ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030

I. Introduction

The first ACSS Strategic Plan covering the period 2011-2015 was adopted by the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM) in 2011, which has since been reconstituted as the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee. Following which, the subsequent ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was adopted by the ACSS Committee during the Fourth Session of the ACSS Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 14-16 November 2014. During the 6th Meeting of the Committee of the Whole (CoW) for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on 22 January 2015, the Chair of the High-Level Task Force on Economic Integration Working Group (HLTF-EI-WG) stressed the need for all action plans of ASEAN bodies to cover a ten-year period (2016-2025). Accordingly, the ASEANstats, with the support of the EU-ASEAN COMPASS project, prepared an updated ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 which maintained the 4 main strategies of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 with the inclusion of new initiatives taking into consideration global developments and regional statistical priorities. The ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 was adopted by the ACSS Committee during its Fifth Meeting in Cyberjaya on 3-5 November 2015.

The implementation of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 has been providing positive impact to the strengthening of ASEAN statistical cooperation and the improvement of ASEAN statistical capacity including the enhancement of data availability and quality in the field of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), foreign direct investment statistics (FDIS), statistics of international trade in services (SITS), system of national accounts (SNA) indicators, Sustainable development goals (SDG) indicators as well as other economic, social and demographic indicators. However, there were also various issues and challenges that impeded the ACSS in optimising their efforts and maximising the results. Therefore, the timely review of the Strategic Plan is crucial for ACSS to address the issues and challenges as well as to prepare more relevant and effective strategies and activities in order to ensure more sustainable progress and achieve the objectives and outcomes set out by the ACSS.

In 2019, a mid-term review (MTR) of the Strategic Plan was conducted to evaluate the progress from 2016-2019 to support an evidence-based revision of the Plan. Following the recommendations of the MTR, the updated ACSS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was developed and adopted by the ACSS Committee at its Tenth Meeting on 20-22 October 2020 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

An End-term Review of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 (ETR) was conducted in 2023 to evaluate its implementation both at national and regional level post 2019, and to recognise the achievements and relevant outcomes as well as identify and address issues and challenges. In addition, it provides the opportunity for the ACSS to be updated and take into consideration new and emerging global and regional developments affecting the statistical ecosystem in the development of the post-2025 ACSS Action Plan.

The ASEAN Vision 2045, including the post-2025 Strategic Plans of ASEAN Pillars are also the main consideration for ACSS in developing the post-2025 ACSS Action Plan. ACSS's support for the initiatives and activities under the three pillars of ASEAN, namely the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the ASEAN Socio Cultural Community (ASCC) and the ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC) will be expanded with new performance indicators introduced and monitored.

Consequently, the need for more statistics to support the evidence-based decision making and monitoring of ASEAN integration will continue to emerge. Therefore, ACSS will need to strengthen statistical cooperation in the region to enhance the availability and quality and accessibility of ASEAN statistics, including to provide more relevant, timely, reliable and comparable data. The ACSS will need to review current strategies and activities and assess if they remain relevant and effective or need to be strengthened and enhanced. There is also need to implement new approaches such as, among others, fostering partnership with development partners and international organisations, utilising alternative data sources, and strengthening inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

II. The Mandate

During the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 22 November 2015, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. The ASEAN Vision 2025[1] and the ASEAN Community Blueprints[2] served as major references and provide guidance in the drafting of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025as well as in setting the overall prioritisation for the updated ACSS Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

The introduction of *ASEAN Community Vision 2045: Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN,* along with the development of ASEAN Vision 2045 and the strategic plans of AEC, ASCC and APSC, requires all ASEAN sectoral bodies to be committed to maintain the principles of accountability and transparency in the planning and implementation of their work programmes.

ACSS, as the sectoral body responsible for the development of official ASEAN statistics, is committed to strengthening statistical cooperation in the region to improve statistical capacity of AMS and ASEAN Secretariat, not only to enhance alignment with international statistical standards, but also to meet the need for supporting decision making and progress monitoring related to the implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

[1] ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together

[2] ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, and the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025

For the period of 2026-2030 ACSS will implement the following strategic measures:

1. Institutional strengthening, fostering partnership and enhancing ACSS sustainability
2. Improvement of the response to greater ASEAN data needs
3. Enhancement of dissemination, communication and visibility of ASEAN statistics
4. Bridging the gap towards sustainable development of ASEAN statistics

III. Achievements under ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025

This Action Plan identified the following achievements during the implementation of ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025. These achievements underscore the ACSS commitment to foster a sustainable statistical system that serves the needs of stakeholders, supports evidence-based decision-making, and contributes to regional development and integration. Through strategic and collaborative initiatives, ACSS has made significant strides in advancing its statistical capabilities in the region.

Adaptation to Virtual Work Modalities

Despite the challenging time in 2020-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the alignment of relevant work programmes of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) of AMS had improved. All ACSS and its Working Group (WG) meetings held virtually were attended by all AMS. As part of the implementation of new modalities of ACSS work, virtual meeting has proven to be a feasible option, but would require a stable internet connection and for meeting participants to participate and contribute more actively.

