



UN-HABITAT

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

ASEAN and UN-Habitat advance regional sustainable urban development

Jakarta/Nairobi, 7 March 2024 — ASEAN and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) continue to strengthen cooperation to support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in advancing sustainable urbanization development in the region through the joint implementation of the “Accelerating the Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) – Phase II” (ASUS Project – Phase II). The project will run from 2024 to 2026.

ASUS Project – Phase II represents a step forward in strategic collaboration between ASEAN and UN-Habitat. The first phase of the project started in 2020. The first phase of the ASUS Project was implemented from 2020 to 2022, combining tailored technical support at the local level to eight pilot cities in ASEAN and knowledge management and advocacy initiatives at the regional level, including delivery of the [ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum](#) and the [ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report](#).

The ASUS Project aims to increase understanding and application of [ASUS](#) among AMS, and bridge ASEAN cities' experiences to regional and global levels. Phase II will focus on increasing the number of participating cities across AMS, supporting their efforts in advancing effective urban development solutions, and expanding the outreach and engagement of local and regional stakeholders to promote sustainable urbanization in ASEAN.

The project is led by the Lead Implementing Body for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 Strategic Area of Sustainable Infrastructure (LIB-SI) and the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN). The ASEAN Secretariat and the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will support the implementation of the project's activities and ensure a close collaboration between local, national, and regional stakeholders.

ASEAN and UN-Habitat remain committed to working together for collaborative and transformative change and to achieve the shared aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the New Urban Agenda for a more sustainable future and better quality of life for all across ASEAN.

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About ASEAN and ASEAN Connectivity

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established in Bangkok on 8 August 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Member States of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN

on 7 January 1984, followed by Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the 10 Member States of ASEAN. Home to more than 671.7 million people, ASEAN is a region filled with vast opportunities. By connecting ASEAN through the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025), ASEAN Connectivity is creating a regional network of people and infrastructure to improve the way they live, work and travel.

About the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit www.unhabitat.org or follow us on X @UNHABITAT.

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