



Mekong-U.S. Partnership Plan of Action 2024-2026

The Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) (hereafter referred to as “The Partnership”) promotes the stability, peace, prosperity, and sustainable development of the Mekong sub-region through cooperation between Mekong sub-region countries and the United States in addressing transboundary challenges. It further reinforces the strong and longstanding relationships among the United States, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Partnership strengthens our cooperation and dialogue and expands collaboration on new challenges and opportunities. The Partnership, which complements the ASEAN-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, supports the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which aims to safeguard and preserve ASEAN centrality and to maintain peace, security, and prosperity for people in Southeast Asia as well as in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition, the Partnership seeks to promote complementarity with the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and other Mekong cooperation mechanisms.

This Plan of Action is guided by the Partnership’s Foundational Document and Joint Ministerial Statement, which were approved by the Partners on September 11, 2020, at the first Partnership Ministerial meeting and by the Friends of the Mekong Policy Dialogue on January 12, 2021. The Plan outlines

unique opportunities for U.S. engagement with Mekong sub-region communities, government decision makers, and international partners, including scientists, academia, development partners, and other stakeholders. The United States and Mekong sub-region countries intend for the Partnership to serve as a platform for high-level cooperation on strategic challenges and policy-making in the Mekong sub-region on shared priorities between the United States and Mekong sub-region countries. By implementing this Plan of Action, Partners endeavor to strengthen transparency and good governance; enhance connectivity, economic integration, and inclusive and sustainable development; and help narrow the development gap in the region.

Areas of Cooperation: The Partnership expands on more than 11 years of cooperation through the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) with a comprehensive approach to emerging challenges, including but not limited to: (1) economic connectivity; (2) sustainable water use and management, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection; (3) non-traditional security issues including food and energy security, trafficking in persons, trafficking in narcotics, wildlife and timber, health security, cybersecurity, online scam centers and other cyber-enabled crimes, and disaster response and preparedness; and (4) human resource development. This Plan of Action and the activities listed in its Annexes promote collaborative approaches to regional challenges and opportunities.

Partnership Activities: Partners intend to cooperate through various means and mechanisms, and report progress at least annually. Partnership activities aim to promote peace, stability, and prosperity, promote respect for international law and understanding of member countries' domestic laws and regulations, and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Activities should promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development through connectivity; narrowing the development gap; digital economy and human resource development; transparent, rules-based approaches to addressing the region's development challenges; regional integration; innovative capacity building; and strengthening friendship and partnership among the Mekong sub-region countries and the United States. Activities should also assist Partners to address shared and emerging challenges, such as transnational crime, natural disasters, and

health security, and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation, water-food-energy security, and effective sustainable natural resource management, including in fisheries resources.

Information Sharing on Partnership Activities: All partners are expected to share updates on all of the activities under this Plan of Action, as appropriate, openly and transparently through Policy Dialogues and Senior Officials Meetings (SOM). All partners are expected to update the Annexes to this Plan of Action on an annual basis at the Policy Dialogue.

Friends of the Mekong: The Partnership is intended to compliment the work of the Friends of the Mekong (FOM), in which Mekong countries, the United States, Australia, the European Union, India (invited), Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank coordinate their priorities for the development of the Mekong sub-region. The Partnership acknowledges that the FOM are committed to principles and values shared by the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, including values that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region for decades, and the principles of transparency, inclusivity, good governance, ASEAN centrality, multilateralism, international cooperation and the UN and international system, respect for international law-and a rules-based framework architecture, and complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks. The United States serves as a chair of the FOM.

Structure and Schedule of Meetings: MUSP meetings are generally co-chaired by the United States and one of the five Mekong Partners, rotating automatically annually in alphabetical order. MUSP meetings may be scheduled together with Friends of the Mekong (FOM) meetings or individually. The Mekong country co-chair of the MUSP may provide assistance, where possible, to the United States to organize FOM engagements. Any issues concerning timing and location of meetings, hosting responsibilities, representation, or co-chairmanship are expected to be resolved through dialogue and consultation among the Partners.

Policy Dialogue: Held at the level of Deputy Director General or Head of the Unit responsible for the MUSP, this meeting is intended as an exchange of

views on shared annual priorities for the Partnership, to provide an annual update on progress of Partnership activities and to inform Senior Officials. Additional working-level meetings may be held, as necessary, to coordinate responses to and projects addressing specific regional challenges identified by the Partners.

Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM): MUSP Senior Officials' Meeting are expected to be held concurrent with ASEAN SOM meetings or when otherwise appropriate. Senior officials are expected to exchange views on shared priorities in the sub-region and prepare for the MUSP Ministerial Meetings.

