

24th GMS Ministerial Conference

Pave the way to a more integrated, inclusive,
sustainable, and prosperous GMS

4 November 2020



Session 2:
Future GMS Strategies and Plans:
GMS-2030 Strategy and COVID-19
Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023





Session 2: Future GMS Strategies and Plans:

Part I. GMS-2030 Strategy





Outline

- 1. GMS-2030 Overview and New Elements**
- 2. GMS Vision and Mission**
- 3. Rationale - Strengthened with COVID-19 and Other Long-term Trends**
- 4. Innovative Approaches – 6 Cross-cutting Areas Expanded**
- 5. Pillars of Strategy - Revised, Realigned and Reprioritized**
- 6. Institutional, Programming, and Monitoring Arrangements - Expanded and Clarified**
- 7. Next steps**





1. GMS – 2030 Overview and New Elements

Incorporates comments from:

- ✓ the GMS Ministers at 23rd MC
- ✓ the SOM and GMS sector working groups in Q1-3 2020

GMS-2030 reprioritized based on COVID-19 experience:

Short, medium, and long-term COVID-19 responses added

Emphasis on pandemics, low growth and trade challenges, poverty and inequality.

Digitalization, innovation, health cooperation, and private sector role strengthened.

Better SDG alignment and gender focus

Enhanced institutional, programming and monitoring arrangements.



2. GMS Vision and Mission

Vision

“To develop a more integrated, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive subregion”

Mission

“A subregional cooperation program focused on its fundamental strengths of community, connectivity, and competitiveness, while embracing the core principles of environmental sustainability and resilience, internal and external integration, and inclusivity, for building a GMS community of shared future”.

These 3 core principles will be infused across all sectors in the GMS Program.





3. Rationale: Response to COVID-19 and Other Challenges

- **GMS faces its deepest recession** in decades. COVID-19 can eviscerate growth, incomes, and employment, and threatens to reverse hard won progress in poverty reduction.

- The **GMS Program** demonstrated its usefulness by **quickly and effectively responding to the crisis**. However, it faces its biggest challenge in its 28 years of existence that requires a new long-term Strategy.

- The **GMS-2030 provides a wholistic multi-sectoral, multi-thematic response**. It references to COVID-19 response at short-, medium-, and long-term. But it also deals with other challenges.

- A **COVID-19 Response Plan 2021–2023** prepared to respond to the medium-term health, economic and social impacts of the pandemic and to complement GMS-2030.





3. Rationale. Trends Affecting the Subregion

Trends realigned – COVID-19 and SOM's comments

1. COVID–19 and other Pandemic threats.
2. Weaker Global Growth and Threats to Free Trade.
3. Persistent Pockets of Poverty and increasing in-country inequality.
4. Severe Environmental Challenges and Threats from Climate Change, Disasters and Pollution.
5. Technological Change and Digitalization.
6. Evolving Demographics.
7. Rapid Urbanization.





