establish the practice of Ukraine's consultations with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and to hold such consultations at the high and highest levels to ensure a significant level of cooperation.

<sup>47</sup> "Morocco Receives Agreement in Principle to Obtain Status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner from ASEAN", available at: <https://www.maroc.ma/en/news/morocco-receives-agreement-principle-obtain-status-sectoral-dialogue-partner-asean#:~:text=Morocco%20joined%20the%20ASEAN%20Treaty,institutionally%20or%20geograph-ically%20to%20ASEAN>



Prior to the obtainment of the ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partner status, the candidate countries also had forged relationship through a number of cooperative activities with regards to good governance, trade, investment, private sector development, food, agriculture, climate change, disaster management, humanitarian assistance, public health, women empowerment, gender equality and sustainable development.

During Summer-Autumn 2023, a series of workshops and events have been held in order to make Ukraine and ASEAN closer to each other with the participation of the ASEAN Research Centre in Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, the Ministry of Digital Transformation and relevant ASEAN institutions or its member states authorities (See Chapters "Digital Sector" and "Social and Cultural Cooperation" below).

In accordance with the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine,<sup>48</sup> which aims to implement joint projects and institutionalise relations with ASEAN, Ukraine continues developing mutually beneficial relations with ASEAN. It trusts that strengthening political, economic, social and cultural cooperation with ASEAN corresponds to common goals with the Association in the fields of Food and Agriculture, Digital Sector, Trade, Energy, Disasters Management, Demining, Social and Cultural Cooperation.

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<sup>48</sup> Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, Articles 145 and 149, available at: <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/4482021-40017>



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# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE





The population of ASEAN member states amounts to over 663,9 million people, which creates the need to secure Food and Agriculture. The above has always been one of the key trade sectors between Ukraine and ASEAN, reaching a peak of bilateral turnover of \$3,3 billion in the year 2021 and with an intention to augment it up to \$5 billion by 2025.<sup>49</sup>

ASEAN has been addressing long-term food security, food safety, and nutrition in the region for decades. It has developed and adopted a variety of strategic documents in this regard,<sup>50</sup> including the Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025<sup>51</sup> (AC-FAF), ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework (AIFS), and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN region 2021-2025 (SPA-FS).<sup>52</sup>

The AC-FAF defines a vision and goals for the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors and identifies and prioritizes the main areas for cooperation. It is formulated in a global and regional context and in response to the socio-economic and demographic changes driven by three key factors: rapid economic growth, regional integration, and globalization. It also takes into account region's natural resource base, as well as the climate change issues.

Both AIFS and SPA-FS focus on "*identify[ing] opportunities and new strategies for 2021-2025 and provide guidance to relevant sectoral working groups as well as stakeholders [...] on how to enhance their efficiency and contribution in promoting food security in ASEAN.*"

The AIFS reiterates the implementation of the Five Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, adopted in November 2009 by the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, where Principle 5 states the need to "*ensure sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition, with the provision of necessary resources in a timely and reliable fashion, aimed at multi-year plans and programs.*"<sup>53</sup>

Endowed with fertile land, advanced agricultural practices, and competitive production costs, Ukraine is a global supplier of food products for more than 600 million people around the world. It boasts vast expanses of arable land and a favorable climate, making it a reliable source of agricultural products. This abundance allows for a consistent supply of crops, such as grains, cereals, and oil seeds.

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<sup>49</sup> The address on the 53rd ASEAN Day by Mr. Dmytro Kuleba Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 1:25, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8OUo3WI90>

<sup>50</sup> Statement of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on Food Security and Nutrition (2015); ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Food Security and Nutrition Policy (2017); ASEAN Public Private Partnership Regional Framework for Technology Development in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector (2017); AMAF's Approach to Gender Mainstreaming in The Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector (2018); Multi Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievements of SDGs (MSFCC); ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2018); Action Plan to Promote and Implement the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors (2019).

<sup>51</sup> ASEAN Community Vision 2025, available at: <https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2015/November/aec-page/ASEAN-Community-Vision-2025.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region 2021-2025, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/42-AIFS-Framework-SPAFS-Final-13-July-2020.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> Clause 4 of the AIFS.



Ukrainian agri-products adhere to stringent quality and safety standards, ensuring that consumers in ASEAN countries receive products that meet international benchmarks. This commitment to quality aligns with ASEAN's efforts to enhance food security and safety. Ukraine's comparatively low production costs enable it to offer agri-products at competitive prices, making them an attractive option for ASEAN nations looking to diversify their sources of agricultural imports.

The AS-FAS has already become the basis for cooperation in food and agriculture for such ASEAN's Sectoral Dialogue Partners as Norway<sup>54</sup> and Switzerland.<sup>55</sup> Ukraine intends to meet this demand and explore opportunities for co-operation on sustainable food system and agriculture.

Ukraine has initiated programs in order to secure global food and agriculture, including the "Black Sea Grain Initiative".<sup>56</sup> In the framework of the Initiative, in one year Ukraine exported around 33 million tons of agricultural products to 45 countries, 60% of the volumes went to the countries of Asia and Africa. The program was agreed on 22 July 2022 in Istanbul for 120 days. It was subject to automatical extension for the same period or another period agreed upon by the parties involved.<sup>57</sup> On 17 July 2023, Russia decided to suspend participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, despite further appeals from Chinese<sup>58</sup> and African leaders<sup>59</sup> for its renewal. The above was followed by the destruction of

<sup>54</sup> ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2021-2025), Clause 17, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/ASEAN-Norway-PCA-2021-2025-adopted-24-March-2021.pdf>

<sup>55</sup> ASEAN-Switzerland Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (2022-2026), Clause 23, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ASEAN-Switzerland-PCA-2022-2026-Final.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> "Black Sea Grain Initiative", detailed information is available at: <https://www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative>

<sup>57</sup> Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, available at: [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/black\\_sea\\_grain\\_initiative\\_full\\_text.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/black_sea_grain_initiative_full_text.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> Press statement "China urges resumption of grain, fertiliser exports from Ukraine and Russia" dd 22.07.2023, available at: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3228596/china-urges-resumption-grain-fertiliser-exports-ukraine-and-russia>

<sup>59</sup> Press statement "African leaders tell Putin: 'We have a right to call for peace'" dd 29.07.2023, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/putin-tells-african-leaders-moscow-is-studying-their-ukraine-proposal-2023-07-28/>



300,000 tons of grain in the Black Sea and Danube river ports, hitting six civilian ships and 150 facilities in 17 attacks.<sup>60</sup>

Ukraine also initiated the humanitarian program “Grain from Ukraine”,<sup>61</sup> which is joined by 34 countries. The program raised almost \$200 million in donations and sent 170,000 tons of wheat to Ethiopia (90,000 tons), Somalia (25,000 tons), Yemen (30,000 tons), and Kenya (25,000 tons). The Second International Summit “Grain from Ukraine” took place on 25 November 2023 in Kyiv, despite Russia’s constant attacks.<sup>62</sup> It addressed the issue of global food security and the development of alternative logistics options for the export of agricultural products from Ukraine to, among others, the Southeast Asian countries. During his speech at the event, Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, fairly noted that “*the stability of the food market is crucial for dozens of countries and hundreds of millions of people across the vast expanse from West Africa to East Asia*”.<sup>63</sup>

On 10 October 2023, the “Grain corridor” was announced by the Head of State of Ukraine at a press conference in Bucharest, which is a new route for the export of Ukrainian agricultural products from Ukraine through Moldova and Romania.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Press statement “Russia destroyed 300,000 tons of grain since July in port, ship attacks, Kyiv says” dd 13.10.2023, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-destroyed-300000-tons-grain-since-july-port-ship-attacks-kyiv-2023-10-13/>

<sup>61</sup> “Grain From Ukraine”, detailed information is available at: <https://mfa.gov.ua/en/grain-ukraine>

<sup>62</sup> Opening the summit, Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, informed that the night before the Summit, Russia launched over 70 Shahed combat drones on Ukrainian territory, including the city of Kyiv.

<sup>63</sup> Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the second international summit “Grain from Ukraine”, available at: <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/volodimir-zelenskij-na-drugomu-mizhnarodnomu-samiti-grain-uk-87265>

<sup>64</sup> “Grain corridor from Ukraine through Moldova to Romania to be launched shortly – Volodymyr Zelenskyy following talks with Klaus Iohannis in Bucharest”, available at: <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/skoro-zaprycuye-zernovij-koridor-z-ukrayini-cherez-moldovu-86209>

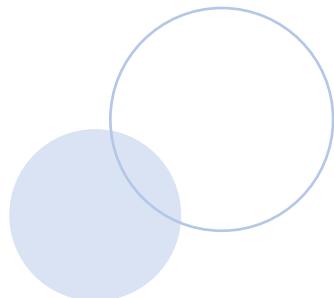
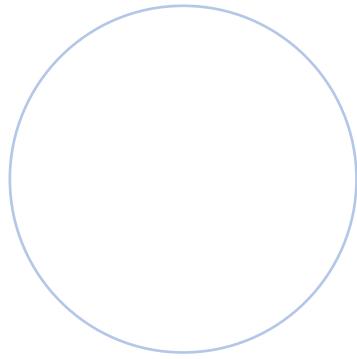


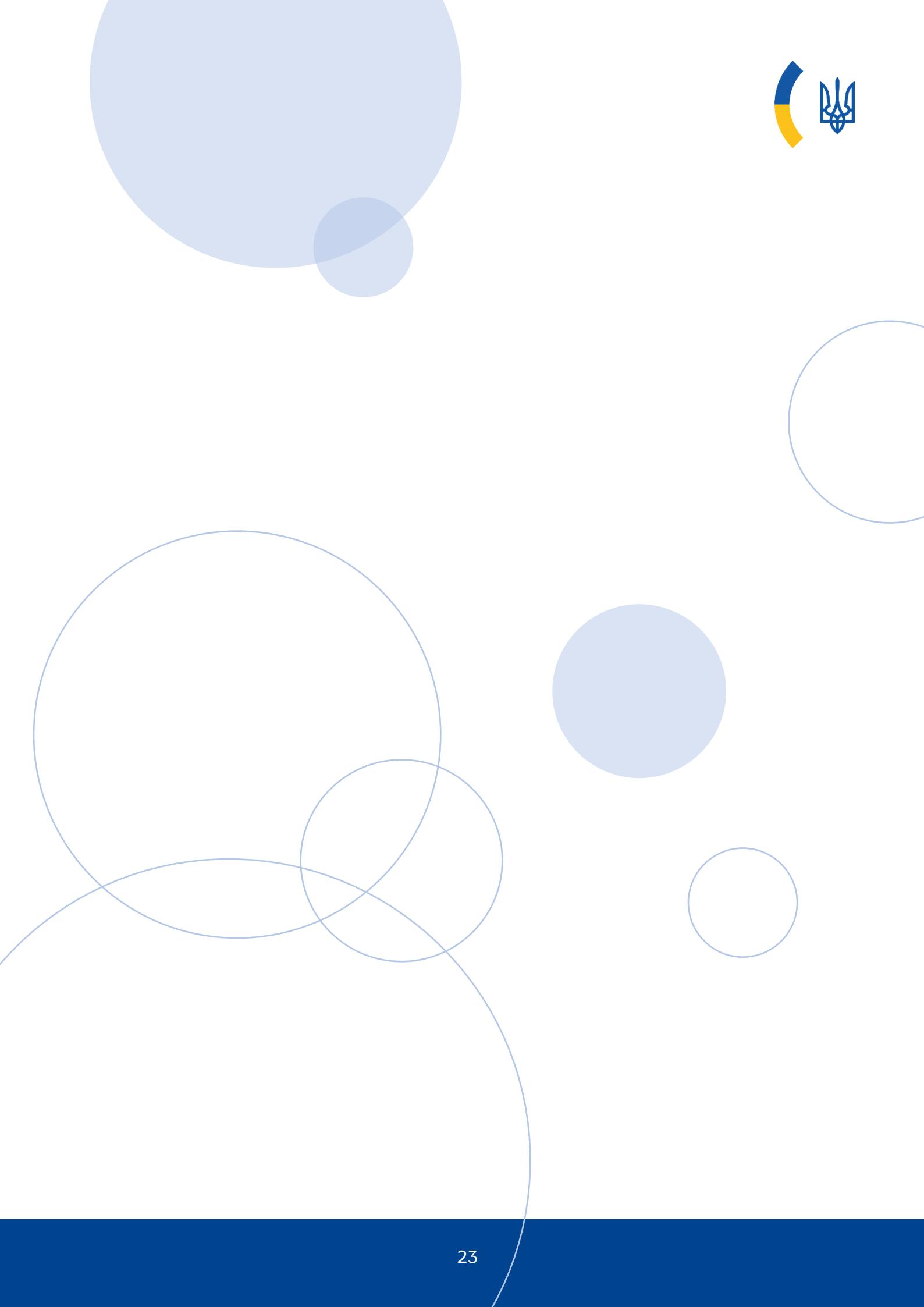
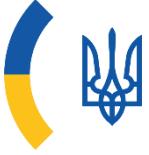
The above initiatives intend to overcome the consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine and its repeated interference with maritime trade routes in violation of international laws, which disrupts the global supply chain and adversely affects, in particular, the economies of Southeast Asia. Since the beginning of the large-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the number of people suffering from food insecurity has increased from 221 to 324 million.

