

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION IN ASEAN

ASEAN-UN Partnership on Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The UN has been a strong partner of ASEAN in advancing Women, Peace and Security (WPS) since 2017. This includes the technical support to the organization of the Regional Symposium on Implementation of the WPS Agenda in 2018 - the first regional inter-sectoral dialogue that demonstrated ASEAN's commitment to the WPS agenda - leading to the development of [ASEAN Regional Study on WPS](#) launched in March 2021. Many of these efforts underline the importance of ASEAN ownership and multilateral cooperation to advance WPS in the region.

Under the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action 2021-2025, UN Women is mandated to lead on Women, Peace and Security in close collaboration with other UN agencies leveraging its coordination mandate to ensure the UN system delivers on gender equality and on the empowerment of women and girls. The Regional Project **Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace** builds on the partnership and collaboration with ASEAN and it was fully endorsed by the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

Key Milestones of ASEAN-UN Partnership on WPS

- The ground-breaking **Track 1.5 Regional Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security** co-organized with Malaysia and the ASEAN Secretariat focused on the critical role of women in preventing violent extremism in 2017
- Launch of the **ASEAN Women's Peace Registry** in 2018
- Organization of the **Regional Symposium on Implementation of the WPS Agenda** in 2018
- Development of the **ASEAN Regional Study on WPS** in March 2021
- Adoption of the **ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security** in November 2022 at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits

Why are we implementing this project?

The project seeks to operationalize a simple but revolutionary idea first introduced in the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) – that peace is inextricably linked to equality between men and women.

Engaging women will promote long-lasting peace and security in the region. This project is the first of its kind to use the WPS approach in promoting inclusive and sustainable peace and security in support of ASEAN's regional priorities, while addressing systemic gender inequality and discrimination that provides a fertile ground for intolerance and radicalization that has at times led to violence in the region.

It was developed in support of the robust commitment among ASEAN Member States and their leaders to advance WPS in the region. It aims to advance the WPS agenda in the context of Southeast Asia, including preventing gender-based violence and promoting social cohesion, as well as women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution and recovery.

This project also supports ASEAN in building regional and national capacity and in becoming a knowledge hub on WPS. It is opportune to advance the WPS agenda in the ASEAN region given the steadfast leadership from Member States, such as Indonesia and Viet Nam, which are both members of the United Nations Security Council. This is the first multi-year regional project co-created by ASEAN for ASEAN, with all the key ASEAN bodies and actors.

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Objective

ASEAN, ASEAN Member States and non-state actors have advanced and strengthened implementation of the WPS agenda, including preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in the region

Strategies

Policy Development
and Dialogue

Evidence-based
Research

Capacity
Development

Tools Development
and Implementation

Facilitation of
dialogues between
CSOs

Knowledge Production
and Sharing

Pilot Testing of
Initiatives

How we work

The project aims to support ASEAN in advancing the WPS agenda, including prevention of gender-based violence and promoting social cohesion, and will support ASEAN to build regional and national capacity and become a knowledge hub on WPS. The project is contributing to the SDGs, specifically **Goal 5: Gender Equality**, and **Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**.

Over five years (2021-2025), UN Women will support ASEAN lead the advancement of the WPS agenda through regional policy dialogue, evidence-based research, knowledge sharing, capacity development, tool development and implementation, and the pilot testing of initiatives.

Facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat, the project is directly supporting ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions, as well as ASEAN Member States including the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), as well as gender advocates, civil society and women's organizations and associations at regional and national levels to develop

and implement global, regional and national policy frameworks on WPS.

The project is fully aligned with ASEAN's vision to advance the WPS agenda. The project primarily focuses on ASEAN regional-level implementation with some selected country-level implementations to enhance synergies and lessons learned at the regional level, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste (as observer state and in support for its achievement of full ASEAN membership).

The project also recognizes the significance of addressing the humanitarian-peace-development nexus in the ASEAN region, given the overlapping challenges of conflicts and crises at the sub-national level. Ultimately, the project aims to promote conflict prevention, gender equality and women's participation and leadership in all spheres of peace and security decision making.

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