4. Innovative Approaches. 6 Cross-cutting Areas Expanded



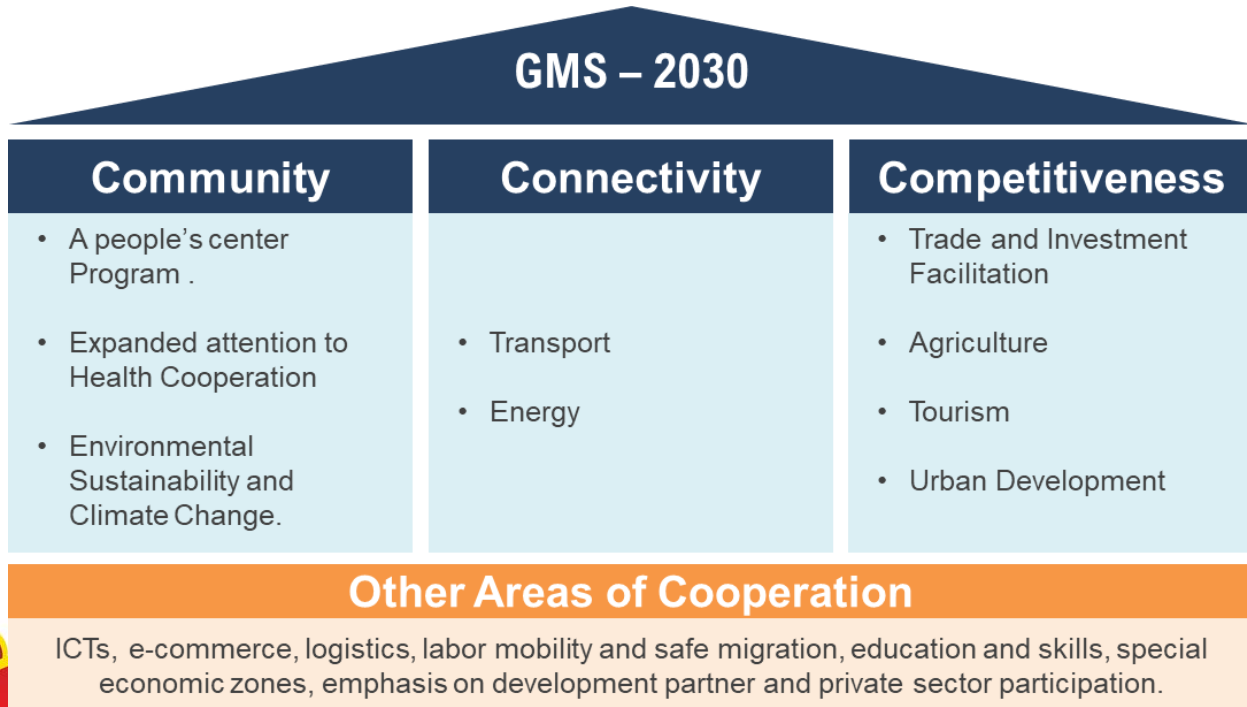
6 Innovative Approaches

1. Harnessing the Digital Revolution.
2. An Enhanced Spatial Approach to Development.
3. A Deeper Dialogue on Policies and Regulation, Underpinned by Knowledge-Based Solutions and Capacity Building.
4. Embracing Private Sector Solutions.
5. The Greater Mekong Subregion Program as an Open Platform.
6. GMS Program Results Framework.





5. Pillars of the Strategy





6. Institutional, Programming, and Monitoring Arrangements

A. Institutional strengthening

- ➔ **New sector working groups and forums in critical areas:** such as in trade and investment facilitation and the **GMS Private Sector Forum**.
- ➔ **Flexibility** to revise TORs of existing sector working groups, establish new taskforces and forums with enhanced private sector participation.
- ➔ **Ministerial meetings in additional sectors.**
- ➔ **Dedicated sector secretariats** will be strengthened, such as the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office; and newly established: Regional Power Coordination Center.
- ➔ **GMS Governors' Forum and the Economic Corridors' Forum strengthened** for more effective multisector and spatial coordination.
- ➔ **GMS Secretariat in ADB and National Secretariats** strengthened.
- ➔ **Network of GMS knowledge institutes**, including Mekong Institute, to prepare and disseminate knowledge products and services in the subregion.



6. Institutional, Programming, and Monitoring Arrangements

B. Strengthened Programming, Partnerships, and Financing

➔ **A new Regional Investment Framework (RIF):**
Using a new criteria for quality infrastructure to raise the standards, viability and sustainability of GMS projects and attract partnerships and financing

- Environment & social safeguards
- Climate change and gender aspects.
- Improved infrastructure governance
- Quality economic and financial analysis





6. Institutional, Programming, and Monitoring Arrangements

B. Strengthened Programming, Partnerships, and Financing

➔ **ADB, as Secretariat of the GMS Program,** will deepen its support role as a knowledge provider, financier, and an honest broker.

➔ **GMS results framework:** to monitor progress towards objectives using proxy indicators and disaggregated data.