Enhanced Engagement with Stakeholders

Closer coordination between ACSS and users as well as among data producers were promoted through consultative sessions and engagement at both regional and national levels. ASEANstats also conducted the online User Satisfaction Survey to obtain user feedback for improvement. The results are reported biennially. The most recent survey results showed that more efforts were needed to increase the number of responses. ACSS's visibility continues to be enhanced through the participation of ACSS chair in the ASEAN-wide meetings such as the Committee of the Whole (CoW) of the AEC, Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOC-COM), etc. ACSS also has been more involved in supporting initiatives by other ASEAN bodies, i.e., Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), labour statistics related initiatives, Gender Outlook, etc. In addition, the Data Request Protocol has been utilised by sectoral bodies, facilitating the inclusion of agreed-upon additional indicators on informal employment and MSME in the ASI-CT data collection.

Implementation and Monitoring of Work Programmes and Initiatives

The partnership and lead country approach was implemented and utilised in the areas of big data, with Indonesia and Malaysia as co-leads, as well as in the development of the concept note on ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF), with Thailand and ASEANstats as co-leads. In addition, Singapore and ASEANstats co-led the End-term Review of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025, while Indonesia and ASEANstats co-led the Concept Note on Small Area Estimation. In 2024, ACSS had continued the lead country approach with Indonesia and Singapore co-leading the drafting of the Concept Note on the ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy together with

ASEANstats, as well as the development of the ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030 by the Philippines, Malaysia and ASEANstats.

International Engagement and Cooperation

The participation of AMS and ASEANstats in the international statistical forums, such as the annual meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics, played an important role in strengthening partnerships with the international statistical agencies and promoting the global statistical agenda. Statistical agencies from our Dialogue Partners (DPs) and International Organisations (IOs) regularly attended the ACSS Committee sessions which provided a platform to share information on the relevant global/regional statistical agendas.

Enhanced to ASEAN Statistics

The availability and quality of data in key statistical areas have improved. For example, monthly merchandise trade statistic is now available; inward FDI stock and outward FDI (flows and stock) are now collected and available on the ASEANstats website; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators are available for 111 indicators, etc. Metadata and documentation on methodologies have also been developed. These include the quality report on IMTS which is produced annually, the quality assessment report on System of National Accounts for 6 (six) AMS, as well as the Methodological Guide on Trade in Services highlighting case studies from AMS which was produced and endorsed in 2022. Self-assessments on ACSS Open Data Index was implemented in 2020 and 2022 based on official statistics available on websites of the AMS' NSOs and ASEANstats. The assessment in 2022 showed an improvement in coverage, openness, or both.

As part of ACSS efforts to assess and benchmark ASEAN statistics, the ACSS Code of Practice on Statistical Process and Statistical Output has been implemented by all ACSS WGs. Quality measures for CoP self-assessment have also been enhanced for better relevance and accuracy.

Better Response to Anticipated Data Needs

Introduction and Implementation of ACSS Protocol for New Data Request has contributed to better response of ACSS to regional initiatives. The templates and metadata of new indicators, i.e., on informal employment and MSME were developed and data collection was formalised in the ASI-CT. Statistics on informal employment has been collected since 2020, while submission of statistics on MSME started in 2023. ACSS members and ASEANstats also actively participated in activities conducted to support the relevant initiatives by other ASEAN bodies such as on labour, MPAC implementation, Development of ASEAN Open Data Dictionary for ASEAN Connectivity Project, etc.

Enhancements to Data Submissions and ASI-CT

AMS and ASEANstats committed to enhance dissemination, communication, visibility and use of ASEAN statistics. The overall ASEANstats database architecture and Data Transmission Tool (DTT) had been enhanced overtime. AMS also regularly submit the updated ASEAN Statistics consolidated template (ASI-CT) and relevant metadata to ASEANstats following the data submission schedule, albeit with some occasional delays. In addition, the pilot project of API utilisation for data submission between ASEANstats and Singapore DOS was successfully conducted in 2023, with more AMS onboarding from 2024.

Enhancements to Data Dissemination and Communication

ASEANstats website had been enriched with additional features to provide more modes of dissemination to cater to different users and to make it more user-friendly. As part of the ACSS commitment to support data openness, dashboards were developed and were featured on the ASEANstats website to present data in an interactive manner, making it easier for stakeholders to access, understand and use the statistics.

Good progress on data dissemination has been achieved. Key ASEAN statistics are available and published on ASEANstats website in accordance with the advance release calendar, while dissemination through ASEANstats' regular publications, i.e., ASEAN Statistical Yearbook, ASEAN Key Figures, and ASEAN Statistical Highlights (previously ASEAN Statistics Leaflet), has been enhanced. Data visualisation has also been enhanced through infographics and video graphics. Metadata of key ASEAN statistics have also been made available on ASEANstats website.

To enhance the visibility and communication of ASEAN Statistics, the ACSS Communication Plan was developed. As part of the implementation of the ACSS Communication Strategy, several activities were conducted such as training on infographics and video graphics, development, information cascading protocol and more user-engagement were implemented by AMS and ASEANstats, user satisfaction survey was conducted biennially to obtain feedback and improve dissemination materials/ approaches, infographics and video graphics on statistical glossary were produced to explain statistical terms and data are made available through the ASEANstats website, etc.