Ministerial Meeting: Held concurrently with ASEAN and the related series of Foreign Ministers' Meetings or when otherwise appropriate with mutual consent, the Ministerial Meetings are generally intended to be the premier annual diplomatic engagement of the Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong.

Leaders' Meeting: By decision of all Partners, the leaders' meeting may be scheduled with the ASEAN-U.S. Summit or when otherwise appropriate.

Annex I: Areas of Cooperation in Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) Plan of Action

MUSP members cooperate to achieve shared goals under the Partnership's four areas of work. Projects and activities should demonstrate concrete benefits to all participants in the following areas:

Economic Connectivity, including support for quality infrastructure, national electricity market development, cross-border energy trade, cross-border transport facilitation, renewable and clean energy transition, acceleration and deployment, micro-small- and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development, climate-smart agriculture, including smart agriculture, transportation, trade and investment facilitation, promoting sub-regional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and digital economy development, green economic growth with a focus on enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing carbon emissions. Partnership programs include but are not limited to:

1. Flagship Program: USAID-Australia Mekong Safeguards

- a. Timeline: 2018-2024
- b. Mekong Safeguards accelerates the sustainable infrastructure transition in the Mekong sub-region by reducing negative environmental and social impacts of large-scale energy and transport projects through the application of environmental, social, and corporate governance standards (ESG) at both local and transboundary levels. The program engages governments, banks, and communities to improve ESG standards using transnational standards or norms and best practices. It does this through direct technical assistance and capacity building and by establishing regional collaborations; and develops demand-driven tools and studies to increase access to regional planning data, standards, best practices, and research.

2. USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program

- a. Timeline: 2021-2026

- b. USAID's Southeast Asia Smart Power Program is designed to support modern, connected, reliable energy system, with a particular focus on Mekong sub-region countries. The program aims to decarbonize and strengthen the region's power systems by increasing regional energy trade, accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies, and actively engaging private sector leaders. The program operates in partnership with relevant ASEAN and other regional mechanisms and aligns with ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II. The program includes activities under the Japan-U.S. Mekong Power Partnership Action Plan.

3. Japan-U.S.-Mekong Power Partnership (JUMPP)

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2019, ongoing
- b. Through JUMPP, the U.S. and Japan provide technical assistance to Mekong governments in pursuit of energy security and stronger power market governance while encouraging greater power trade, clean energy integration, decarbonization, and resilience. Through JUMPP, the six partner governments promote more sustainable energy sectors and quality energy infrastructure development with 101 completed and ongoing activities since 2019. U.S. and Japanese bilateral and regional technical assistance support Mekong electricity regulators, electric utilities, and energy ministries, as well as power system development by working with national power market authorities on integrating clean energy (renewable energy, battery storage, advanced metering, EVs, etc.); developing competitive power markets; enhancing cross-border power trade; and creating opportunities for private investment. The six partner governments worked together to develop a JUMPP Action Plan in 2023 for expanding regional cooperation across JUMPP's three pillars: Clean Energy Integration, Market Development and Investment and Regional Power Trade. Through these pillars, illustrative examples of technical assistance include: power market analysis; advisory

support; technical assessments; capacity building workshops; regulatory exchanges; and roundtables with private energy companies to accelerate the energy transition and cross-border power trade in the region. The governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, as well as Japan and the United States, have collaborated on JUMPP since 2019 and developed an Action Plan outlining 40 new technical assistance activities for implementation to advance shared goals of clean energy integration, expanded regional power trade, and power market reform.

4. Department of Transportation East-West Transport Connectivity Program

- a. Timeline: 2020-2024
- b. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is partnering with stakeholders, including Mekong country governments and U.S. government interagency partners, to strengthen institutional capacity and legal and regulatory frameworks in alignment with international best practices for regional transport planning and connectivity.

Sustainable Water, Natural Resources Management, and Environmental Conservation and Protection, including support for a technically sound, well-coordinated and consensus-based approach to effectively and sustainably managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin; including the trans-boundary water resources; support for the MRC's promotion of cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin; encouragement of joint research between members of the Friends of Mekong and the MRC on emerging issues related to Mekong water resources; support for environmental conservation, protection and resilience, including through nature-based solutions in the Mekong sub-region; and enhancement of member countries' capacity for the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, to support food security. Partnership programs include but are not limited to:

1. Mekong Dam Monitor

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2020; ongoing
- b. The Mekong Dam Monitor provides accessible and transparent satellite data on reservoir levels in the Mekong River, giving Mekong sub-region communities information to plan economic activities and climate mitigation strategies.

