

Towards AEC 2025: Liberalisation and Good Governance

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AEC Blueprint 2025

- “The AEC 2025 is envisioned to promote the principles of good governance, transparency, and responsive regulatory regimes through active engagement with the private sector, community-based organisations, and other stakeholders in ASEAN.”

Defining Good Governance

- The World Bank has identified six dimensions or indicators of governance:
 - (a) voice and accountability;
 - (b) political stability and absence of violence;
 - (c) government effectiveness;
 - (d) regulatory quality;
 - (e) rule of law; and
 - (f) control of corruption.

Good Governance in ASEAN in the context of the AEC

- Voice and accountability:
 - Efforts at narrowing the development gap
 - Programmes involving MSMEs
 - Regular consultation with the business community
- Decision-making: Consensus-building, the “ASEAN Way”
- Rule of law: implementation of commitments; Enhanced Dispute Settlement Mechanism

To achieve the desired outcome of its plans and programmes:

- Effective regulations are essential
 - Good Regulatory Practice is key
- Implementation of policies and measures
 - Adherence to the liberalisation commitments made;
 - Aligning the national with the regional;
- Monitoring of Commitments
 - ‘To-do’ list is in the comprehensive strategic action plan for implementation of AEC commitments
- The rule of law underpins it all

Good Governance = f(political will and capability)

- For ASEAN today:
 - Leadership at the level of the state rather than from ASEAN institutions.
- For the future?
 - Policies are designed for the long-term good, not what will please in the short term.
 - This requires strong leadership with a vision and clear direction.
 - Policy flexibility and adaptability in pragmatic anticipation of change.
- Stronger role for the ASEAN Secretariat?
 - Political will? Resources? Strengthen capability?

“Whatever the dimensions of global governance, however renewed and enlarged its machinery, whatever values give it content, the **quality of global governance** depends ultimately on **leadership**. It needs leadership that is **proactive**, not simply reactive, that is **inspired**, not simply functional, that looks to the longer term and **future generations** for whom the present is held in trust.”

Commission on Global Governance, 1992