Implementation of ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF)

Concept note on ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF) was endorsed in 2020 and was implementation since 2021. Implementation of AHAF was helpful to provide more capacity building activities. Review of AMS' needs was done through updating the list of AMS needs and expertise regularly for each ACSS WG.

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) were prioritised in capacity building activities conducted. Numerous specific activities were conducted in response to CLMV's needs. ACSS has also benefited from the support of external partners who had provided statistical expertise as well as access to more advanced technology.

IV. Issues and Challenges

Looking ahead to the future implementation of ACSS programs and activities, it is important to acknowledge the strides made in recent years while remaining mindful of the challenges that lie ahead. This Action Plan identifies key areas where ACSS faces challenges, signalling opportunities for growth and improvement.

Emerging Cross-Cutting Issues

In line with the development at global level, ASEAN also introduce a number of initiatives, that would be included in the AEC Strategic Plan, such as green economy, digital economy, blue economy and some other initiatives to catch up with emerging socio-economic issues. Consequently, this will create emerging demand for new indicators that need to be considered by ACSS in their work programme for the development and enhancement of official statistics both at national and regional level.

Technical and Operational

The quality of virtual meetings was compromised due to issues such as poor internet connections and varying degrees of participant contribution and engagement. Additionally, low response rate to online user satisfaction survey indicated a need for improved engagement and communication strategies, as well as to make the survey simpler and more accessible for everyone. More efforts could be done to better understand the profile of key users, which would provide useful information regarding data needs and development of statistical products and services.

There is also a need to ensure the framework and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, including its KPIs, are kept relevant and appropriate to accurately capture the progress and achievements at the national and regional levels. With differences in statistical capacity and development among AMS, the ACSS needs to continue its efforts to employ strategies for enabling the development and implementation of sustainable capacity building programmes across AMS.

Alternative Data Sources

Current budgeting system and capacities as well as managing respondent burden have prevented the conduct of regular and frequent surveys and the establishment of new surveys. Exploration to seek possible alternative data sources is needed. Enhancing capacity in new areas such as utilising Big Data for official statistics could be done at the national and regional level *(by using means of data collection that are applicable thus to avoid limitation of using crawling mechanisms)*. Strengthening inter-agency cooperation with line ministries is also crucial, particularly as part of efforts to improve administrative records so that it would be possible for official statistics use.

Funding Sustainability

Funding constraints could be a potential challenge that impede AMS from achieving objectives and implementing ACSS activities such as the organising of the ASEAN Forum on ACSS regularly. It was suggested that more guidance and recommendations be provided on the conduct of the annual ASEAN Statistical Forum at the national level, including the theme for the forum. In addition to users, the forum could also involve other data producing agencies at the national level. One of the possible options is to align the focus of the national level forum to the ACSS annual theme as all AMS would also be sharing on related topics at the ACSS meeting.

Additionally, budget constraints present a significant obstacle to attending the international and regional meetings and particularly may impact ASEANstats' ability to participate in future engagements. To balance AMS' commitment and participation in ACSS activities against limited resources and budget, one out of the two annual SCPC meetings is now conducted virtually. A more structured hosting arrangement was also agreed at the ACSS13 to enable better budget planning and use of resources. More can and should be done to facilitate the representation of AMS at important meetings in the face of budget cuts and savings, one such proposal could be holding WG meetings in hybrid format. This will also allow other AMS experts to join the meeting and contribute or other AMS staff to join and learn from the best practices shared at the WG meetings.

Collaboration and Coordination

Ensuring alignment of ACSS priorities with regional and international agendas is essential for effective contribution and response to global initiatives. However, challenges arise in coordinating

assistance requests from member states with available expertise, necessitating focus group discussions to address complex topics. Moreover, sustaining support from development partners (DPs) and international organisations (IOs) remains a challenge.

Regarding the lead-country approach which was utilised in many areas as earlier highlighted, it was observed that it may not be possible for all AMS to take on this role on an annual basis as it depends on the activities to be implemented during the timeframe (e.g., whether there are any activities that are relevant to the AMS or if the AMS has the required expertise/ resources). It was also noted that the implementation of the "partnership scheme" had thus far been focused on capacity building.

Capacity Building

Many activities within ACSS are project-based, raising concerns about sustainability post-project completion. Even though the AHAF implementation proved to be helpful to provide capacity building activities for AMS, some topics requested by AMS for assistance may not have a matching donor AMS to provide expertise. Therefore, strong cooperation and collaboration with development partners and international organisations is required to support the enhancement of statistical capacity and needs in AMS and ASEAN Secretariat, includingfinancial support to enable implementation of in-person trainings/workshops.