2. NexGen Scientists

- a. Timeline: 2021-September 2025
- b. NexGen provides funding for educational and professional development opportunities, and places fellows with private organizations, universities, and government agencies within the United States and Mekong countries, providing educational and mentorship opportunities for early career professionals and scientists from the Mekong sub-region.

3. Mekong-Mississippi Sister Rivers Partnership

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2010; ongoing partnership between the Mekong River Commission, Mississippi River Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- b. This program promotes the sharing of best practices in water and river management. Through annual reciprocal exchanges, collaborative engagements, and technical exchanges, the Sister Rivers Partnership enhances transboundary river governance, disaster risk mitigation, and sustainable development to promote stability and prosperity.

4. MUSP-Republic of Korea Collaboration for the Mekong

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2019; ongoing
- b. This project provides Mekong partner countries and the Mekong River Commission with modeling and real-time forecasting tools and training to better predict and mitigate the impacts of natural hazards, such as floods and droughts, through a collaborative partnership between MUSP SIP, the Korea Water Resources

Corporation (K-water), the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), and USACE.

5. Support to Mekong Basin Development Strategy/Plans – Shared Vision Planning

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2013; ongoing
- b. This project enhances the Mekong River Commission and member countries capacity to utilize Shared Vision Planning (SVP) to enhance transboundary collaborations on basin issues and solutions. This initiative is a joint project with the MRC, member countries, USACE and the Arizona State University (ASU). It includes the development of a SVP web-tool designed to support the Mekong Basin Development Strategy/Plan at the national and regional levels. The tool that is currently hosted at the MRC servers enhances access, integration, and examination of data from MRC databases to facilitate transboundary dialogue. The web SVP tool is being developed collaboratively and is expected to be launched in Spring 2024.

6. Mekong Dam Safety

- a. Timeline: 2024-2026
- b. This is a joint project between the MRC and USACE. The project is designed to promote institutional knowledge sharing related to dam safety and risk management through a combination of meetings, consultations, workshops, and training. The activities proposed will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MRC portfolio risk management through competency building and direct technical assistance.

7. USAID SERVIR-Southeast Asia (formerly SERVIR-Mekong)

- a. Timeline: 2023-2028
- b. Under the MUSP umbrella, USAID, in collaboration with NASA, supports climate resilience studies, providing early warning of dramatic changes in regional water and disasters, air quality, food

security, weather and climate, and land cover and land use, with a focus on the Mekong sub-region.

8. USAID Mekong for the Future (MFF)

- a. Timeline: 2020-2025
- b. This project aims to increase community actors active and meaningful participation in the natural resource governance processes across the region by identifying and understanding those actors' strengths, limitations, priorities, and needs, and providing the relevant and needed training and capacity building support. MFF seeks to strengthen community networks and coalitions and improve their ability to coordinate, advocate for policies, engage with media, as well as improve their access to and analysis of environmental data.

9. NASA – Strategic Hydrologic and Agricultural Remote-sensing for Environments (SHARE) Program

- a. Timeline: 2020-2025
- b. Through a broad array of established, transparent, and tested tools and trainings, the NASA SHARE program enables cooperative management of transboundary waters by deploying remote sensing tools to monitor water levels, land use changes, or drought/flood forecasting. The U.S. Department of State intends to support deployment of SHARE in river basins where remote sensing applications have the potential to significantly advance data sharing, transparency, informed decision-making, and cooperative river management.

10. U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership WiSE/Water Program

- a. Timeline: 2020-2024
- b. Water Smart Engagements (WiSE) Program (2020-2024) pairs U.S. and ASEAN cities, water districts, and utilities for collective capacity building and innovative technology familiarization. Three such cities are from the Mekong region, including Vientiane, Lao

PDR which partnered with Hillsboro, Oregon; Phuket, Thailand with Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam with San Francisco, California. The program is a two-way exchange program that matches Mekong and U.S. urban water and sewerage entities to their counterparts for a “twinning”/technical city partnership. The overall purpose of the program is three-fold: 1) increase water security in partner cities through sustainable water management solutions; 2) establish long-term relationships between ASEAN, Mekong sub-regional, and U.S. utilities to foster communication and build capacity; 3) increase the exchange of services, goods, science, and technology.

