**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

## TIER 2 INDICATOR TECHNICAL NOTE

### *STRENGTHENING REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE*

### *ASEAN – EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT TO ASEAN*

### *PACIFIC REGIONAL – EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT TO PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC), FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY (FFA), AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)*

Last updated: 26 July 2023

## DEFINITION

This indicator is designed to capture examples of Australian impact on strengthening regional architecture in ASEAN and in Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) of which Australia is a member and financier – including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and its Secretariat, the Pacific Community (SPC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Australia's investments in the University of the South Pacific (USP) may also be reported under this indicator.

In the Pacific, regional architecture refers to the formal and informal network of regional organisations and their members that deliver on the priorities identified by Forum Leaders at their annual summit, as well as work agreed through a range of ministerial meetings that drive the regional agenda. The PIF Leaders' meeting is at the heart of Pacific regionalism, supported by advice from the Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting, the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting, the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders Meeting, and the FFA-led Fisheries Ministers' Meeting. In addition, each of the CROP agencies have ministerial and governance meetings that set regional policy, including the SPC Ministerial Conference, the SPC Council of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC), and the SPREP Meeting of Officials.

In Southeast Asia, regional architecture refers to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its related governance arrangements and meetings, including the ASEAN Summit (led by ASEAN Leaders) and the entities charged with coordinating and delivering on the priorities of the organisations' leaders as set out in in the ASEAN Charter. This includes the ASEAN Coordinating Council (led by ASEAN Foreign Ministers), the ASEAN Community Councils (including the Political-Security Community, the Economic Community and the Socio-Cultural Community), the ASEAN sectoral bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN. ASEAN also convenes the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Strengthening means any positive enhancement, improvement, extension, revision or reform to regional organisations, policies or practices.

In the Pacific, support provided can include Australia's engagement with other members in governance bodies to influence the policy or reform agenda of a particular regional organisation, or a series of

organisations. It can also include Australian supported or funded policy advice, structured consultation, strategic dialogues or technical advice related to policy or corporate reform (for example supporting enhanced Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems).

**In ASEAN, support provided** relates to Australian backed or funded technical advice that strengthens governance and coordination mechanisms, strategic dialogues, cooperation frameworks, and policy reforms, delivered through our ASEAN program.

**Examples of support** would typically have solid evidence of a potentially transformational change or strategic nudge to the way regional policies are framed or funded, programs are run and/or services are delivered, consistent with investment objectives and clearly attributable to Australian input.

## SCOPE

*INCLUDES:*

- Support, as defined above, provided to Pacific regional organisations or ASEAN.
- Improved implementation or strengthening of existing regional policy or program delivery.
- Significant policy change, including ministerial meeting commitments, drafting or endorsement of policy positions proposed by Australia or regulatory amendments, funding commitments and additional resourcing made by governments or regional organisations.
   - Examples of Australia's contribution to significant policy change may include both policy formulation and policy implementation.
- Development and adoption of regional strategies, frameworks, and roadmaps.
- Attribution of the contribution of Australian core funding is encouraged, where it is possible to draw a link between Australian funding and policy and/or corporate reform.

*EXCLUDES:*

- Policy improvements or corporate reforms that cannot be clearly attributed to Australian investments and projects through supporting evidence.
- Anticipated policy improvements or reforms not yet adopted/announced.
- Policy improvements or corporate changes counted in previous year(s), unless there is a new significant improvement.

## CALCULATION METHOD

This indicator is a narrative indicator, so reporting of quantitative results is not required unless relevant to examples provided.

## DATA SOURCE/S

Data sources for this indicator include:

- Outcomes of Leaders or ministerial meetings, including communiques and declarations.

- Annual results or performance reports prepared by regional organisations or other implementing partners.

- Evaluations or reviews conducted within the reporting period.

- Outcomes of high-level consultations, including DFAT's own reporting.

- Post reporting on discussions with senior regional officials.

## DISAGGREGATION

Disaggregated data is unlikely to be applicable when reporting against this indicator, however in some cases the impacts of policy changes on different groups may be described.

## WORKED EXAMPLE

AADCP II has demonstrated responsiveness to ASEAN leadership on regional economic integration. In the Chairman's Statement at the 2nd ASEAN-Australia Summit in November 2022, AADCP II support was broadly recognised as making a "significant contribution" and continuing to "provide strategic support for the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025".

In the reporting period the program commenced seven new projects; 14 projects were completed; and one project was cancelled due to ASEC contracting issues. AADCP II's responsiveness to ASEAN priorities and the strong sense of ASEAN ownership it engenders has made Australia a partner of choice for ASEAN on key initiatives. In particular, the projects 'Development of ASEAN Work Plan to Facilitate the Implementation of ASEAN Agreement on Electronic Commerce' and 'Developing a Framework for Promoting the Growth of Digital Startups in ASEAN', completed in the reporting period, have laid the foundation for a more strategic and comprehensive project, to be delivered under Aus4ASEAN Futures (ECON), 'Study on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)'. Digitalisation and e-commerce are key priorities for ASEAN Member States, and Australia receives good recognition for our support for these priorities.

Similarly, AAADCP II support for regional connectivity through project such as 'Accelerating Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy', 'Development of an ASEAN Database on Trade Routes and Framework for Enhancing Supply Chain Efficiency' and 'Assessment of Future Sustainable Infrastructure Trends and Priorities in a Post-Pandemic ASEAN' have placed us at the forefront of this ASEAN agenda.