V. Vision and Mission

A key outcome of the End-term Review of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 was the endorsement by the ACSS13 of the new vision and mission statements. The ACSS members agreed that we should strive to be future-ready in the current fast-evolving environment. Given the proliferation of the use of technology and increasing importance of sustainable development, the ACSS13 agreed to incorporate these areas into the ACSS vision as follows:

> **"A future-ready and sustainable ASEAN Community Statistical System providing high quality statistics, empowered by advanced technologies and responsive to emerging statistical demands"**

ACSS13 also agreed to revise the ACSS Mission statement as follows:

> **The ASEAN Community Statistical System will:**
>
> 1. **Provide relevant, timely, comparable, and easily accessible ASEAN statistics in support of evidence-based policy and decision making,**
> 2. **Enhance the statistical capacity of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretariat, and**
> 3. **Increase data literacy to empower the use of the data within the ASEAN Community.**

VI. Key Enabling Mechanism

Code of Practice

The ACSS at its Second Session in Seam Reap, Cambodia, 27-28 September 2012 adopted the ACSS Code of Practice (CoP) which shall set out the guidelines and standards in conducting the production, dissemination, and communication of statistical products and services. It contains the

fundamental norms that help ensure trust in the statistical products and services of the national statistical authorities of the ASEAN Member States and improve the levels of user satisfaction, transparency and accessibility.

The ACSS CoP is consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994, and its updated version in 2014. A set of indicators of good practice for each of the principles is provided as a reference for reviewing the implementation status of the key principles of the ACSS CoP. All aspects in the production, dissemination and communication of ASEAN statistics are covered by the ACSS CoP.

Since its implementation, with regular self-assessment by SCPC and all ACSS Working Groups, the CoP has contributed to the progress monitoring and evaluation of the quality of institutional environment, statistical processes and statistical outputs both in AMS and ASEANstats.

The ACSS Policies and Guidelines on Data Sharing, Confidentiality and Dissemination of ASEAN Statistics

To facilitate data sharing, enhance dissemination and communication of statistics while upholding data confidentiality, the ACSS Committee has adopted the ACSS Policies and Guidelines on Data Sharing, Confidentiality and Dissemination of ASEAN Statistics at its Third Session in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 10-12 September 2013. Since then, it has been revised and adjusted to incorporate most recent developments, policies and mechanisms undertaken by ACSS and its working groups.

The ACSS Committee remains resolute in promoting ASEAN statistics dissemination and communication, in close collaboration with the Member States, the media and other relevant parties.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025 required the development of an “enhanced monitoring framework”. This led to the AEC 2025 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework being endorsed at the 48th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in August 2016 and inter-sessionally by the AEC Council in September 2016. AEC sectoral bodies then referenced this framework in developing and operating M&E mechanisms specific to their work areas.

Thus, in line with the AEC 2025 M&E Framework, the ACSS Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC) developed the ACSS M&E System which was endorsed at the ACSS7. The ACSS Committee tasked the ACSS SCPC to undertake regular monitoring of these KPIs for reporting at the sessions of ACSS Committee.

With the endorsement of M&E Framework of the three pillars of ASEAN, and to better align with the most recent statistical development at regional and global level, ACSS had conducted a review to the list of KPIs of the ACSS M&E Framework, which was updated to incorporate adjustments and revisions as necessary.

ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template (ASI-CT)

The ASEAN Statistical Indicators Consolidated Template (ASI-CT) consists of a wide range of indicators which are agreed upon for ACSS Working Groups to submit to ASEANstats. Each Working Group is committed to review and enhance their respective ASI-CT to be more relevant with current needs and capacities at the national and regional levels.

The ASI-CT, along with its supporting tools, were developed and are being used for data submission by relevant ACSS Working Groups as standard template for AMS submitting the data with the objectives of ensuring the consistency among AMS in terms of number and name of indicators, length of data series etc and as a supporting tool for quality checking and further processing at regional level. The ASI-CT has been effective for AMS in preparing and submitting the data and for ASEANstats in managing the regional database.

Working Groups

To implement the ACSS work programme, particularly in the efforts of enhancing availability and quality, including harmonisation, of ASEAN statistics, several working groups were established where each of them is focused in specific statistical areas. The focal points of these working groups come from the institutions producing relevant official data in the AMS. Each working group is expected to cooperate and collaborate closely to plan, implement and monitor their activities in improving data availability and quality, ensuring compliance with international standards, keeping updated on the needs and issues at global and regional levels, and being always align with the vision, mission and work programs of ACSS as well as ASEAN as a whole.

The working groups of ACSS are as follows:

1. Working Group on International Investment Statistics (WGIIS)
2. Working Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (WGIMTS)
3. Working Group on Statistics of International Trade in Services (WGSITS)
4. Working Group on System of National Accounts (WGSNA)
5. Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (WGSDGI)
6. Working Group on Data Sharing, Analysis, Dissemination and Communication of ASEAN Statistics (WGDSA)

Since the ACSS working groups involve various data producing agencies at the national level, coordination is crucial for the successful implementation of the ACSS work plans. As such, there is an urgent need for coordination of statistical activities at the national level, and there are also increasing concerns to support decision making process at the Committee level and to strengthen coordination with ASEANstats. Therefore, ACSS also established the Sub-Committee on Planning and Coordination (SCPC).