11. Wonders of the Mekong

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2017; ongoing
- b. The USAID-funded Wonders of the Mekong project applies research, capacity building, and outreach to solve conservation and development challenges in the Mekong sub-region. These challenges include overexploitation of natural resources, habitat degradation and fragmentation, flow modification, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. The project engages in simultaneous efforts to gather and synthesize environmental data, conduct training, and build an informed constituency that can advocate for science-based management, policy, and sustainable development. Successes achieved to date include implementation of interdisciplinary research projects documenting novel biodiversity, assessments of water quality and forest health and community-engaged research on transboundary fisheries, capacity building including the building of advanced facilities (e.g., monitoring water quality including plastics, climate gasses like carbon and nitrogen, and biodiversity), training of one of Southeast Asia's largest cohorts of scientists focused on Mekong issues, recognition of Mekong Conservation Heroes, and communications products that have reached hundreds of millions of people.

Non-Traditional Security, including the sharing of best practices and information in countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and trafficking in persons (TIP), and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; food-water-energy security; health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics; cybersecurity; online scam centers and other cyber-enabled crimes; and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR). Partnership programs include but are not limited to:

1. Flagship Program: Mekong One Health Innovation Program (MOHIP)
 - a. Timeline: 2022-2025
 - b. MOHIP, a program implemented by Michigan State University, is improving public health security in Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam by strengthening use of the One Health approach in Mekong countries. This program aims to connect U.S. health experts with Mekong researchers to create a transnational health security network in the Mekong sub-region to enable sharing of tools and resources on One Health related issues. MOHIP will also support health-related research through grants to organizations in Mekong partner countries. MOHIP also seeks to build people-to-people engagement between Mekong and U.S. researchers to foster partnership and collaboration.

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Seed Trade Capacity Program
 - a. Timeline: 2019-August 2024
 - b. This project is developing and supporting sustainable food security solutions in the Mekong sub-region. USDA is strengthening seed sectors, trade capacities, and science-based policy environments and rules-based regulatory frameworks in Mekong countries; fostering cooperation and harmonization of seed policies among Mekong countries, consistent with practices and approaches in the U.S., the ASEAN Seed Council, and with

relevant international guidelines and enabling factors; and identifying and promoting public-private partnerships related to enabling environments for seed use and trade in Mekong countries.

3. DOJ Regional Resident Legal Advisor for CWT

- a. Timeline: Launched in 2018; ongoing
- b. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training has a Regional Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) for Counter Wildlife Trafficking, based in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to enhance the capacity of Lao PDR, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. Currently, the RLA's primary goals are to increase wildlife trafficking prosecutions and improve regional and inter-agency cooperation. The capacity-building focus is on training prosecutors and law enforcement officers to use sophisticated investigation techniques, including following the money, to prosecute organizers and leaders of transnational wildlife trafficking organizations.

Human Resource Development, including support for human capital development through education, digital transition, medical and laboratory research and development, vocational training, capacity building, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges. Partnership programs include but are not limited to:

1. Flagship Program: Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue Series

- a. Timeline: 2021-2024
- b. Implemented by the Stimson Center and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Track 1.5 Policy Dialogue Series is a series of eight in-depth dialogues that are scheduled to take place from 2021-2024 to explore solutions to key policy and sustainability challenges facing the Mekong region. Partnership Track 1.5 Dialogues bring together experts from MUSP member

countries, experts from other dialogue partner countries, private sector experts, and others. Each Dialogue will publish a report and recommendations to inform senior officials of Mekong partner governments and the public and to assist in MUSP program development.

2. Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WE Inspire)

- a. Timeline: 2021-2025
- b. The WE Inspire Program, implemented by Kenan Foundation Asia, aims to empower women across Thailand, Cambodia, and Viet Nam who have been affected by changes to the Mekong River's water flow, the COVID-19 pandemic, and limited access to fundamental government services. WE Inspire provides training and mentoring on essential skills, including financial literacy, digital literacy, and business-related training to enhance skills and confidence in enterprise management and to support female-owned micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

3. Enhancing Equality in Energy for Southeast Asia (E4SEA - under Clean EDGE Asia)

- a. Timeline: August 2020-August 2026
- b. Improves gender equality in the energy sector, which supports both a sustainable and secure energy sector and overall women's empowerment. To achieve this goal, the activity supported by USAID works to: 1) increase diversity of the energy sector workforce, 2) support inclusive workplace environments, and 3) increase promotion and leadership opportunities for women in the energy sector.

4. MUSP-Master in Public Policy (MPP) at Fulbright University Vietnam (FUV)

- a. Timeline: 2021-2026
- b. The MUSP-MPP program was developed in response to the mutual need for finding a new way to build trust and engagement with Mekong countries. Through this five-year joint program, up to 14 early to mid-career Laos civil servants, aged 25-35, will be

selected in total to attend Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management at FUV for a Masters Degree in Public Policy – Policy Analysis (MPP-PA). With a wide range of carefully curated activities, and given FUV’s American higher education values, the program builds local capacity in Laos’ public sector through exposure of participants to U.S. approaches to good governance and U.S. policy with respect to regional challenges.