As Ukraine and ASEAN continue to cooperate, Ukraine trusts that the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership will lead to meaningful progress in addressing shared concerns and promoting more food security and agriculture for all Parties involved.

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in Food and Agriculture through:

- ❖ Food trade facilitation;
- ❖ Gathering and analyzing data regarding food trade and agriculture;
- ❖ Elimination of technical barriers for food and agriculture trade, as well as promotion of goods sea movement;
- ❖ Preparation of roadmap for securing food and agriculture supply chains from Ukraine to ASEAN member states;
- ❖ Conducting consultations on food and agriculture at the state level of Ukraine and the intergovernmental level of ASEAN;
- ❖ Advocating and coordinating for global food security;
- ❖ Studying and researching suitable mechanisms for strengthening ties between Ukraine and ASEAN in food and agriculture;
- ❖ Arrangement of consultative meetings/forums among non-state stakeholders (i.e. partners, private sector, academics, etc.);
- ❖ Capacity building efforts between Ukraine and ASEAN, workshops, training programs, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, and events for sharing knowledge and expertise.







# DIGITAL SECTOR





**A**SEAN is a leading digital community and economic bloc powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies, and ecosystems. It continues to implement modern digital technology in all sectors of the economies of its member states to achieve a fully integrated digital economy and society. The above aims at building an innovative, secure, sustainable, and inclusive digital ecosystem.

Cooperation activities in the ASEAN Digital Sector are guided by the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2021-2025 (ADM2025) as well as other key documents.<sup>65</sup> The ADM2025's Framework Strategic thrust A.3.6.(3) stipulates the need for secure and trusted digital environment through the achievement of "*[n]etwork resilience and Cyber Security standards and best practices; [n]etwork resilience and Cyber Security capacity building and awareness raising; [a]ddressing risks and threats of emerging technologies; [c]ritical information infrastructure protection (CIIP); [p]ersonal Data Protection and privacy; [e]merging threats i.e. fake news, misinformation, etc.*"

Furthermore, the desired outcome of the ADM2025, among others, is an increase in the quality and coverage of fixed and mobile broadband infrastructure, the delivery of trusted digital services, an increase in the quality and use of e-government services, and digitally inclusive society in ASEAN.<sup>66</sup>

The Broad Strategy 4h (*Strengthening data governance and cybersecurity*) of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework established that ASEAN intends "to raise public awareness, and upgrade ASEAN member states policy, technical and legal capacity to effectively address cybersecurity issues [, which] are extremely important to ensure a reliable and secure digital environment."<sup>67</sup>

Pursuant to the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap, endorsed by the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council on 18 October 2021, ASEAN Economic Ministers decided to apply certain measures in order to accelerate existing work in the area of digitalization, including "*promoting cybersecurity through information exchange on cyber threats and cybersecurity best practices.*"<sup>68</sup>

In accordance with the Boracay Digital Declaration, adopted during the Third ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting on 9-10 February 2023, it was agreed to "*[e]nsure a sustainable digital transformation that is people-centered, safe, secure and relevant to the needs of end users and various stakeholders aims at increasing the quality and use of e-government services and solutions that can*

<sup>65</sup> ASEAN Data Management Framework (2021), ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance (2018), ASEAN Framework on International Mobile Roaming (2017), ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection (2016), Policy Recommendation: Framework for Promoting The Growth of Digital Startups in ASEAN, the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025, the Study on the application of blockchain technology to digital government, The ASEAN Guidelines on 5G Ecosystem Development, ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows (2021), Implementing Guidelines for ASEAN Data Management Framework and Cross Border Data Flows (2021), ASEAN Guidelines for Strengthening Resilience and Repair of Submarine Cables (2019), ASEAN Framework for Next Generation Universal Service Obligation (2019), ASEAN-Japan Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Guidelines (2016)

<sup>66</sup> ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2021-2025, Chapter 1.2 (Desired Outcomes), available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ASEAN-Digital-Masterplan-2025.pdf>

<sup>67</sup> ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, Clause 4h, available at: [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ASEAN-Comprehensive-Recovery-Framework\\_Pub\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ASEAN-Comprehensive-Recovery-Framework_Pub_2020_1.pdf)

<sup>68</sup> Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (2021), Measure 1, Clause J, available at: [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Bandar-Seri-Begawan-Roadmap-on-ASEAN-Digital-Transformation-Agenda\\_Endorsed.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Bandar-Seri-Begawan-Roadmap-on-ASEAN-Digital-Transformation-Agenda_Endorsed.pdf)



*connect businesses, and supporting innovation for new business models to facilitate cross-border trade and affordable access".<sup>69</sup>*

*As a result of the above efforts, on 5 September 2023, the Leaders' Statement on the Development of ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) was issued and it was agreed to launch the negotiations on the DEFA, as well as "[to] develop a modern, comprehensive, and coherent digital transformation strategy towards an ASEAN Digital Economy, where the seamless and secure flow of goods, services, and data is underpinned by enabling rules, regulation, infrastructure, and talent" and "[to] leverage the immense potential of a competitive and thriving digital economy in attracting investment, [...], and strengthening collective and individual economic competitiveness and resilience".<sup>70</sup>*

On 24 February 2022, along with conventional warfare, Russia launched a cyber offensive against Ukraine. Despite an established pattern of cyber operations against Ukraine dating to at least 2013 and warnings of an impending "cyber-Armageddon", Russia's cyber offensive has found limited success. Ukraine's cyber resilience has largely prevailed in the face of sustained Russian cyberattacks against the government and population, according to numerous experts and analysis.<sup>71</sup>

The power of Ukraine's resilient systems is demonstrated by the ability to withstand constant cyberattacks from Russian actors. Only in 2022, more than 7,000 cyberattacks were detected in Ukraine. They were accompanied by inc-

<sup>69</sup> Boracay Digital Declaration (2023), Page 2, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Boracay-Aklan-Digital-Declaration-ADOPTED-1.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> Leaders' Statement on the Development of ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (2023), available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Leaders-Statement-DIGITAL-ECONOMY-FRAMEWORK-AGREEMENT.pdf>

<sup>71</sup> "Cross-Cutting Responses to Strengthen Ukraine's Digital Resilience" by FP Analytics, available at: <https://digitalfrontlines.io/2023/06/28/cross-cutting-responses-to-strengthen-ukraines-digital-resilience/>



reasing disinformation campaigns and coordinated with missile assaults.<sup>72</sup> Nevertheless, Ukraine has successfully neutralized Russia's cyber operations over the past years, which included distributed, denial-of-service (DoS/DDoS) attacks, wipers, website defacements, and scam emails, targeting Ukrainian government organizations, media organizations, e-services used by citizens, and other private sector organizations.<sup>73</sup>

According to Mr. Mykhailo Fedorov, Vice Prime Minister for Innovations, Development of Education, Science, and Technologies of Ukraine, one of the crucial keys to Ukraine's success is permanent, systematic cooperation among the government and private and public companies, including transferring data registers to the cloud. More than 100 state and critical information registers have been transferred due to cloud solutions and agreements with Microsoft Azure, Google, Amazon Web Services, Oracle, and the government of Poland. For instance, Amazon Web Services provides access to 10 million gigabytes of its cloud storage to back up Ukrainian government workloads to ensure the continuity of critical services.<sup>74</sup>

Ukraine has learned many lessons since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, including how to build and leverage resilient systems. It has also capitalised on its deep familiarity with Russian tactics to build more robust protections.<sup>75</sup> At the same time, Ukraine's ability to withstand a constant barrage of cyberattacks clearly demonstrates the importance of cyber resilience should be at the heart of any country or alliance's digital strategy, including ASEAN member states. The lessons from Ukraine have already been used for the coordination and development of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen defences against the full range of cyber destructive, espionage, and influence operations by key cyber actors.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> "Lessons from Ukraine in the Heat of an Ongoing Hybrid War" by Mykhailo Fedorov, available at: <https://digitalfrontlines.io/2023/05/31/lessons-from-ukraine-in-the-heat-of-an-ongoing-hybrid-war/>

<sup>73</sup> Themes and Failures of Russia's War Against Ukraine by Insikt Group dd 9.02.2023, available at: <https://go.recordedfuture.com/hubfs/reports/ta-2023-0209.pdf>

<sup>74</sup> "Lessons from Ukraine in the Heat of an Ongoing Hybrid War" by Mykhailo Fedorov, available at: <https://digitalfrontlines.io/2023/05/31/lessons-from-ukraine-in-the-heat-of-an-ongoing-hybrid-war/>

<sup>75</sup> The Cyber Dimensions of the Russia-Ukraine War by Taylor Grossman, Monica Kaminska, James Shires, and Max Smeets, available at: [https://eccri.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ECCRI\\_REPORT\\_The-Cyber-Dimensions-of-the-Russia-Ukraine-War-19042023.pdf](https://eccri.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ECCRI_REPORT_The-Cyber-Dimensions-of-the-Russia-Ukraine-War-19042023.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> Defending Ukraine: Early Lessons from the Cyber War by Microsoft, available at: <https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/binary/RE5OKOK>



The above success is only possible with good cybersecurity policy and regulation. The Cybersecurity Strategy of Ukraine includes strengthening the capabilities of the national cybersecurity system, as well as the ability to quickly adapt to internal and external threats in cyberspace and support the sustainable functioning of the national information infrastructure, especially critical information infrastructure. It also includes the development of communication, coordination, and partnership between cybersecurity actors at the national level. The Strategy takes into account the latest global trends and challenges, including, but not limited to cloud and quantum computing, 5G networks, big data, the Internet of Things, and artificial intelligence.<sup>77</sup>

Digital resilience and cyber security play a vital role in today's Ukraine, but these are not the only things Ukraine is able to boast of in the Digital domain. Digitalization has become Ukraine's flagship topic and a state priority long before the full-scale invasion by Russia on 24 February 2022. Ukrainian citizens are already the first in the world to be able to use digital IDs with absolutely no internal restrictions. It is also home to a large and growing number of IT companies, which are contributing to the country's digital economy. Ukraine is moving forward with the concept of building a digital state and becoming a world leader in providing services for citizens and businesses.