The SCPC, established at the First Session of the ACSS Committee in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2-3 November 2011, is to provide leadership support to the ACSS Committee and facilitate the committee decision-making in implementing the ACSS Strategic Plan, MYP, and AWPs. The SCPC also assumes the role of the regional focal point.

ACSS Protocol for New Data Request

In 2018, the ACSS adopted and started to implement the Protocol for New Data Request that guides the prioritisation of new data requests from ASEAN sectoral bodies as well as the allocation of resources for provision of statistics in a timely manner. This protocol provides a framework on the process in which the ACSS responds to new data requests from ASEAN sectoral bodies. Where relevant, it can be extended to new data requests from international organisations, subject to consideration and agreement by relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies on the data provision.

The protocol contains a step-by-step guide for the following broad stages:

1. Initial stage: Receiving official request from user
2. Intermediate stage: Screening and classifying indicators
3. Final stage: Depending on categorisation, providing data to user, reviewing feasibility of compiling indicator, or exploring alternatives with user

VII. Strategic Measures and Key Recommendations

As part of the End-term Review of the ACSS Strategic Plan 2016-2025 conducted, the four broad strategies under the previous strategic plan for 2021-2025 were found to broadly remain relevant, albeit the new inclusion on fostering of partnerships under the first major component to emphasize its increasing importance. Therefore, for the period of 2026-2030 ACSS will implement the following strategic measures:

1. Institutional strengthening, fostering partnership and enhancing ACSS sustainability
2. Improvement of the response to greater ASEAN data needs
3. Enhancement of dissemination, communication and visibility of ASEAN statistics
4. Bridging the gap towards sustainable development of ASEAN statistics

For ensuring the progress and achievements of each strategic measure, the End-Term Review had also provided a set of key recommendations to be considered in the ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030 (see Annex 1).

VIII. Detailed Activities

Strategic Measure 1. Strengthen institutional environment, foster partnerships, and enhance the sustainability of ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS).		
Activity 1.1. Strengthen commitment to ACSS work programmes among the ACSS members.		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
1.1.1 Align National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) to improve efficiency of resource utilisation and the relevance of statistics produced.	Relevant working programmes of the RSDS are reflected in the NSDS of AMS.	2026-2030
1.1.2 Engage relevant AMS on opportunities to be the lead country to tap on the strengths of respective AMS in providing optimum contribution to regional statistical cooperation which will build sense of belonging and group identity.	The lead country approach for major areas of the ACSS working plan continues to be implemented.	2026-2030
1.1.3 Secure budget for focal points/ relevant persons to participate in relevant regional and international events as part of their commitment in strengthening regional statistical cooperation.	AMS and ASEANstats participated in the relevant regional and international events.	2026-2030
1.1.4 Continue utilising virtual conference as a mode of communication within ACSS (e.g., meetings/workshops/ discussions), including use of hybrid mode for appropriate meetings to facilitate participation (e.g., for WG meetings or WG members to attend ACSS meeting virtually) and to enable more intensive communication and cooperation as well as to overcome issues on budget limitation.	Virtual conference is utilised as a mode of communication within ACSS.	2026-2030

Activity 1.2. Strengthen partnerships among users and producers of ASEAN statistics		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
1.2.1 User-producer engagement, to identify user needs effectively, to collect user feedback on the statistics and services provided as well as to educate users and seek common ground on statistical challenges. 1.2.1.1 Conduct user satisfaction survey.	1. User-producer engagement conducted. 2. User Satisfaction Survey conducted.	2026-2030
1.2.2 Producer-producer engagement, to enhance national coordination in providing official statistics, including enhancing the quality of administrative records to support the compilation of official statistics. 1.2.2.1 Conduct workshops on statistical coordination among data producers within AMS. 1.2.2.2 Disseminate ACSS information and programmes among concerned data producing agencies and within AMS.	1. Producer-producer engagement conducted. 2. Workshops on statistical coordination among data producers within AMS conducted. 3. ACSS information and programmes disseminated among concerned data producing agencies and within AMS.	2026-2030
1.2.3 Organise a high-level forum, seminars, and advocacy activities involving relevant ASEAN bodies, development partners, and concerned data producing agencies.	High-level forum, seminars, and advocacy activities are conducted.	2026-2030
Activity 1.3. Enhance effectiveness of the ACSS work programme monitoring		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
1.3.1 Review the Broad Framework for the Sustainable Development of ASEAN Statistics (BFSDAS).	BFSDAS is reviewed as necessary.	2026-2030
1.3.2 Develop, implement, and monitor the ACSS Annual Work Plan (AWP).	ACSS AWP is developed, implemented and monitored.	2026-2030