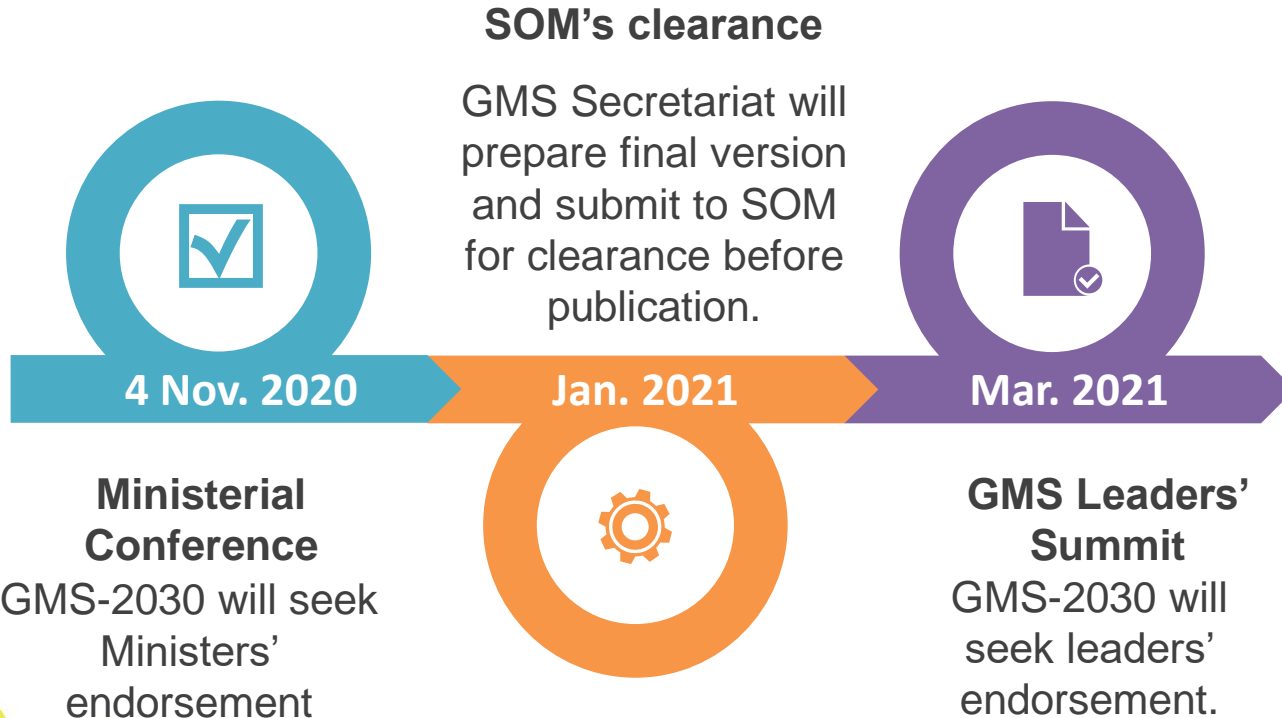
➔ **The Secretariat will:**

- Support **effective coordination** between sovereign, nonsovereign (private sector), and public-private partnership teams.
- Encourage **blending policy reforms** with private investments to unlock new sources of finance.
- **Expand financial channels** for project investments and facilitate private sector and development partners financing.





7. Next Steps





Session 2: Future GMS Strategies and Plans:

Part II. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan 2021-2023





Purpose and Objectives



Purpose

The Plan will identify areas and initiatives for common action, using the GMS Program comparative advantages



Objective 1

Support the citizens and economies

Objective 2

Facilitate the region's economic recovery

Objective 3

Preparing the GMS for future crises





Strategic Pillars

Pillar 1

Protecting lives: A One Health approach

1. Healthy people
2. Healthy animals, crops and food products
3. Healthy city environments





Strategic Pillars

Pillar 2

Protecting the vulnerable and poor

- Protect and offer opportunities to the poor and vulnerable in border areas and economic corridors
- Safe and orderly labor movement and management





Strategic Pillars

Pillar 3

Keeping borders open & accelerating economic activity

1. Improved trade transport and trade facilitation
2. Rebuilding agricultural trade
3. Safe and seamless GMS tourism





Key Principles

1

Flexible and adaptable to complement GMS-2030 & national response plans

2

Balances **health, the economy and society**

3

Effective communication with and involvement by local governments, communities and the private sector

4

Leverage **development partner, domestic and private sector resources** to achieve the plans realistic initiatives and achievable targets





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Thank you!