Ukraine attracts more and more attention as an IT destination. It is considered the #1 outsourcing destination by the Global Sourcing Association and has more than 280 thousand highly skilled IT professionals.<sup>78</sup> The rapidly growing digital sector is one of Ukraine's most attractive industries, with over 4,000 tech companies. It is also diverse – from nanotechnologies and blockchain to AI development. 18 Ukrainian companies are listed among the Top 100 outsourcing companies by the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals.<sup>79</sup>

The Ukrainian digital sector has been demonstrating extraordinary resilience. It maintains positive growth dynamics and remains an industry, increasing ex-

<sup>77</sup> The President of Ukraine approved a new Cybersecurity Strategy of Ukraine, dd 27.08.2021, available at: <https://www.rnbo.gov.ua/en/Dzialnist/4976.html>

<sup>78</sup> "Ukraine as an IT destination", available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/it-ukraine/>

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.



ports and generating foreign exchange earnings in the Ukrainian economy during the war. As of today, 85% of companies have resumed operating activities at the levels of pre-war times. During the ten months of 2022, the export of computer services increased by 10% and amounted to \$6 billion.<sup>80</sup>

ASEAN has significant experience in the field of digital transformation as well. The regional broadband network provides Internet access to about 80% of the ASEAN member states population. The region is also home to several successful digital startups, such as Grab, Gojek, and Sea Group.

The Association develops its digital platforms that contribute to regional economic growth and cooperation. The ASEAN Single Window (ASW) is planned to be developed as a vast window of opportunities for ASEAN, including the exchange of more trade-related documents, such as the ASEAN Customs Declaration Document, electronic Phytosanitary Certificate, and electronic Animal Health Certificate, through the ASW in the future,<sup>81</sup> so Ukraine is ready to share its own successful experience in development of digital platforms.

The Ukrainian platform Diiia combines a mobile application with access to citizens' digital documents and a single portal of public services for the population and businesses. The main goal is to make 100% of public services available online. As of April 2023, 19 million Ukrainians had updated the Diiia application. There are more than 21,7 million users of the Diiia portal by now – over 70 government services are available online. The mobile application Diiia allows Ukrainians to access 14 digital documents (ID card, foreign biometric passport, student card, driver's license, vehicle registration certificate, vehicle insurance policy, tax number, birth certificate, and IDP certificate) and 27 services in total.<sup>82</sup>

Recently, Ukraine became the first country to have a valid digital ID that can be used everywhere within the country and the fourth in Europe to launch a digital driving license. All digital documents in Diiia now have the same legal force as their plastic or paper counterparts. Using the Diiia app, Ukrainians can also share digital copies of the documents and pay debts or fines.

On the basis of the Diiia platform, a temporary digital document for the period of wartime was created. The Russian invasion forced Ukrainians to evacuate immediately to safer regions of the country. However, not everyone managed to take the necessary paper documents with them. While digital documents in the Diiia are not always available because, since the beginning of hostilities, all state registers have been disconnected for security reasons, the eDocument was created containing passport data and taxpayer card. Such eDocument is used to verify the identity of the citizens to police and local defence at checkpoints.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>80</sup> "Ukraine as an IT destination", available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/it-ukraine/>

<sup>81</sup> Overview of The Sector – "ASEAN Single Window initiative", available at: <https://asean.org/our-communities/economic-community/asean-single-window/>

<sup>82</sup> "Ukraine as a digital country", available at: <https://ukraine.ua/invest-trade/digitalization/>

<sup>83</sup> Ministry of Digital Transformation: Temporary digital document for the period of wartime is available in the Diiia, dd 11.03.2022, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/mincifri-timchasovij-cifrovij-dokument-na-period-voyennogo-chasu-u-diyi>



The other system, called Trembita, is an information and communication system of electronic interaction of state electronic information resources designed for automation and technological support of data exchange between electronic information resources based on rules and exchange protocols while providing public services. The Trembita system is decentralized. A high level of security thanks to digital signature and encryption of all transmitted data, as well as event logging, access control to web services and measures to counter denial-of-service attacks.<sup>84</sup>

Furthermore, the Diiia.Engine platform is an innovative solution that helps ministries and government agencies create and manage registers conveniently. This allows to secure data storage in registers, automation and digitisation of public services, thus boosting the launch of online services and digitalisation in general. Currently, 20 ministries and central executive agencies of Ukraine use the Diiia.Engine platform to create more than 50 registers and over 100 public services. In particular, more than 20 registers are being developed as part of projects implemented by the German government company Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German government.<sup>85</sup>

The Diiia.Education is a Ukrainian edutainment platform for reskilling and digital literacy. It started in 2020 and was focused on digital literacy and digital skills. In the following year, over 2,5 million people with basic digital knowledge in digital sphere or without it leveled up their skills. Now, the great goal of the Diiia.Education is not only to make a breakthrough in digital knowledge but in skills and abilities relevant to the modern world in general.<sup>86</sup>

The Diiia.Business is a large-scale national project for entrepreneurship and export promotion that was initiated by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in February 2020. It has the international version called Diiia.Business Export, which provides support to foreign companies interested in Ukrainian

<sup>84</sup> Further information about the Trembita system is available at: <https://trembita.gov.ua/about>

<sup>85</sup> Press statement "The Ministry of Digital Transformation presents Diiia.Engine tool accelerating the development of a digital state" dd 19.09.2023, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/mintsyfry-prezentovaly-instrument-diiaengine-iakiyi-pryshvidshuiye-rozvytok-tsyfrovoi-derzhavy>

<sup>86</sup> About the DIIA.Education, available at: <https://osvita.diiia.gov.ua/en/about>



goods and services or looking for a partner in Ukraine. In particular, stakeholders have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the country's economic situation, market potential, specific features of the country, investment policy, and obtain information on free trade agreements between Ukraine and other states.<sup>87</sup>

The Diia platform has also become the basis for the distribution of war bonds to help de-occupy Ukraine's territories. The citizens of Ukraine purchased over 954,000 military bonds for a total amount of more than \$26 million through the state e-service application Diia, contributing to a government initiative to raise funds for military and medical equipment. The bonds are intended for weapons, helmets, body armor, and medicine for the speedy liberation of Donetsk, Mariupol, Sevastopol, Enerhodar and other occupied cities.<sup>88</sup>

The Air Raid notification system is critically important in wartime. It is crucial that in times of constant shelling, everyone can be aware of the danger of a strike, regardless of location and time of day. The development company Stfalcon teamed up with Ajax Systems and, with the support of the Ministry of Digital Transformation, created the Air Raid Alarm application, which informs about the beginning and the end of missile, artillery, chemical, radiation emergencies, and about street fights. It became available on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the invasion in the App Store and Google Play Store. During the first week, it was downloaded by over 2 million users.<sup>89</sup>

The eEnemy chatbot was launched by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine on 10 March 2022. It allows users to send geolocation, photos, and videos of enemy equipment with the opportunity to describe what they saw in the text. Further, the feature to report on the occupiers with the opportunity to send photos or videos of war criminals was added, as well as the function of reporting the location of explosive objects. The main advantage of this bot is mandatory authorization through Diia, so saboteurs cannot spam with fake photos or videos. All data about the enemy are transferred to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.<sup>90</sup>

On 4 October 2023, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine held an online presentation of the Diia mobile app to the Ministry of Communications and Digitalization of Malaysia. Elements of the specified Ukrainian digital product can be used to create a national unified digital platform, build an electronic government system and provide public services in the interested country. On 2 November 2023, a quite similar event to the above took place for the attention of Cambodian authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine also plans to contribute to the digitalization of ASEAN. In October 2023, a visit of Mr. Anton Demokhin, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Chief Digital Transformation Officer, took place in

<sup>87</sup> About the DIIA.Business, available at: <https://business.diia.gov.ua/en>

<sup>88</sup> "Ukrainians buy over \$6 million in military bonds on Diia government application" dd 12.01.2023, available at: <https://kyivindependent.com/ukrainians-buy-over-6-million-in-military-bonds-on-diia-government-application/>

<sup>89</sup> "From Ukrainians to Ukrainians. 5 digital tools and products created to help in wartime" dd 5.10.2022, available at: <https://war.ukraine.ua/articles/digital-tools-created-to-help-in-wartime/>

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.



Singapore and Indonesia, where he had meeting with Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Economic Community.

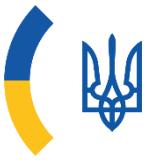
On 29 November 2023, the 1<sup>st</sup> Online Meeting “Ukraine and ASEAN in a digital world: developing new opportunities for cooperation” was cochaired by Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Economic Community and Ms. Valeriia Ionan, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine for European Integration with the participation of Mr. Anton Demokhin, Deputy Foreign Minister, Chief Digital Transformation Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The meeting covered cooperation between the Parties in the field of digital transformation, electronic services development and digital literacy skills development, as well as the presentation of a mobile web application Diia.

By the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration adopted on January 27-28, 2022, the Second ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting agreed to “*engage interested parties, including Dialogue and Development Partners, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, to implement initiatives in support of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025*”.<sup>91</sup>

Ukraine plans to meet the above demand and intends to participate in the events of ASEAN following the ADM2025 concerning:

- ❖ Enhancement of cooperation to promote cyber resilience, security and interoperability in the digital environment;
- ❖ Cooperation in the field of electronic service development;
- ❖ Joint efforts in the field of digital literacy development;
- ❖ Initiation of joint projects aimed at the development of digital infrastructure;
- ❖ Exchange of experience regarding digital strategies, development plans of relevant authorities, and their responsibilities in the field of digital transformation;
- ❖ Dialogue and knowledge sharing on approaches to international law, cybersecurity policy and regulation aiming to harmonize practices and promote international cybersecurity standards;
- ❖ Promotion of information sharing and collaboration on cyber matters, including the exchange of information on cyber threats, best practices, and emerging technologies;
- ❖ Joint research and development projects related to cybersecurity to advance innovation in the field;
- ❖ Exchange of best practices and skills regarding the development of next-generation (5G) mobile networks.

<sup>91</sup> Nay Pyi Taw Declaration “Digital Transformation: The Engine for ASEAN Economic Recovery from COVID-19” adopted on 27-28 January 2022, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/13-ADOPTED-Nay-Pyi-Taw-Declaration-as-of-240122-v2-cleared-00000002.pdf>





# TRADE





The unique economic potential of ASEAN and close economic ties of member states make it a key trading bloc in the world. In 2022, ASEAN's trade turnover reached \$3,8 trillion, up 14,9% compared to 2021. According to the Asian Development Bank, ASEAN's economic growth reached 5,1% in 2022 and is forecast to reach 4,6% and 4,9% in 2023 and 2024, respectively.<sup>92</sup>

In 2021, ASEAN exported \$1,73 trillion and imported \$1,61 trillion of total trade. Its largest exporter, Vietnam, exported \$356 billion, which corresponds to 20,5% of the total exports. On the other hand, the largest importer, Singapore, imported \$362 billion, which is 22,5% of the total imports of ASEAN.<sup>93</sup>

Geographically, Southeast Asia includes some of the world's most critical sea lanes, including the Straits of Malacca, through which a large percentage of the world's trade passes. The region is home to several of the world's major ports, including Singapore, Klong Toei and Tanjung Priok. These ports are important hubs for trade between Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

The Association is actively working on improving regional integration and cooperation in the field of trade. Initiatives such as FTAs contribute to improving market access, reducing tariffs, and simplifying trade procedures. The ASEAN's FTA is one of the largest and most significant FTA areas in the world and, together with its network of External Partners, has become a key dynamic force in some of the world's largest multilateral forums and blocs, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the East Asia Summit, and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The implementation of the Trade in Goods Agreement by ASEAN member states has resulted in the elimination of tariffs for 98,64% of the total number of tariff lines in 2021.<sup>94</sup>

ASEAN is based on the principles of mutually beneficial cooperation and dialogue. Regular meetings at various levels, such as the ASEAN Leaders' Summit, the ASEAN Investment Forum and other events, provide an opportunity to discuss cooperation issues. ASEAN has several trade promotion platforms, including the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce & Industry<sup>95</sup> and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council.<sup>96</sup> These platforms facilitate the exchange of information and experience in the fields of trade and investment.