1.3.3 Develop, implement, and monitor AWP/MYP of ACSS WGs.	ACSS WGs AWP/MYP is developed implemented and monitored.	2026-2030
1.3.4 Implement monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms to assess the progress of ACSS KPIs. 1.3.4.1 Develop web application for updating the progress of ACSS KPIs	1. M&E mechanism is implemented and reported to ACCS Committee. 2. Web application for updating the progress of ACSS KPIs is developed.	2026-2030 2026
Activity 1.4. Foster cooperation and partnerships on furthering priority global statistical initiatives		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
1.4.1 Continue efforts on data governance and stewardship to support and guide the responsible management and use of data, and sustainable development as part of ACSS commitment in catching up with global and regional initiatives.	Implementation of the concept note on data governance and stewardship.	2026-2030
1.4.2 Regularly attend and share ACSS' response to global/ regional agenda in global/regional statistical event such as UNESCAP Committee on Statistics meeting, UN Statistical Commission meeting, etc.	AMS/ASEANstats regularly attend/share ACSS' response to the global/regional statistical events.	2026-2030
1.4.3 Share/cascade important/relevant decisions/ recommendations in international/ regional/national within the ACSS.	Important/relevant decisions/ recommendations in international/ regional/national shared/cascaded within the ACSS.	2026-2030
1.4.4 Discuss, document and share the ACSS' response to relevant global agendas and other ACSS/ASEAN Community concerns.	The ACSS' response to relevant global agendas	2026-2030

	and other ACSS/ASEAN Community concerns is discussed, documented and shared.	
1.4.5 Explore possible partnership with relevant statistical training institutes for the training of ACSS statistical officers.	Partnership with relevant statistical training institutes for the training of ACSS statistical officers is explored.	2026-2030
Activity 1.5. Ensure good knowledge management system and knowledge transfer processes to support continuity and sustainability of ACSS work programmes implementation		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
1.5.1. Enhance systems and processes for collecting, storing, and sharing knowledge and information.	Systems and processes for collecting, storing, and sharing knowledge and information is developed and/or enhanced, as necessary.	2026-2030
Strategic Measure 2. Improve the response to greater ASEAN data needs.		
Activity 2.1. Strengthen standard, methodology, and classification for the production of ASEAN statistics		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
2.1.1 Promote the implementation of international standards and good practices in conducting statistical activities to enhance data quality.	International standards in the production and dissemination of the ASEAN key statistical	2026-2030

	areas of IMTS, FDIS/IIS, SITS, SDGIs and SNA statistics is implemented	
2.1.2 Conduct a comprehensive assessment or review of the current state of standards, methodologies, and classifications implementation under ACSS/SCPCs/WGs, ASEAN and AMS.	Gap analysis conducted.	2026
2.1.3 Develop roadmap/workplan for the implementation of new standards, methodologies, and classifications.	Roadmap/workplan developed.	2026
2.1.4 Monitor the implementation of roadmap/workplan for the implementation of new standards.	Monitoring report on AMS implementation status developed and updated regularly.	2026-2030
2.1.5 Update metadata on the ASEAN statistics.	Metadata and methodological documentations are updated.	2026-2030
Activity 2.2. Improve availability, timeliness, and comparability of ASEAN statistics in response to emerging major ASEAN and global initiatives		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
2.2.1 Enhance the availability, timeliness, and comparability of existing indicators currently collected through ASI-CT.	1. Data submission meets the agreed timeline/ ARC. 2. Improved rate of data availability.	2026-2030
2.2.2 Implement the ACSS Protocol for New Data Request as necessary.	The ACSS Protocol for New Data Request is	2026-2030

	implemented as necessary.	
2.2.3 Identify new data/ indicators needed in supporting the emerging major ASEAN integration initiatives.	New data/ indicators identified in response to user needs.	2026-2030
2.2.4 Define the mandate, framework and mechanism of the new data/indicators needed.	The mandate, framework and mechanism of the new data/indicators is defined as needed.	2026-2030
2.2.5 Develop instrument, mechanism, and methodology on the new data/indicators needed.	Instrument, mechanism, and methodology on the new data/indicators developed.	2026-2030
2.2.6 Archive the old data series with the updated/improved series, as necessary.	Archive data series updated.	2026-2030
Activity 2.3. Enhance the compilation and processing system of ASEAN statistics		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
2.3.1 Enhance the integrated system for collecting data required in ASI-CT by utilising DTT, API, or other relevant technologies.	Enhanced data collection system.	2026-2030
2.3.2 Conduct regular monitoring for AMS data submission status.	AMS data submission regularly monitored and reported to the ACSS/SCPC meeting.	2026-2030

2.3.3 Strengthen and enhance the overall architecture of the production database, ensuring its integration with the dissemination database while maintaining a clear separation between them.	1. The overall architecture of the production database is strengthened and enhanced. 2. The production database is integrated with dissemination database.	2026-2030
Activity 2.4. Enhance the use of administrative, Big Data and/ or alternate data sources		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
2.4.1 Enhance/ explore the use of administrative data for official statistics.	The use of administrative data for official statistics is increased/ explored.	2026-2030
2.4.2 Enhance/ explore the use of big data for official statistics.	The use of big data for official statistics is increased/ explored.	2026-2030
2.4.3 Explore the use of other possible data sources.	The use of other possible data sources is explored.	2026-2030
Activity 2.5. Assess the quality of ASEAN statistics		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
2.5.1 Conduct periodic quality assessment of ASEAN statistics using available tools and mechanisms. 2.5.1.1 Monitor the implementation of the Code of Practice (CoP) as well as review and revise the COP assessment mechanism as necessary. 2.5.1.2 Develop web application for monitoring and evaluation of the CoP to ease the compilation processes. 2.5.1.3 Documenting the quality assessment result.	1. Quality assessment conducted regularly. 2. CoP self-assessment implemented and reported to ACSS Committee. 3. Web application for monitoring and	2026-2030

