

# Chapter 2

## Commitments and Frameworks in ASEAN and East Asia

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# Chapter 2

## Commitments and Frameworks in ASEAN and East Asia

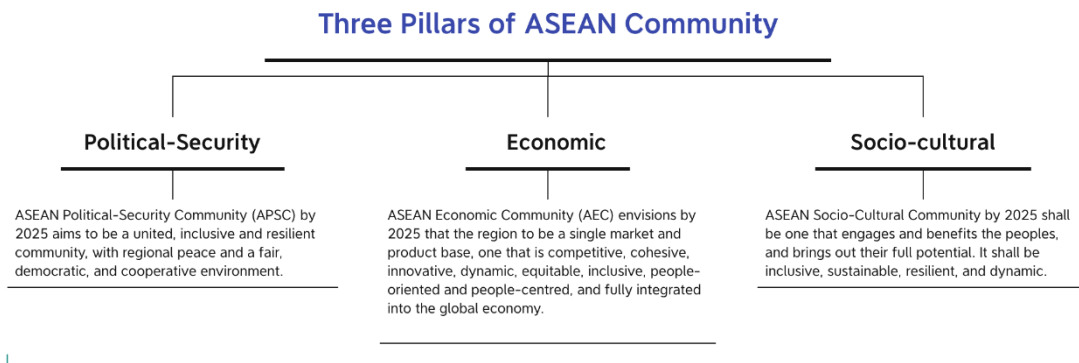
### ASEAN Community Vision 2025

ASEAN Community Vision 2025 was launched at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to help build an integrated, peaceful, and stable community of shared prosperity. It builds upon previous commitments such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, ASEAN Vision 2020, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, the ASEAN Charter, the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community (2009–2015), and the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (ASEAN Forging Ahead Together, 2015).

ASEAN Community Vision 2025 has three pillars (Figure 2.1). Disability inclusion measures intersect all of them. An integrated approach of the three pillars will ensure coordinated efforts occur between sectors, organs, and bodies.

All three pillars are interdependent and should incorporate disability inclusion.

**Figure 2.1. Three Pillars of ASEAN Community**



Source: [ASEAN Community](#).

### ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

This masterplan was developed at the 33rd ASEAN Summit to address the needs of persons with disabilities across the three pillars of ASEAN Community Vision 2025. The masterplan’s purpose is to mainstream the rights of people with disability across the three pillars by providing a framework for integration of persons with disabilities across sectors, and by providing 25 action points to foster AMSs’ commitment to an inclusive and resilient community. The masterplan is guided by three principles:

1. **Relevance.** Disability rights cross community pillars, the vision, and work plan to realise an inclusive community; specialised approaches should be considered only as a last resort.
2. **Complementarity.** The masterplan complements existing commitments of ASEAN leaders and AMSs to create an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities.
3. **Interrelatedness.** Human rights are interdependent and interconnected, requiring coordination between and participation of persons with disabilities across sector bodies.

As ASEAN is working towards the SDGs, the masterplan is a key instrument in guiding policy and programming for persons with disabilities.

The overall goal of the masterplan is to enhance the regional implementation of the UNCRPD by building an inclusive community where freedom of choice, independence, and full and effective participation of persons with disabilities can be realised and sustained. Attaining this goal can help achieve a high quality of life for persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers, amongst others.

The masterplan is guided by the principles of the UNCRPD:

1. Respect for human dignity, autonomy to make choices
2. Non-discrimination
3. Full and effective participation of everyone in society
4. Acceptance and respect of people with disabilities as part of society
5. Equitable opportunities
6. Accessibility
7. Equality between men and women
8. Respect for capacities of children with disabilities and for their identities

The plan shows ASEAN's conviction and commitment to create inclusive communities. Several programmes have been initiated, including in schools. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many programmes were put on pause. As the pandemic ends, all communities must have the chance to engage economically, politically, and socially to recover together and equitably.