The trade and economic cost of war in Ukraine is enormous and growing for the entire international community. Its effects have spread globally, manifested by supply chain disruptions and increased food and raw materials insecurity.

<sup>92</sup> "ASEAN targets to complete economic priorities in 2023", available at: <https://vietnam.vnanet.vn/english/tin-van/asean-targets-to-complete-economic-priorities-in-2023-340504.html>

<sup>93</sup> ASEAN's economic data: [https://oec.world/en/profile/international\\_organization/association-of-southeast-asian-nations?blockCompositionScaleSelector=Trade%20Value&blockCompositionYAxisSelector=linear&depthSelector1=HS2Depth&depthSelector3=HS2Depth&depthSelector5=HS2Depth&historicalDataFlowSelector=flow1&latestTrendsFlowSelector=flow1&latestTrendsViewSelector=latestTrendsViewOption1&latestTrendsYAxisSelector=log&extraTradeFlowSelector=flow1](https://oec.world/en/profile/international_organization/association-of-southeast-asian-nations?blockCompositionScaleSelector=Trade%20Value&blockCompositionYAxisSelector=linear&depthSelector1=HS2Depth&depthSelector3=HS2Depth&depthSelector5=HS2Depth&historicalDataFlowSelector=flow1&latestTrendsFlowSelector=flow1&latestTrendsViewSelector=latestTrendsViewOption1&latestTrendsYAxisSelector=log&extraTradeFlowSelector=flow1)

<sup>94</sup> ATIGA Summary Fact Sheet (as of July 2021), available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/457-1.pdf>

<sup>95</sup> Further information about the ACCI is available at: <https://acci.my/>

<sup>96</sup> Further information about the ASEAN-BAC is available at: <https://asean-bac.org/>



The majority of countries try to use trade as an effective tool to cushion the effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However, reorientation away from the Black Sea region is not always possible in the modern trading system.

As previously mentioned, Ukraine is currently a party to 18 FTAs covering 46 states, including, but not limited to:

- Ukraine–Azerbaijan FTA (in force since 2 September, 1996);
- Ukraine–Georgia FTA (in force since 4 June 1996);
- Ukraine–Macedonia FTA (in force since 10 September, 2001);
- Ukraine–Montenegro FTA (in force since 1 January 2013);
- Ukraine–Turkmenistan FTA (in force since 4 November 1995);
- Ukraine–Canada FTA (in force since 1 August 2017);
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) FTA (in force since 20 September 2012);
- Ukraine–EFTA FTA (in force since 1 June 2012);
- Ukraine–EU FTA within the framework of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement (in force since 1 September 2017);
- Ukraine–the UK FTA (in force since 1 January 2021).

In response to the war, some Ukrainian trading partners have granted additional tariff preferences for Ukrainian exports. The EU has unilaterally suspended import tariffs, entry price system, tariff quotas, anti-dumping and safeguard duties on Ukrainian exports until 4 June 2024.<sup>97</sup> Canada has unilaterally suspended customs duties, anti-dumping, safeguard, and countervailing measures

<sup>97</sup> "EU extends trade benefits for Ukraine" dd 6.06.2023, available at: [https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-extends-trade-benefits-ukraine-2023-06-06\\_en](https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-extends-trade-benefits-ukraine-2023-06-06_en)



until 9 June 2024.<sup>98</sup> The UK has suspended import tariffs for goods from Ukraine commencing until 30 May 2024.<sup>99</sup> Australia has extended the temporary duty reduction on goods that are the produce or manufacture of Ukraine until 3 July 2024.<sup>100</sup> The US has suspended an additional 25% ad valorem duty applied to steel products originating from Ukraine until 1 June 2024.<sup>101</sup>

Ukraine has already developed strong economic ties with ASEAN, and the number of bilateral trade agreements with ASEAN member states amounts to 57 as of today.

The bilateral turnover between Ukraine and ASEAN has reached a peak of bilateral turnover of \$3,3 billion in the year 2021. Previously, in 2020, Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine stated that Ukraine has “*an ambition to achieve a milestone of \$5 billion in trade with ASEAN by 2025 via promoting trade, increasing investments through joint mutually beneficial projects*”<sup>102</sup> and the above target still stands for Ukraine.

### **Brunei Darussalam**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Brunei Darussalam in 2023 constitutes \$0,023 million.

Exports from Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam amount to \$0,016 million.



Main categories of goods: control or measuring instruments, profile projectors, machines and devices for testing mechanical properties of materials, instruments for measuring electrical quantities, for detecting or measuring ionizing radiation.

Imports from Brunei Darussalam to Ukraine amount to \$0,007 million.

Main categories of goods: organic-inorganic compounds, parts and devices of vehicles.

<sup>98</sup> Customs Notice 22-12: Ukraine Goods Remission Order (revised 9 June 2023), available at: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn22-12-eng.html#>

<sup>99</sup> Trade remedies notice 2023/06: suspension of anti-dumping duty on certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy, or other alloy steel originating in Ukraine, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trade-remedies-notices-anti-dumping-duty-on-hot-rolled-iron-and-steel-products-from-brazil-iran-russia-and-ukraine/trade-remedies-notice-202306-suspension-of-anti-dumping-duty-on-certain-hot-rolled-flat-products-of-iron-non-alloy-or-other-alloy-steel-originatin>

<sup>100</sup> Australian Customs Notice No. 2023/29 on Extension of the temporary duty reduction for goods from Ukraine, available at: <https://www.abf.gov.au/help-and-support-subsite/CustomsNotices/2023-29.pdf>

<sup>101</sup> A Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Steel Into the United States, available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/05/31/a-proclamation-on-adjusting-imports-of-steel-into-the-united-states-4/>

<sup>102</sup> The address on the 53rd ASEAN Day by Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 1:25, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8OUo3WI90>



### **Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Vietnam in 2023 constitutes \$592,678 million.

Exports from Ukraine to Vietnam amount to \$68,564 million.

Main categories of goods: wheat, processed timber, oil cake, solid waste from extraction of vegetable fats and oils, malt extracts, prepared food products without/with cocoa, and packaged medicaments.

Imports from Vietnam to Ukraine amount to \$524,114 million.

Main categories of goods: electric communication devices, printing equipment, footwear, coffee-related products, and automatic data processing machines.



### **Republic of Indonesia**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Indonesia in 2023 constitutes \$326,708 million.



Exports from Ukraine to Indonesia amount to \$129,271 million.

Main categories of goods: wheat, starch derivatives, applications such as adhesives, packaged medicaments, and various insulated cables.

Imports from Indonesia to Ukraine amount to \$197,437 million.

Main categories of goods: palm oil products, footwear, various oils, electric grooming devices, and different types of paper.

### **Kingdom of Cambodia**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Cambodia in 2023 constitutes \$27,148 million.

Exports from Ukraine to Cambodia amount to \$0,519 million.

Main categories of goods: oil and oil products, wheat, offal, oil cake, solid waste from vegetable fat/oil extraction, and industrial/laboratory furnaces, kilns, non-electric.

Imports from Cambodia to Ukraine amount to \$26,629 million.

Main categories of goods: knitted products, genuine leather and textile footwear, coats, raincoats, jackets, as well as suitcases, bags, cases, and related items.





### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Lao PDR in 2023 constitutes \$5,265 million.



Exports from Ukraine to Lao PDR amount to \$0,008 million.

Main categories of goods: beef, pork, lamb and horse offal.

Imports from Lao PDR to Ukraine amount to \$5,257 million.

Main categories of goods: mineral or chemical fertilisers, potash, coffee, coffee shells, coffee substitutes, toys, models of reduced size, puzzles, coats, raincoats, jackets, and knitted articles.

### **Malaysia**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Malaysia in 2023 constitutes \$408,267 million.

Exports from Ukraine to Malaysia amount to \$120,260 million.

Main categories of goods: various oils, wheat, dried legumes, oil cake, and solid waste from vegetable fat extraction.

Imports from Malaysia to Ukraine amount to \$288,007 million.



Main categories of goods: electric communication devices, palm oil, electronic circuits/modules, chemically converted fats/oils, aluminium wire, and electric heating appliances

### **Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Myanmar in 2023 constitutes \$45,457 million.

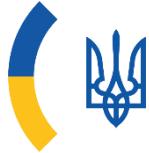


Exports from Ukraine to Myanmar amount to \$11,953 million.

Main categories of goods: oil and its products, various seed oils, con-densed milk, cream, oil cake, solid waste from fat and oil extraction, surfactants, detergents, and cleaning items.

Imports from Myanmar to Ukraine amount to \$33,504 million.

Main categories of goods: clothing and accessories for clothing, textiles, knitting, footwear, rice, suitcases, bags, and cases.



### **Republic of Singapore**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Singapore in 2023 constitutes \$118,397 million.

Exports from Ukraine to Singapore amount to \$58,444 million.

Main categories of goods: poultry eggs, sunflower, safflower and cottonseed oils, rapeseed and mustard oils, barley, turbojet, turboprop engines and other gas turbines, rapeseed.

Imports from Singapore to Ukraine amount to \$59,953 million.

Main categories of goods: electronic components, cocoa derivatives, medical devices, hearing aids, and analytical instruments, alongside electric communication device.



### **Kingdom of Thailand**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Thailand in 2023 constitutes \$246,208 million.



Exports from Ukraine to Thailand amount to \$39,174 million.

Main categories of goods: wheat and starches, oils, dried leguminous vegetables, soybeans, and packaged medicaments.

Imports from Thailand to Ukraine amount to \$207,034 million.

Main categories of goods: motor vehicles, fruits, nuts, information processing machines and devices, fish products like caviar, and tyres.

### **Republic of the Philippines**

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and the Philippines in 2023 constitutes \$75,491 million.

Exports from Ukraine to the Philippines amount to \$16,925 million.

Main categories of goods: wheat, condensed milk and cream, butter, dried leguminous vegetables, packaged medicaments.

Imports from the Philippines to Ukraine amount to \$58,566 million.

Main categories of goods: electronic components, printing equipment, and electric heating appliances.





### ASEAN

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and ASEAN member states in 2023 constitutes \$1,846 billion.

Total exports from Ukraine to ASEAN member states from January to November 2023 amount to \$0,445 billion.

Main categories of goods: agricultural raw materials, food products technical instruments and equipment, electronics, and packaged medicaments.

Total imports from ASEAN member states to Ukraine in 2023 amount to \$1,401 billion.

Main categories of goods: textile products and footwear, agricultural raw materials, food products, electronics and computer equipment, metal products.