	evaluation of CoP is developed. 4. Quality assessment result documented.	
2.5.2 Prepare follow-up/ improvement/ mitigation plan to address data quality concerns based on the result of quality assessment.	Follow-up/ improvement/ mitigation plan to address data quality concerns prepared.	2026-2030
Strategic Measure 3. Enhance dissemination, communication, visibility, and use of ASEAN Statistics.		
Activity 3.1. Enhance dissemination of ASEAN Statistics through improvement of database, website, and other data sharing technology		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
3.1.1 Strengthen and enhance the dissemination database architecture, ensuring its integration with the production database while maintaining a clear separation between them.	1. The overall architecture of the dissemination database is strengthened and enhanced. 2. The dissemination database is integrated with production database.	2026-2030
3.1.2 Enhance the dissemination websites.	Dissemination website is improved and populated with more data and information.	2026-2030
3.1.3 Utilisation of Application Programming Interfaces (API) for data sharing and dissemination.	The API is utilised for ASI-CT data dissemination.	2026-2030
3.1.4 Enhance the policies/guidelines on data sharing, confidentiality and dissemination and communication of statistics and their implementation as necessary.	1. Policies on advance release calendar and data revisions are	2026-2030

	available for all major statistical domains collected from AMS and disseminated through the ASEANstats website. 2. Dissemination is carried out in compliance with the advanced release calendar revision policies and the ACSS policies on data sharing, confidentiality and dissemination.	
Activity 3.2. Enhance data dissemination through improvements of statistical reports/ publications		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
3.2.1 Disseminate statistics through the ASEANstats/AMS regular statistical publications and reports.	1. IMTS, FDIS/IIS, SITS, SNA statistics, SDG Indicators disseminated in accordance with the advance release calendar. 2. ASEAN/AMS statistics is disseminated through the ASEANstats/AMS regular publications. 3. Statistical reports on SDGs are published periodically in accordance with the	2026-2030 2026-2030 2030

	advance release calendar.	
Activity 3.3. Enhance communication, statistical literacy and visibility of ASEAN statistics		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
3.3.1 Develop Communication Materials such as infographics/ video graphics are prepared and disseminated on the statistical websites and applications.	Communication Materials such as infographics/ video graphics are disseminated in accordance with their Advance Release Calendar.	2026-2030
3.3.2 Utilisation of social media to enhance the visibility of ASEAN statistics.	Content Plan for social media is developed and implemented.	2026-2030
3.3.3 Develop the Statistical Glossary.	The Statistical Glossary is developed/updated.	2026-2030
Strategic Measure 4. Bridge the gaps towards sustainable development of ASEAN Statistics.		
Activity 4.1. Ensure continuous provision of capacity-building programmes		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
4.1.1 Conduct Technical Assistance (TA) /training /workshop on relevance skills. 4.1.1.1 Collaborate with Development Partners and within the National Statistical System (NSS) to conduct TA /training /workshop and other (i.e: study visit) on relevance skills.	1. TA/ training/ workshop on relevance skills is conducted. 2. The TA/ training/ workshop evaluation survey is regularly conducted to evaluate the effectiveness.	2026-2030

4.1.2 Gather information on scholarship grants available in AMS on a Government-to-Government basis is circulated among the AMS.	Information on scholarship grants available in AMS on a Government-to-Government basis submitted to ASEANstats, and ASEANstats circulated to AMS.	2026-2030
4.1.3 Seize the opportunity to participate in TA/ training / workshop organised by international organisations, either in person with sponsorship or virtually, such as UNSIAP, ESCAP, UNSD, ILO, IMF, ADB, and others. **[new]**	AMS/ASEANstats participate in the TA /training /workshop organised by international organisations, either in person/ virtual.	
Activity 4.2. Enhance ASEAN-help-ASEAN cooperation		
Supporting Activities	Key Output/Deliverables	Timeline
4.2.1 Promote activities to facilitate ASEAN-help-ASEAN mechanism to address relevant statistics and working group programme/agenda.	1. Framework on the ASEAN-help-ASEAN mechanism is reviewed as necessary. 2. The ASEAN-Help-ASEAN Framework (AHAF) is implemented 3. The list of AMS needs and expertise is updated by each WGs 4. Study visits/ exchange programmes/ internship/ voluntary secondment among	2026-2030

	AMS and ASEANstats is implemented.	
4.2.2 Establish and implement the ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy to house all AHAF resources which are accessible to AMS. 4.2.2.1 Pool/Roster of ASEAN experts on statistics updated every year.	The ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy is established.	2026