### **ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**

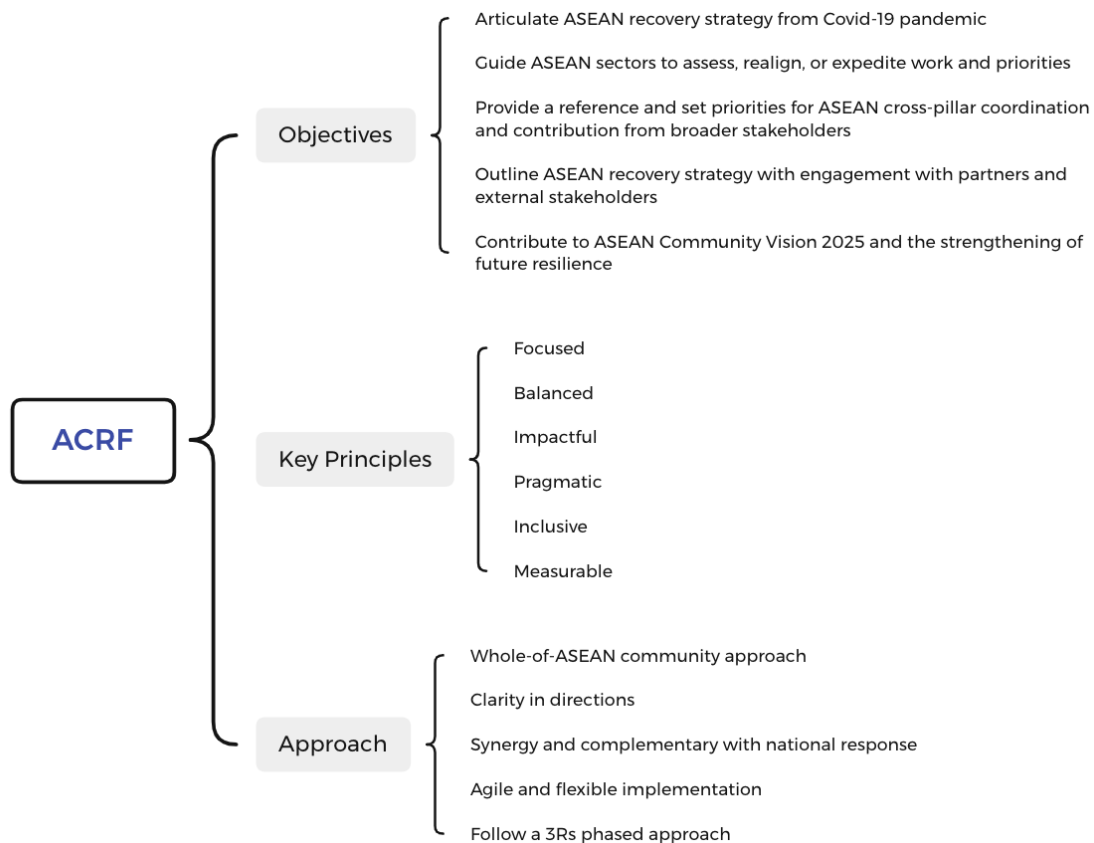
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the recovery framework was developed at the 36th ASEAN Summit in June 2020. It serves as the main reference document for strategic direction, partnerships, areas of focus, and coordination of support for recovery for internal and external ASEAN stakeholders. Its members consider the framework to be a collective and long-term socioeconomic recovery strategy guided by key principles, a targeted approach, and a results-based plan. Figure 2.2 shares a summary of the objectives, key principles, and the approach of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ASEAN, 2020).

The guiding principles of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) are:

1. **Focused**, by prioritising broad strategies and key priorities that are most relevant to support ASEAN's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **Balanced** between saving lives and livelihoods. Economic recovery should not come at the expense of public health, equity, security, and long-term sustainability.
3. **Impactful** strategies and priorities that will go beyond high-level statements and that deliver sustainable results and meet stakeholders' expectations.
4. **Pragmatic**, by aligning with existing plans and leveraging existing ASEAN mechanisms, initiatives, cooperation programmes, and partners.
5. **Inclusive** in both the design and implementation of actions to decrease inequality, paying special attention to vulnerable groups and sectors, which are the worst affected by the pandemic. All segments of society should benefit, so no one is left behind in ASEAN recovery efforts.
6. **Measurable** implementation of ACRF should be ensured, and progress monitored and periodically assessed.