In general, the top exports of Ukraine are iron ore (\$6,83 billion), seed oils (\$6,34 billion), wheat (\$5,87 billion), corn (\$5,86 billion), and semi-finished iron (\$4,08 billion). The top imports from Ukraine are refined petroleum (\$5,63 billion), cars (\$4,1 billion), petroleum gas (\$3,26 billion), packaged medicaments (\$2,26 billion), and coal briquettes (\$2,09 billion).<sup>103</sup>

The specificity of Ukraine's geographical location, the variety of production sectors, and the rich potential for agricultural resources make it an attractive partner for exchanging goods and services with the countries of the Southeast Asia region. The country, known for its fertile soil and climatic conditions, can grow a variety of agricultural products, such as grains and oilseeds, produce meat, dairy products, and others.

Ukraine is a member of the World Trade Organization, which ensures transparent and fair rules for trade. ASEAN was leading in the conclusion of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF) in 2013. Beyond ensuring the smooth implementation of the ATF in ASEAN member states, it aims to consolidate trade facilitation regimes among ASEAN member states and move closer to global best practice.<sup>104</sup>

ASEAN undertakes to achieve a highly integrated and cohesive regional economy that supports sustained high economic growth by increasing trade, investment, and job creation, improving regional capacity to respond to global challenges and megatrends, advancing a single market agenda through enhanced commitments in trade in goods, effective resolution of non-tariff barriers, deepen integration in trade in services and a more seamless movement of investment, skilled labour, business persons, and capital.<sup>105</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Economic data of Ukraine, available at: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/ukr>

<sup>104</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Clause 10(iii), available at:

[https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AECBP\\_2025r\\_FINAL.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AECBP_2025r_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>105</sup> ASEAN Community Vision 2025, available at:

<https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2015/November/aec-page/ASEAN-Community-Vision-2025.pdf>



At the same time, ASEAN seeks to promote complementarities and mutual benefits through the development of a more strategic and coherent approach towards external economic relations with a view to adopting a common position in regional and global economic fora.<sup>106</sup>

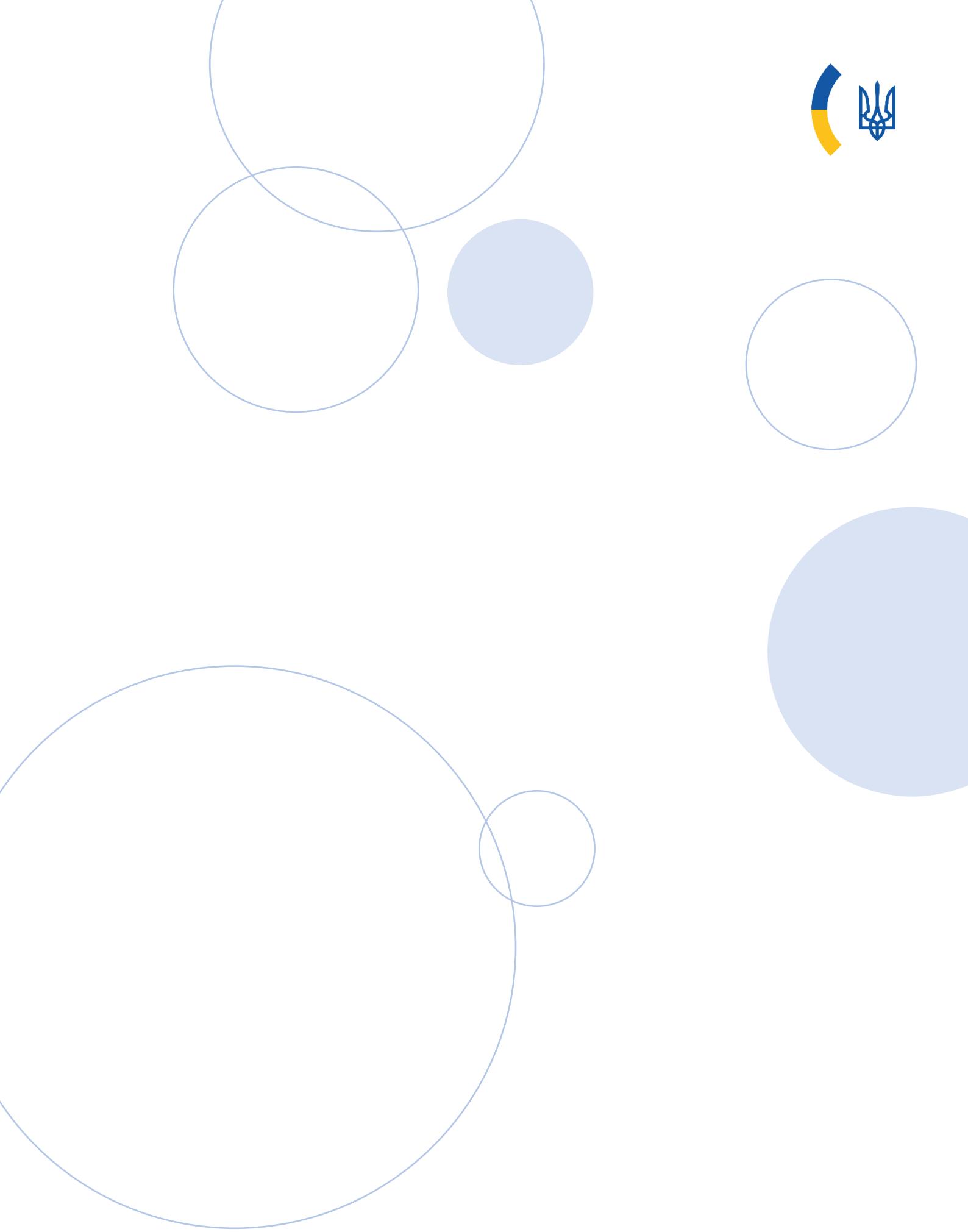
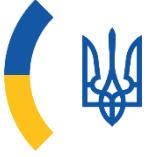
Ukraine intends to support the above and to strengthen trade ties with ASEAN and its member states via establishing cooperation between private sectors, enterprises, producers and exporters of goods and services, as well as the interaction between chambers of commerce, business councils, and specialized associations of Ukraine and ASEAN member countries.

In order to achieve the above, Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN through:

- ❖ Sharing knowledge and experience of keeping trade resilient and secure in uncertain times;
- ❖ Promotion of trade and investment between Ukraine and ASEAN;
- ❖ Facilitation of trade and investment relations, including chambers of commerce, cooperation workshops, conferences, seminars, business fora, and other relevant activities;
- ❖ Exploring the possibility of cooperation to promote private sector engagement and business-to-business exchanges;
- ❖ Reduction of customs duties, tariff and non-tariff barriers in trade;
- ❖ Development of trade routes and infrastructure for trade;
- ❖ Cooperation in the fields of tourism, standardization and certification.

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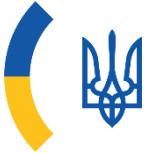
<sup>106</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, Clause 80(i), available at: [https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AECBP\\_2025r\\_FINAL.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AECBP_2025r_FINAL.pdf)





**ENERGY**





**A**SEAN Leaders have always expressed their strong support for taking Association's energy connectivity to a new level since the 1986 Agreement on ASEAN Energy Cooperation was signed. An important issue in this regard is that ASEAN must address it, especially given the growing demand for energy in the region. It expressed support for regional energy connectivity projects such as the ASEAN Power Grid and the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline and provided instructions to look into the next level of details and seriously consider how to harmonise regulatory frameworks and standards to facilitate regional energy connectivity.<sup>107</sup>

On 19 November 2020, the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025 (APAEC), according to which "energy" is defined as a key component in advancing the ASEAN Economic Community's pursuit of an inclusive and dynamic regional economic integration towards 2025 and beyond.<sup>108</sup>

Furthermore, APAEC established that "*ASEAN will expand partnerships with Dialogue Partners and International Organisations, and advance energy policy and planning to accelerate the region's energy transition and resilience. In the civilian nuclear energy sector, ASEAN will promote regional initiatives to enhance human resource capability on nuclear science and technology for power generation.*"<sup>109</sup>

In order to fulfil all of the above, the key intergovernmental organization within the Association - ASEAN Centre for Energy - produces outputs as per 3 critical roles: catalyst, which is to unify and strengthen ASEAN Energy Cooperation by providing a platform for sharing, policy advisory, best practices, and capacity building; knowledge hub, which is to provide a knowledge repository for ASEAN member states and services through data management, publication and dissemination; and think tank to assist ASEAN member states on research and identifying practical & specific solution on policies, legal & regulatory frameworks, technologies, and innovative solutions.<sup>110</sup>

Furthermore, according to the AIPA's resolution, it is important to include an "*environmental, social, and governance strategy in many business models with the collaboration of private sectors and international partners*".<sup>111</sup>

In 2019, Ukraine entered the TOP 10 countries in the world in terms of renewable energy development, and in 2020 entered the TOP 5 European countries regarding solar energy development.<sup>112</sup> In 2019, Ukraine took 8<sup>th</sup> place among

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<sup>107</sup> ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025, Page 4, available at: <https://aseanenergy.org/asean-plan-of-action-for-energy-cooperation-apaec-phase-ii-2021-2025/>

<sup>108</sup> Ibid, Page 1.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid, Page 2.

<sup>110</sup> Vision and Mission of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, available at: <https://aseanenergy.org/introductions/>

<sup>111</sup> Resolution on Driving Energy Transition and Developing Green Economy in ASEAN, Page 4, Para 5, available at: <https://berkas.dpr.go.id/ksap/aipa44/page/Resolution%20on%20Driving%20Energy%20Transition%20in%20ASEAN.pdf>

<sup>112</sup> "Ukraine's renewable energy sector before, during and after the war" by Andriy Konechenkov, edited by Volodymyr Omelchenko, available at: <https://razumkov.org.ua/en/articles/ukraines-renewable-energy-sector-before-during-and-after-the-war>



104 countries<sup>113</sup> in the world in terms of the country's investment attractiveness, specifically in the issue of the development of low-carbon energy sources and the construction of a "green" economy, according to the Climatescope rating by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Due to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine starting on 24 February 2022, the military actions have caused significant damage to the Energy sector of Ukraine. Numerous energy infrastructure facilities have been destroyed or are located on the temporarily occupied territory, including the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. Since the generation enterprises are priority targets for Russian attacks, electricity and heat supply networks have been damaged, but Ukraine's Energy system remains resilient.

Grid stability is a challenging feat, even under the best of circumstances. Electric grids are delicately interconnected systems in which the supply of available energy and the use of that energy must be maintained in constant balance. Synchronizing one grid to another requires a precise match of the frequency, phase, and voltage of electric current. Failure to do so could result in grid collapse (a blackout) of both power systems and possibly require weeks of repair to make them functional.<sup>114</sup> Despite all of the above, Ukraine managed to secure its Energy resilience.

Today, Ukraine is rethinking its energy system to respond both to security challenges and decarbonization goals fully aligned with those of the EU. The mission of the Energy Strategy of Ukraine until 2050 is to create conditions for the sustainable development of the national economy by ensuring access to reliable, stable and modern sources of energy.<sup>115</sup> By 2050, Ukraine's energy sector

<sup>113</sup> Climatescope rate 2019, available at: <https://2019.global-climatescope.org/>

<sup>114</sup> "Ukraine Fights To Build More Resilient, Renewable Energy System in Midst of War" dd 27.07.2023, by Harrison Drevets, Sara Fall, Isabel McCann, available at: <https://www.nrel.gov/news/features/2023/ukraine-fights-to-build-a-more-resilient-renewable-energy-system-in-the-midst-of-war.html>

<sup>115</sup> Energy strategy of Ukraine, available at: <https://www.mev.gov.ua/reforma/enerhetychna-stratehiya>



should be as close as possible to climate neutrality. This means the availability of clean energy, overcoming energy poverty, the development of an innovative and decentralized energy system, the full functioning of national energy markets, and their integration into international ones.