ANNEX 1

STRATEGIC MEASURES AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The four strategic measure and their respective key recommendations for ACSS Action Plan 2026-2030 are:

Strategic Measure	Key Recommendations
I. Institutional Strengthening, Fostering Partnerships and Enhancing ACSS Sustainability	• **Ensure alignment between NSDS and RSDS** to improve efficiency of resource utilisation and the relevance of statistics produced. • **Continue utilising virtual conference as a mode of communication within ACSS** (e.g., meetings/workshops/discussions), including use of hybrid mode for appropriate meetings to facilitate participation (e.g., for WG meetings or for WG members to attend ACSS meeting virtually) and to enable more intensive communication and cooperation as well as to overcome issues on budget limitation. • **Continue efforts on data governance and stewardship** to support and guide the responsible management and use of data, and **sustainable development** as part of ACSS commitment in catching up with global and regional initiatives. • **Strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination** via: i) User-producer engagement, to identify user needs effectively, to collect user feedbacks on the statistics and services provided as well as to educate users and seek common ground on statistical challenges; and ii) Producer-producer engagement, to enhance national coordination in providing official statistics, including enhancing the quality of administrative records to support the compilation of official statistics. • **Strengthen cooperation with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies** to promote the use of statistics in policymaking, understand respective objectives and challenges, as well as to identify synergies to attain outcomes and deliverables. • **Engage relevant AMS on opportunities to be the lead country** to tap on the strengths of respective AMS in providing optimum contribution to regional statistical

Strategic Measure	Key Recommendations
	cooperation which will build sense of belonging and group identity. • **Encourage ASEANstats and AMS to secure budget for focal points/ relevant persons to participate in relevant regional and international events** as part of their commitment in strengthening regional statistical cooperation. • **Ensure the KPIs and AWPs/MYPs to be relevant and implemented** to effectively measure the degree of implementation and achievements of the ACSS work programmes. • **Keep good engagement and cooperation with DPs and international organisation** to strengthen ACSS cooperation with external parties, including to seek possible support for ACSS capacity building as well as to enhance the visibility of ACSS. • **Ensure good knowledge management system and knowledge transfer processes** to support continuity and sustainability of ACSS work programmes implementation.
II. Improvement of the Response to Greater ASEAN Data Needs	• **Anticipate the evolving needs for ASEAN statistics** which would require statistics authorities to be more agile and proactive. • **Develop indicators on digital economy, green economy, blue economy and MSMEs** to support data needs in policymaking and regional development**, and include them in work programmes of relevant existing WGs** to determine relevant and feasible targets as well as to develop a systematic and coordinated approach. • **Coordinate specific activities on greater utilising alternative sources of data, including administrative data and Big Data**, to support the production and enhancement of official statistics to supplement conventional data sources such as censuses and surveys which are resource intensive. • **Encourage WGs to have specific targets related to data availability and quality in their AWPs/MYPs** to better guide their implementation and monitoring and to help in identifying specific needs for capacity building.

Strategic Measure	Key Recommendations
	• **Enhance the content, mechanism and supporting tools of ASI-CT** for more effective and efficient data sharing and database management. • **Enhance inter-agency cooperation and coordination at national and regional level to support the improvement of data collection and harmonisation** and elevate overall data quality and availability. • **Maintain ACSS awareness of key relevant global agendas and ASEAN Community initiatives, and incorporate them into ACSS activities** to ensure relevance and usefulness of statistics produced by ACSS in supporting international and regional developments.
III. Enhancement of Dissemination, Communication, Visibility and Use of ASEAN Statistics	• **Encourage the utilisation of API for data sharing and dissemination** to streamline and improve the efficiency of the data submission process. • **Enhance the mechanism and media for dissemination and communication of ASEAN statistics, including the utilisation of social media,** to enhance the visibility and use of ASEAN statistics. • **Strengthen user engagement** to better understand user needs as well as to cascade information related to ACSS to improve data literacy and promote better use of ASEAN statistics. • **Conduct the ASEAN Statistical Forum at the regional level and a similar forum at the national level with key data users and producers** as a form of user engagement. • **Develop and implement strategies and activities to understand the profile of key ASEAN data users and their usage patterns** so that products that meet user needs are developed and released.
IV. Bridging the gap towards sustainable development of ASEAN statistics	• **Enhance the implementation of AHAF** to support a more sustainable and self-sufficient ACSS in building statistical capacity. • **Capacity building activities with assistance from other donors (Dialogue Partners) should be complementary and avoid duplication** to ensure effective use of resources. • **Develop and implement a sustainable capacity building plan** to support the implementation and

Strategic Measure	Key Recommendations
	achievement of AWPs/MYPs of WGs by considering relevance of topics and effectiveness of modalities. • **Strengthen cooperation with DPs and international organization** for their support in enhancing AMS and ASEANstats capacity for the development of ASEAN statistics. • **Explore possibility of establishing an ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy** to house all AHAF resources which are accessible to AMS. • **Collaborate with BPS-Statistics Indonesia as UN Regional Hub on Big Data** to seek valuable inputs and ideas for the potential establishment of a ASEAN Statistics Virtual Academy.