**Figure 2.2. Summary of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**



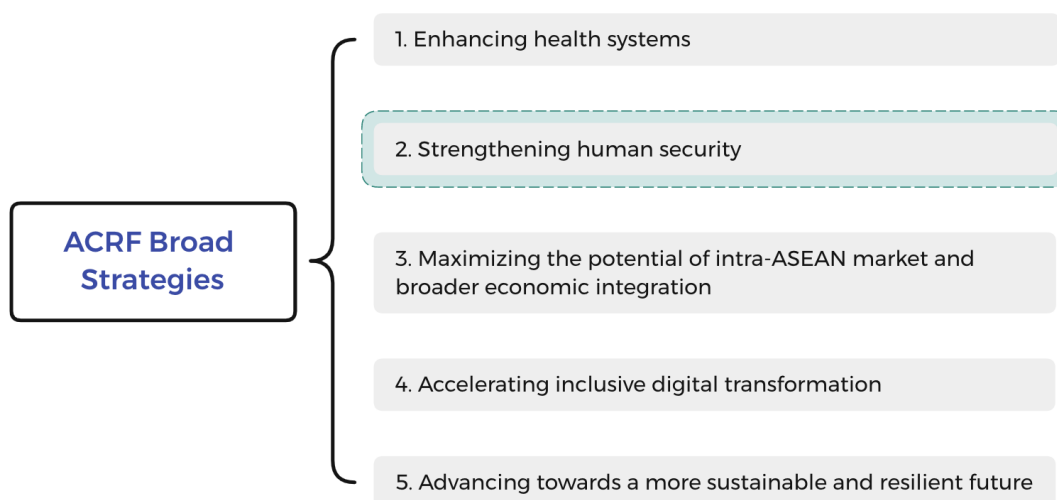
Source: ASEAN (2020).

ACRF takes a whole-of-ASEAN-community approach to outline the stages of recovery by offering targeted responses within sectors. ACRF ensures that recovery measures are aligned with sector and regional priorities and is a reference document for inter-sectoral communication and coordination across pillars and stakeholders.

ACRF pays special attention to vulnerable groups most affected by the pandemic to build an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient recovery in line with ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and beyond.

ACRF has five broad strategies: health, human security, intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration, digital transformation, and a sustainable and resilient future as seen in Figure 2.3.

**Figure 2.3. Broad Strategies of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework**



Source: ASEAN (2020).

**ACRF Broad Strategy 2, strengthening human security, advocates inclusive education.**

Human security refers to people’s safety from chronic threats and protection from hurtful disruptions in daily life, as defined by the UN Human Development Report (1994). The strategy places the welfare of people and their protection and empowerment at the core of ACRF in all communities during recovery and beyond.

**The negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were unevenly experienced by the vulnerable**, such as the poor, workers highly exposed to the public, informal workers, migrant workers, the elderly, women, children, and those with disabilities. Effects on livelihoods, education, and food security, amongst others might exacerbate poverty and increase the divide between the poor and the rich. If vulnerable groups’ needs are not met, sustainable, economic, social, and environmental development might be further delayed. Therefore, social protection and welfare must be strengthened for everyone, particularly the vulnerable.

**The implementation of the ACRF plan is key for all sectors** and for the achievement of Broad Strategy 2 (ASEAN, 2020). The implementation report outlines the importance of specific initiatives and programmes that involve disability-inclusive resilience plans. The plans include risk assessments, emergency response plans, recovery and rehabilitation plans, specific

allocation of resources, and collaboration with persons with disabilities, children, women, youth, and the elderly.

### Incheon Strategy to ‘Make the Right Real’ for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2013–2022

AMS, representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and other civil society organisations in Asia and the Pacific agreed upon this historically important document in 2012, making it the world’s first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals (UNESCAP, 2018). The strategy outlines 10 interrelated goals, with 27 targets and 62 indicators to measure changes across the targets. The strategy offers a time-bound and data-driven framework to implement the rights of the 650 million persons with disabilities in the Asia and Pacific region. (UNESCAP, 2018). Figure 2.4 shows all ten goals, and highlights Goal 5.

**Figure 2.4. Goals of the Incheon Strategy**



Source: UNESCAP (2018).

Goal 5 of the Incheon Strategy is inclusive education (UN, 1995). See Appendix A for a list of core and supplementary indicators for Goal 5 as well as Goal 5 targets.

The **Beijing Declaration and Action Plan** seeks to accelerate the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and was adopted by member states of the UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, 2018) at the high-level intergovernmental meeting during the midpoint review of the Asian and the Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022 in December 2017, Beijing, China.

The Beijing Declaration and Action Plan provides governments, civil society stakeholders, and UNESCAP with policy actions for each of the 10 Incheon Strategy goals. Guided by the UNCRPD, the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan and the Incheon Strategy work together to achieve the Decade of Persons with Disabilities (UN, 1995). The relationship between these strategies, action plan and the UNCRPD is described in Figure 2.5.

**Figure 2.5. Sustainable Development Goals, Beijing Declaration and Action Plan, Incheon Strategy, and United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**



Source: United Nations (1995).