The goals of the Energy Strategy of Ukraine 2050 are to achieve the maximum level of climate neutrality and maximum reduction of coal use in the energy sector, to renew and modernize energy infrastructure, to increase the efficiency of the use of resources in the energy sector, to provide the energy sector with its resources, taking economic feasibility into account. Ukraine also develops alternative energy sources, new products and innovative solutions in the energy sector.

Ukraine intends to partner with ASEAN in Energy through:

- ❖ Exchange knowledge and experience of keeping the energy resilient and secured in uncertain time;
- ❖ Sharing knowledge and experience with regards to security standards and development of safety measures for nuclear facilities;
- ❖ Exploring avenues for future collaboration in the area of energy security, including the safe and sustainable development of low-carbon energy sources and technologies;
- ❖ Promotion of energy efficiency and conservation practices;
- ❖ Exploring opportunities for cooperation to support the efforts of ASEAN member states to strengthen their capacity in the areas of energy security and the safe, sustainable development of renewable and alternative energy sources;
- ❖ Supporting the efforts to promote energy technologies, energy efficiency, and conservation practices.



# DISASTER MANAGEMENT





**A**SEAN member states are located in an area of high seismic activity, making them vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geological disasters. The region is also susceptible to tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and other weather events.<sup>116</sup>

In 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami, according to various estimates, killed 230-280 thousand people in 14 countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Malaysia. The Indian Ocean tsunami, triggered by a powerful earthquake off the coast of Aceh province on the tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, released the energy of 23,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs and destroyed coastal towns and communities.<sup>117</sup>

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, killing more than 6,000 people<sup>118</sup> and causing \$2.2 billion in damage.<sup>119</sup> The typhoon was assigned a category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale. This is the strongest tropical cyclone in terms of wind speed and one of the deepest low-pressure systems in the history of meteorological measurements: the maximum wind speed reached 314 km/h, gusts reached 378 km/h, and the pressure dropped to 895 hPa.<sup>120</sup>

Ukraine has never stood aside from amical humanitarian assistance for ASEAN member states and has always sent them all possible aid. For example, in 2013, Ukraine sent 38 tons of humanitarian support in the form of a cargo of essential goods to the Philippines, whose population and territory were affected by Typhoon Haiyan.<sup>121</sup> Another example, among others, is granting humanitarian aid to Indonesia for the total amount of \$665,9 thousand back in June 2006 after a series of powerful earthquakes with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale on the island of Java.<sup>122</sup>

During difficult times, ASEAN member states provide their support to Ukraine in return. In 2022-2023, the aggregated humanitarian support of Ukraine by the members of the Association constituted up to \$20 million. The latest humanitarian aid in the amount of \$5 million was received in late 2023 from Indonesia via the Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund of the World Bank for the purpose of reconstruction of Chernihiv City Hospital No.2.

ASEAN has unique experience in managing natural and man-made disasters. One of the key features is its approach to cooperation and joint action. ASEAN member states actively share knowledge, technology and resources to support those affected by natural disasters. This commonality of approach ensures ef-

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<sup>116</sup> Synthesis Report on Ten ASEAN Countries Disaster Risks Assessment, available at: [https://www.unisdr.org/files/18872\\_asean.pdf](https://www.unisdr.org/files/18872_asean.pdf)

<sup>117</sup> "Research on the practices of reconstruction after destruction: Indonesia", available at: <https://iaa.org.ua/en/articles/doslidzhennya-praktyk-vidnovlennya-krayin-pislyva-rujnacziyi-respublika-indoneziya/>

<sup>118</sup> Final Report on the Effects of Typhoon "Yolanda" ("Haiyan") by the National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Council of the Republic of the Philippines, available at: [https://ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/1329/FINAL\\_REPORT\\_re\\_Effects\\_of\\_Typhoon\\_YOLANDA\\_HAIYAN\\_06-09NOV2013.pdf](https://ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/1329/FINAL_REPORT_re_Effects_of_Typhoon_YOLANDA_HAIYAN_06-09NOV2013.pdf)

<sup>119</sup> Ibid, Page 5.

<sup>120</sup> "Super Typhoon Haiyan", available at: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Super-Typhoon-Haiyan>

<sup>121</sup> Press statement "Ukraine sends humanitarian aid to the Philippines" dd 28.11.2013, available at: <https://rv.dsns.gov.ua/uk/news/ostanni-novini/999>

<sup>122</sup> Press statement "Ukraine allocated UAH 3.363 million in aid to Indonesia" dd 07.06.2006, available at: [https://gazeta.ua/articles/politics/\\_ukrayina-vidilila-3363-mln-griven-dopomogi-dlya-indoneziyi/115470](https://gazeta.ua/articles/politics/_ukrayina-vidilila-3363-mln-griven-dopomogi-dlya-indoneziyi/115470)



fectiveness in disaster response and recovery.

It has developed numerous platforms for discussing and coordinating actions in the event of natural and man-made disasters. One of them is the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, established in 2003, which developed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in 2005, which is a regional legally binding agreement that binds ASEAN member states together to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in reducing disaster losses and intensifying joint emergency response to disasters in the ASEAN region.

The AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 was developed based on the foundation laid out by the AADMER with the aim of continuing the momentum made by ASEAN on regional disaster management collaborations for over a decade. The mission for 2021-2025 is carried out through five (5) priority programmes that reflect the major provisions of the AADMER. Each priority programme includes sub-priorities, outcomes, and outputs that highlight the changes and goals the ACDM aims to achieve in 2021-2025. The outcomes can be achieved by producing and implementing the outputs through activities or projects.<sup>123</sup>

Furthermore, according to the AADMER, the Association seeks “expanding the background of ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team members, including from health, social affairs, and those with specific skillsets, for instance Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Materials specialists”.<sup>124</sup>

Pursuant to the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 41<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting held on 23 August 2023, it was noted “that several ASEAN member states are exploring nuclear energy for power generation, given the emerging technologies and new developments in the field of nuclear energy.”<sup>125</sup> Some sources estimate that the demand for electricity across ASEAN will triple by

<sup>123</sup> AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, available at: <https://mneawp.asean.org/>

<sup>124</sup> Ibid, Page 51.

<sup>125</sup> Joint Ministerial Statement of the 41st ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, Clause 29, dd 23.08.2023, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/41st-AMEM-JMS-Final-and-Adopted.pdf>



2050.<sup>126</sup> Southeast Asia has no operational nuclear reactors yet, but in 2022 Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines declared their intention to acquire nuclear power capacity to meet their growing energy needs and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.<sup>127</sup>

“One ASEAN, One Response” is an ASEAN declaration responding to disasters as one in and outside the region to achieve a faster response, mobilise greater resources and establish stronger coordination to ensure ASEAN’s collective response to disasters. That is, involving as many relevant stakeholders as possible to achieve the envisioned speed, scale, and solidarity. It is an open and inclusive platform using ASEAN’s mechanisms at its core.

The declaration is inspired by One Vision, One Identity and One Caring and Sharing Community, as enunciated in the ASEAN Charter. United by a common desire and collective will to jointly respond to disasters in the ASEAN region, as articulated in AADMER as the leading regional policy backbone.<sup>128</sup>

Ukraine, having experience in dealing with natural and man-made disasters, intends to be a valuable partner for ASEAN in this area. Floods, forest fires, nuclear and other emergencies have repeatedly tested Ukraine.

Ukraine faced the largest man-made disaster in human history – the Chornobyl catastrophe – when a nuclear reactor was completely destroyed, and radioactive substances were released into the environment, spreading a cloud with an area of more than 200 000 km<sup>2</sup> in Europe, which contaminated with radioca-

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<sup>126</sup> “Who in ASEAN is Ready for Nuclear Power?” dd May 2023, available at: <https://energyforgrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-ASEAN-Readiness-for-Nuclear.pdf>

<sup>127</sup> Press statement “Southeast Asia tempted by nuclear power” dd 25.06.2022 by Le Monde, available at: [https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2022/06/25/southeast-asia-tempted-by-nuclear-power\\_5987975\\_19.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2022/06/25/southeast-asia-tempted-by-nuclear-power_5987975_19.html)

<sup>128</sup> “Operationalising One ASEAN One Response”, available at: <https://mneawp.asean.org/asean-declarations>



esium (above 0.04 MBq of  $^{137}\text{Cs}/\text{m}^2$ ).<sup>129</sup> The radiation contamination area in Ukraine amounted to 50 thousand km<sup>2</sup> in 12 regions. The tragedy has no analogues in terms of environmental contamination or negative impact on people's health and psyche. According to experts, this tragic event changed the fate of humanity for 24 thousand years, which is the half-life of radioactive plutonium and hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons from the Chernobyl zone.

Today, Ukraine's civil nuclear fleet consists of four operational electrical generation nuclear power plants (NPP), notably Khmelnytsky NPP, Rivne NPP, South Ukraine NPP and Zaporizhzhya NPP, which are operated by the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company "Energoatom" and consist of water-cooled, water-moderated type of reactors, as well as Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology Neutron Source installation in Kharkiv and the research reactor at the Institute for Nuclear Research in Kyiv. Ukraine also has a number of facilities in which radioactive sources are used, including Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa and Lviv.<sup>130</sup>

On 3 March 2022, Russian forces occupied Zaporizhzhya NPP. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called these circumstances "unprecedented and extremely challenging" when "military forces are near or on the site of nuclear facilities, in particular of an operational nuclear power plant".<sup>131</sup> Following that, the UN, EU, IAEA and international community issued numerous statements, resolutions and requests to the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its military and other personnel from the Zaporizhzhya NPP, cease all actions against and at nuclear facilities in Ukraine, so that the Ukrainian competent authorities can regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's inter-

<sup>129</sup> "Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and their Remediation: Twenty Years of Experience" by the Chernobyl Forum Expert Group "Environment", available at: [https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub1239\\_web.pdf](https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub1239_web.pdf)

<sup>130</sup> "Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in Ukraine" dd February 2022–February 2023 by IAEA, available at: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/23/02/nuclear-safety-security-and-safeguards-in-ukraine-feb-2023.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Summary Report by the Director General dd 28.04-05.09.2022 by the IAEA, available at: [https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/22/09/ukraine-2ndsummaryreport\\_sept2022.pdf](https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/22/09/ukraine-2ndsummaryreport_sept2022.pdf)



nationally recognized borders to ensure their safe and secure operation, which remain ignored by Russia.<sup>132</sup>

Ukraine has managed to demonstrate a high level of disaster management during the flooding of the Kherson region as a result of Russia's bombing of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam on 6 June 2023. The explosion of the hydroelectric power plant created an ecocide, depriving more than 700 thousand Ukrainians of no quality drinking water. The explosion released oil products, fertilizers, construction materials, and sewage into the water. A large amount of fuels and lubricants were stored at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, and about 150 tons of them got into water bodies.

In the first days, the maximum permissible concentration of oil products was recorded to be exceeded by 4 to 6 times. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine declared an emergency and began evacuating people from flooded homes. Thousands of people were locked in their homes, and in the occupied part of the Kherson region, people climbed onto roofs to escape. So, to help them, the special forces were conducting a rescue operation under Russian fire.