Annex 2: Potential Cooperation and Projects for Future Consideration

(Potential cooperation and projects for future consideration, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and applicable authorities, and other legal requirements and policy objectives)

Economic Connectivity

Mekong-U.S. Business Forum: To build relationships and networking among business leaders utilizing the network representatives in the Mekong sub-region such as chambers of commerce with the goal of promoting trade and investment opportunities, enhancing intra- and inter-regional value chains among Mekong countries, and reducing production costs to support industrial development in the Mekong sub-region. To support MSMEs to participate in regional and global supply chains and to leverage the benefits of free trade agreements.

Intra/Inter-regional Infrastructure Cooperation: To invest in high quality infrastructure, including road, rail, air, and water transport networks with a focus on regional climate change mitigation and resilience as well as to enhance cross-border transport facilitation and regulation; including through technical expertise and training.

Digital Transformation Cooperation: To deepen cooperation in information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, including 5G and advanced telecommunication networks, undersea cables, and cloud computing to promote secure, resilient, transparent, and sustainable digital, telecoms, and ICT infrastructure, as well as digital connectivity in rural and remote areas and MSMEs participation in regional and global digitally enable trade.

Secure, Resilient Supply Chains and Logistics Cooperation Tabletop Exercise: To promote Mekong logistics and supply chain efficiency and linkages with regional and global supply networks.

Sustainable Water, Natural Resources Management, and Environmental Conservation and Protection

Mekong-U.S. Innovative Villages: To promote ideas and concepts from youth based on MUSP goals in each of the five Mekong sub-region countries and showcase those ideas to tourists and in a MUSP Innovative Exhibition annually in the host country of MUSP.

Mekong Field Trip/Survey Programs: To evaluate the impacts of droughts, floods, saline intrusion, water usage on the Mekong River, and other water-related risks to strengthen joint planning and management of sustainable water resources and find ways to promote transfer of technology to address these issues.

Shared Vision Planning: To strengthen and complement Mekong River Commission's efforts to promote good governance and transboundary cooperation by developing numerical models linked to socioeconomic indicators to improve quality of information provided to decision makers.

Mekong-U.S. Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity Conservation Program: To strengthen capacity building of Mekong Countries in ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation by initiating cooperation and exchanges among protected areas or national parks, boosting biodiversity conservation, and promoting capacity programs and joint research to monitor, conserve, protect, and restore nature and implement the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Mekong-U.S. Environmental Cooperation: To strengthen cooperation on environmental governance, management, and protection through capacity building projects, policy dialogues, joint-research on environmental issues, exchange visits, education, and enhance public environment awareness.

Non-Traditional Security

Lives Safe from UXO: To remove the obstacle of unexploded ordinance to development in the Mekong sub-region countries by improving the efficiency of UXO clearance operations and increasing support for UXO survivors.

Counter-Trafficking in Cultural Property: To strengthen the capacity of Mekong countries to combat the looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP): To reduce transboundary human trafficking and better protect the rights of trafficked persons in the Mekong sub-region.

Online Scam Centers and Other Cyber-Enabled Crimes: To improve the capacity of Mekong countries to prevent and combat existing and new forms of cyber-enabled crimes and high-tech crimes, such as online scam centers.

Counter Trafficking in Narcotics and Drugs: To prevent the illegal production, transportation and trafficking of narcotics and drugs in the sub-region.

Human Resource Development

Mekong-U.S. Policy Development Scholarship: To provide master's and PhD scholarships to 20 government officials from each Mekong country to study in the United States in various fields that build policy expertise. Also, to encourage Mekong sub-region and U.S. universities to establish sister university partnerships to support pairing programs and to enhance information sharing and research opportunities.

Capacity Building on Energy Systems: To strengthen cooperation on energy by convening technical exchange including strengthening education on battery energy storage and capacity building on floating solar development and regulation.

Youth Tourism Empowerment: To convene Youth Tourism Ambassadors from Mekong countries and the United States for capacity building and cultural understanding; to promote youth involvement in tourism development; and to identify strategies for sustainable tourism.

Mekong-U.S./FOM Executive Leadership Program: To promote high-level dialogues on issues of great importance to the regional development,

including climate change adaptation and mitigation, clean energy transition, water management, food security, amongst others.