Almost a hundred settlements remained isolated, most of them on the occupied territory. Not only people suffered, but hundreds of trapped animals were rescued by volunteers and wildlife rescuers. The fuel storage facilities and warehouses with chemicals and fertilizers were flooded. It has also severely damaged Ukraine's irrigation systems, which will have far-reaching and long-term consequences for Ukraine and for many countries of the world as well, as vast agricultural areas in southern regions of Ukraine will not be able to produce food for a long time.

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<sup>132</sup> UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/ES- 11/4 dd 12.10.2022; IAEA Board of Governors resolution GOV/2022/71, dd 17.11.2022, Para. 1; EU's Joint Statement dd 12.08.2022 on the situation at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, and others.



Furthermore, as a result of severe damage to the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, the water level in the reservoir that the Zaporizhzhya NPP had used for cooling water intake started to decrease by around 5 cm/hour. The above resulted in a severe threat to Zaporizhzhya NPP along with other numerous menaces, including disconnections from off-site radiation monitoring stations, low water level in the thermal plant's intake channel, blackouts and electricity lines disconnection, drone strikes, outwards-facing mines between the perimeter fences and others.<sup>133</sup>

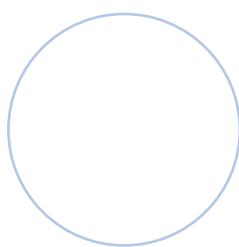
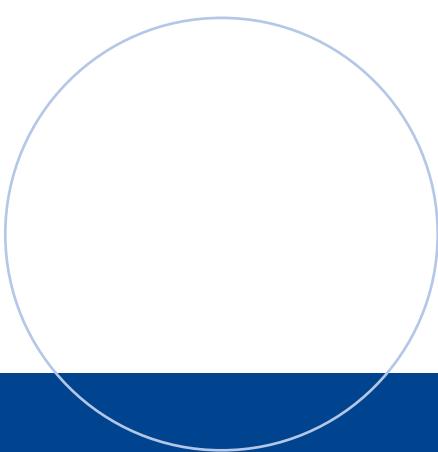
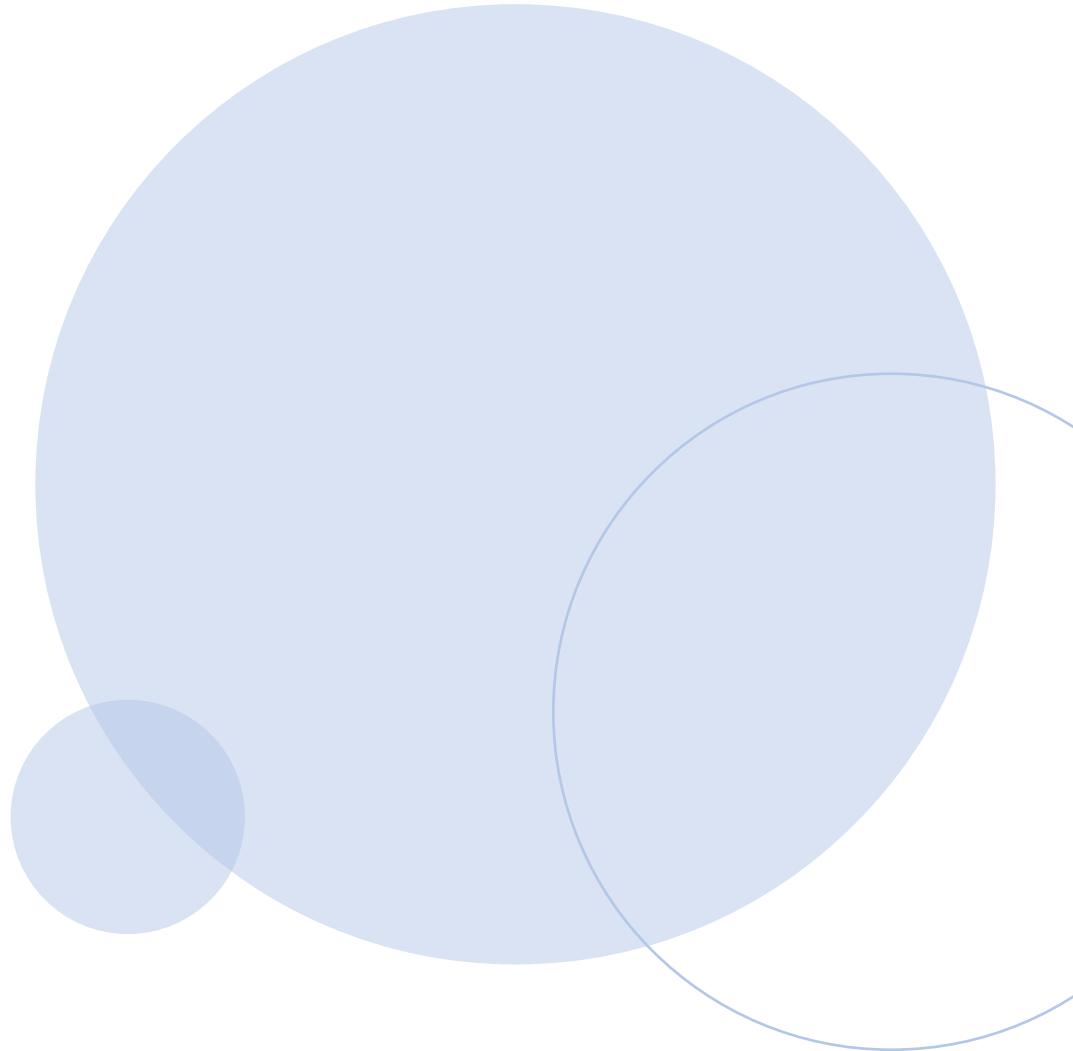
There have also been successful cases of cooperation between Ukraine and some ASEAN member states on the people-to-people level. The famous example of the rescue of a junior football team and their coach from the Tam Luang Cave in Thailand in 2018 illustrated the effective cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN member states when Ukrainian rescuers played an important role in saving people in extremely difficult conditions. A team of Ukrainian divers laid underwater guide cables in complete darkness, paving the way to the place where the children had been found earlier, which made it possible to save their lives.<sup>134</sup>

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in Disaster Management through:

- ❖ Sharing knowledge and experience of maintaining resilient and secured disaster management in uncertain times;
- ❖ Capacity-building activities and sharing best practices and experiences on disaster prevention and mitigation, risk assessment and monitoring, preparedness and response;
- ❖ Supporting disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and knowledge and innovation management, as well as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation;
- ❖ Exploring the possibility of cooperation with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management;
- ❖ Promotion of science, technology and innovation cooperation on prevention, mitigation and risk reduction of natural disasters;
- ❖ Exchange of experts for skills training and other initiatives.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> "Ukrainian cave divers contribute to search and rescue operation in Thailand", available at: <https://www.unian.info/world/10175603-ukrainian-cave-divers-contribute-to-search-and-rescue-operation-in-thailand.html>





# DEMINING





**A**SEAN has a unique experience and position in demining, facilitated by its international character and cooperation among member states. ASEAN's joint efforts ensure security in the Southeast Asian region through demining cooperation. For example, ASEAN countries have actively cooperated in a mine clearance program in Cambodia, where years of war have left behind a significant number of mines. This cooperation has reduced the number of mine victims and improved the conditions for the country's development.

In addition, ASEAN uses its platforms to raise awareness of demining issues and draw the international community's attention to the problem. Meetings, conferences and other events organized by ASEAN help to discuss the latest trends, best practices, and the introduction of the latest technologies in the field of demining.

In particular, the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) is a center of excellence under the ASEAN Security Cooperation to encourage efforts to address landmines and explosive remnants of war for interested ASEAN member states. Inaugurated on 25 May 2016, the Center aims to collectively tackle the humanitarian aspects of landmines and Explosive remnants of war (ERW) through an integrated approach of experience sharing, skills training, and other capacity-building activities.

In accordance with the ASEAN Leaders' recognition of the presence of landmines and other ERW as a threat to people's safety, a constraint to socio-economic development, and a humanitarian problem in the ASEAN region, ARMAC was formed to facilitate cooperation within and between ASEAN member states and relevant institutions to:

- Enhance awareness programs on the dangers of ERW among affected communities;
- Facilitate appropriate medical and rehabilitation assistance for victims of ERW upon request from the affected ASEAN member states;
- Assist interested ASEAN member states in research and knowledge sharing on the effects of ERW and efforts to address them, including through writing proposals for technical assistance projects and funding at their specific and individual request.

According to ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center Strategy 2023-2027, the strategic objective of the ARMAC is to "develop and share best practice among ASEAN member states and globally".<sup>135</sup> Since ARMAC seeks to raise the standards of mine action research and enhance the culture within those entities conducting testing and research in this field, Ukraine intends to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with it.

ASEAN is also an active participant in international demining efforts. The organization cooperates with other regional and international organizations, the

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<sup>135</sup> ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center Strategy 2023-2027, Page 20, available at: [https://aseanmineaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ARMAC\\_Strategy-2023-2027\\_V8-.pdf](https://aseanmineaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ARMAC_Strategy-2023-2027_V8-.pdf)



UN,<sup>136</sup> International Campaign to Ban Landmines,<sup>137</sup> and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.<sup>138</sup>

Over the three decades of war and civil conflict that ended in 1998, several million mines have been left scattered across Cambodia. Mines have killed at least 20,000 Cambodians and injured about 45,000. Ukraine and Cambodia have a lot in common when it comes to mined areas, but the differences include the difficulty of finding unexploded ordnance in Cambodia in dense undergrowth. The process is complicated by the fact that explosives become more unstable and even more dangerous over time.

Speaking of Ukrainian mined areas, the problem is the variety of mines and explosives. The Ukrainian deminers' team has to be well-versed in the basics of demining any kind of modern ammunition.

In a 2022 report, the non-governmental organisation Landmine Monitor named Cambodia as one of nine countries with massive mine contamination, and now Ukraine is on the list.<sup>139</sup> Cambodian deminers are considered to be among the most experienced in the world, and their demining efforts have helped to reduce the average number of mine-related deaths every year.

At the beginning of 2023, Ukrainian specialists were trained in various demining techniques in Cambodia for a week, continuing their training through regular video conferences. Later, Cambodians conducted training for Ukrainian deminers in Poland. When training Ukrainian colleagues, Cambodian experts use the latest Japanese-made mine detector, which combines the functions of a ground-penetrating radar and a metal detector<sup>140</sup> and cooperate with Japanese experts regarding the demining of Ukraine.<sup>141</sup>

Since 2014, many non-governmental organizations and unions in the demining field have been established in Ukraine, including the Ukrainian Deminers Association, Mine Safe Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Association of Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Ukrainian society is actively involved in demining, as evidenced

<sup>136</sup> Press statement "ASEAN, UN move forward in achieving Vision 2025 and SDGs" dd 30.09.2018, available at: <https://asean.org/asean-un-move-forward-in-achieving-vision-2025-and-sdgs/>

<sup>137</sup> List of ICBL-CMC Members, available at: <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/about-us/who-we-are/members/icbl-cmc-members.aspx>

<sup>138</sup> Press statement "ARMAC, GICHD launch MoU to assist National Mine Action Authorities in ASEAN" dd 27.01.2021, available at: <https://asean.org/armac-gichd-launch-mou-to-assist-national-mine-action-authorities-in-asean-2/>

<sup>139</sup> Landmine Monitor 2022, available at: <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2022/landmine-monitor-2022.aspx>

<sup>140</sup> "Japanese technology to support demining efforts in Ukraine", available at: [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2023/20230404\\_11.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/topics/2023/20230404_11.html)

<sup>141</sup> Statement of the Deputy Prime Minister Sok Chenda Sophea, Clause 3(2), available at: [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_003326.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003326.html)



by the surge in developments in this area.<sup>142</sup>

As a result of Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022, Ukraine has become the most mined country in Europe. According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the total area affected by mines, shells, and bombs is 174,000 km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>143</sup> of which 14,000 are maritime areas,<sup>144</sup> which is approximately half the area of the Philippines.

In 2023, nearly 500 incidents have been recorded related to demining, resulting in 240 civilian deaths and over 550 injuries. Potentially mined land was a source of food for about 81 million people. The cost of surveying and clearing this area is estimated at \$37,4 billion, according to the World Bank.<sup>145</sup>

Furthermore, the time and effort required to completely clear the entire contaminated area using available resources is estimated to take at least 10 years. Ukraine's most heavily mined regions include Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhya, Sumy, Chernihiv, Kyiv, and Kharkiv oblasts. Thus, national security requires new strategies and approaches aimed at accelerating the demining process and increasing its effectiveness.

Ukraine intends to partner with ASEAN in Demining through:

- ❖ Exploration of the possibility of cooperation between relevant Ukrainian authorities and ARMAC;
- ❖ Cooperation with regards to demining of marine areas, areas affected by natural disasters and/or conflicts;
- ❖ Promotion of science technology and innovation cooperation on demining;
- ❖ Performing consultations and workshops regarding demining best practices;
- ❖ Promotion of the exchange of demining experts for skills training and other initiatives.

<sup>142</sup> "Ukrainian machine for preparing soil for demining certified", available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/ukrainska-mashyna-dlia-pidhotovky-gruntu-do-rozminuvannia-otrymala-sertyifikat>

<sup>143</sup> Statement of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yuliia Svyrydenko, Para 3, available at: <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/rozminuvannia-ukrainy-za-kilka-rokiv-a-ne-desiatylit-naikrashchavidpovid-ahresoru-juliia-svyrydenko>

<sup>144</sup> "The Ministry of Defense on how many territories in Ukraine need to be inspected for mines", available at: <https://www.unian.ua/war/u-minoboroni-rozpovali-skilki-territoriy-v-ukrajini-treba-obstezhiti-na-predmet-za-minuvannya-12266871.html>

<sup>145</sup> Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report on Ukraine by the World Bank, available at: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099184503212328877/pdf/P1801740d1177f03c0ab180057556615497.pdf>



# SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION





**O**ne of the main features of ASEAN's cultural identity is its ability to combine the unique cultural heritage and traditions of its 10 member states. Such an exchange helps preserve and popularize the unique cultural aspects of each state.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ACSS) was created in order to realize ASEAN citizens' full potential. One of its foundations is the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 22 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.<sup>146</sup>

Pursuant to Clause 7 of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, "*it focuses on multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagements, including Dialogue and Development Partners, sub-regional organisations, academia, local governments in provinces, townships, municipalities and cities, private-public partnerships, community engagement, tripartite engagement with the labour sector, social enterprises, government organisation, non-governmental organisation, civil society organisation engagement, corporate social responsibility, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, with emphasis on raising and sustaining awareness and caring societies of ASEAN, as well as deepening the sense of ASEAN identity*".<sup>147</sup>

Furthermore, Clause 33 of the above "[...] ensure[s] sustainability of projects and established mechanisms, resources in the form of funds, technical expertise and knowledge assets from Dialogue Partners, International Organisations and other partners, will be mobilised by the ASEAN member states and respective ASEAN Organs and Bodies".<sup>148</sup>

In addition to the ACSS, the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025 aims "to deepen an ASEAN mindset and facilitate intercultural dialogue among the peoples of ASEAN through the engagement of various stakeholders in raising awareness on, and appreciation for, the histories, cultures, arts, traditions and values of the ASEAN region".<sup>149</sup>

In this regard, an important role is devoted to foreign partners of ASEAN since the above Strategic Plan states that "culture will also be brought to the fore of building an ASEAN community that is a global partner in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development"<sup>150</sup> and Ukraine intends to support ASEAN with the above as well as the provisions stated in the ACSS.

The Strategy of Public Diplomacy of Ukraine 2021-2025 aim to popularize and share of national achievements and experience in the field of culture with citizens of other countries for better understanding and trust. The above includes the promotion of modern Ukrainian cinema, music, theater, performance art, li-

<sup>146</sup> ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, available at: <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/8.-March-2016-ASCC-Blueprint-2025.pdf>

<sup>147</sup> Ibid, Clause 7

<sup>148</sup> Ibid, Clause 33

<sup>149</sup> ASEAN Strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025, Clause 1, available at:

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ASEAN-Strategic-Plan-for-Culture-and-Arts-2016-2025.pdf>

<sup>150</sup> Ibid, Clause 2



terature, classical and modern visual art, creative industries, and international research projects in the field of culture and art. Furthermore, it includes the popularization of the Ukrainian language in the world as well as the promotion of Ukrainian cultural heritage and projects in the field of culture and art of representative indigenous peoples and national minorities.<sup>151</sup>

Ukraine is a country with a history of more than 1000 years and a home to eight incredible UNESCO World Heritage Sites, seven of which are cultural sites and one of which, the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, is a natural site. Kyiv Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra was listed back in 1990. The most recent site listing took place in 2023, when the Historic Centre of Odesa was included into the register. Furthermore, 16 sites in Ukraine are on the tentative list.<sup>152</sup>

Art plays an essential role in the achievement of the Association's aims. The ASEAN Gallery showcases paintings, sculptures, prints, indigenous arts and artifacts, and historical objects from Southeast Asia and around the world, including Ukraine. All items in the collection were gifted to the ASEAN Secretariat by state leaders, government officials, private companies, and individuals from ASEAN member states and Formal Partners, as well as by the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation during its visit to the General Assembly of the AIPA in August 2023.

In 2023, Ukraine held a number of events aimed at promoting ASEAN. On 3 July 2023, the Centre for ASEAN Countries Studies (Kyiv) organized the Roundtable "ASEAN–Ukraine: New Opportunities for Stronger Partnership". Various aspects of cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN were discussed, particularly economic cooperation and trade, connectivity and digital transformation, sustainable development, ecology and climate change, humanitarian assistance, energy transition, peace and security issues.

<sup>151</sup> Strategy of Public Diplomacy of Ukraine 2021-2025, Page 11, available at: <https://mfa.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/%D0%A1%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B3%D1%96%D1%97/public-diplomacy-strategy.pdf>

<sup>152</sup> Ukraine - UNESCO World Heritage Centre, available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ua/>



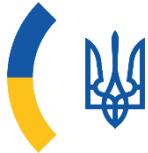
From 1 to 4 August 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine held the Quiz dedicated to ASEAN Day, where participants had to answer 32 multiple-choice questions covering key aspects of ASEAN, its political structure, economic cooperation, social issues, and cultural heritage.

Crimean Tatar are Muslims from Ukraine with a long history and culture. Promoting Crimean Tatar culture in ASEAN will help enrich the region's cultural diversity and raise awareness of Crimean Tatar culture and history. The exchange of Crimean artists and performers, Crimean Tatar art, and film festivals of Crimean Tatar films shall be beneficial for the cultural diversity of all Parties involved.

Ukraine is actively seeking to expand its cultural ties with ASEAN countries for the mutual exchange of cultural values and the promotion of mutual understanding. Cooperation shall include the exchange of arts, folklore, literature, languages, cultural and religious festivals, and the mutual holding of Days/Weeks of Ukrainian and ASEAN member states cultures. An example can be the participation of Ukrainian artists at art festivals in ASEAN countries and the exchange of artistic works, the opening of "Ukrainian bookshelves", the provision of scholarships and fellowships, and the exchange of students and teachers.

Ukraine plans to partner with ASEAN in Social and Cultural Cooperation through:

- ❖ Promotion of greater awareness of each other's traditions, heritage, and cultures through industries, cultural exchanges, events, festivals, and art exhibitions;
- ❖ Exploring parliamentary cooperation through the framework of the AIPA and on a bilateral basis;
- ❖ Exploring the ways of intercultural cooperation between Crimean Tatar and citizens of ASEAN member states;
- ❖ Promoting autonomous and direct collaboration between universities of Ukraine and ASEAN member states;
- ❖ Supporting human capital development and cooperation in education and training through information sharing, exchange programmes, capacity building, and skills development;
- ❖ Promotion of creative industry cooperation in areas such as music, craft, cuisine, etc.;
- ❖ Promotion of people-to-people contacts, networking, and exchange of visits between government officials, artists, students, youth, academicians, scholars, librarians, media, community representatives, as well as diplomats;
- ❖ Encouraging collaboration and direct contacts between public libraries for the purpose of exchanging information materials and publications.



## CONCLUSION

The vision of cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN presented in this document seeks to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and ASEAN member states, as well as to promote effective collaboration across a wide range of sectors.

Ukraine and ASEAN have a long track record of successful and mutually beneficial relations. Starting from the very first appointment of the Ambassador of Ukraine to ASEAN back in 2013, the relations evolved, reaching significant milestones, including the granting of the status of Observer to the Parliament of Ukraine by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly in 2021, mutual support on the international arena, numerous bilateral events and activities.

The latest milestone is Ukraine's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. The Treaty serves as a foundational document of ASEAN for fostering friendly relations and strengthening political, security, economic, social, and cultural cooperation, and Ukraine, as an *External Partner*, gives the utmost importance to it and intends to follow its Principles regarding cooperation with the Association.

The theme of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Presidency in ASEAN in 2024 is "*Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience*". The Chair also establishes that during its Presidency, ASEAN shall "*further strengthen relations with external partners [...]*". It was also fairly noted that "*ASEAN region, like other regions around the world, continues to face myriad challenges, including lingering economic and financial difficulties, even though the region has been gradually recovering from multidimensional disturbances, and yet this recovery remains fragile*".<sup>153</sup>

Ukraine shares the goals of the Lao PDR's Presidency and intends to contribute to Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience of ASEAN. In pursuit of the objectives outlined in this document, Ukraine intends to enhance its relations with ASEAN through the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

The possible areas of cooperation include Food and Agriculture, Digital Sector, Trade, Energy, Disasters Management, Demining, Social and Cultural Cooperation. The pertinence of these areas in the context of Ukraine-ASEAN relations is underscored, with their confluence portending mutual growth and affluence.

Ukraine is committed to bilateral and multilateral cooperation within ASEAN for the prosperity of all Parties involved. In today's turbulent modern world, the key to attainment and affluence is mutually beneficial cooperation, and Ukraine is ready to meet this demand and consolidate the success in Southeast Asia.

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<sup>153</sup> Explanation of the Theme for the Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024, available at: <https://laoschairman-ship2024.gov.la/theme/>



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
AC-FAF	ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry
ACSS	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ADM2025	ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2021-2025
AIFS	ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework
AIPA	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly
APAEC	ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2016-2025
ARMAC	ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
ASEAN/Association	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-BAC	ASEAN Business Advisory Council
ASW	ASEAN Single Window
DEFA	ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement
ERW	Explosive remnants of war
EU	European Union
FTA	Free Trade Area
GDP	Gross domestic product
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
JSCC	Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NPP	Nuclear power plant
Parties	Ukraine, ASEAN and its member states
SESU	State Emergency Service of Ukraine
SPA-FS	Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security
TAC	Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia



**The document “Ukraine-ASEAN: vision of cooperation” is produced by the Fourth Territorial Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.**

**It expresses Ukraine’s vision of cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and intends to strengthen relations and ensure effective cooperation between the Parties.**



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