

2024 SINGAPORE DECLARATION BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND TRUSTED DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

Adopted in Singapore on 2 February 2024

The Fourth ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADGMIN") was convened from 1 to 2 February 2024:

REAFFIRMING the aims and purposes of ASEAN as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967 and the ASEAN Charter in particular, to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnerships in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 to drive the region's digital cooperation from 2021 to 2025 to transform ASEAN into a leading digitally connected community and economic bloc powered by secure and transformative digital services, digital technologies and ecosystem;

FURTHER GUIDED by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2015, which aims to achieve the vision of an ASEAN Economic Community that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative, and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, people-oriented, and people-centered ASEAN as a strong part of the global economy;

RECOGNISING the importance of trust as a key pillar of growth of our digital economies and digitally enabled societies, and the importance of digital inclusivity to bridge the digital divide, empower our communities, and equip our peoples with the essential skills for the digital economy;

REALISING the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN as an Epicentrum of Growth, which mandates accelerating digital transformation and enhancing cooperation to narrow the regional digital gap through the creation of an enabling comprehensive digital ecosystem in the region and paving the way towards the ASEAN Digital Economic Community 2045.

FURTHER REALISING the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and the launch of ASEAN DEFA negotiations in 2023 to accelerate ASEAN's digital transformation agenda.

WELCOMING the findings and recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, to enhance cooperation and strengthen the region's digital competitiveness;

HEREBY AGREED TO:

1. Strengthen trust in our digital ecosystems by fostering data-driven innovation and encourage the responsible use and transmission of data in ASEAN through the adoption of regional guidelines, common principles, and frameworks, such as the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Joint Guide to ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses and EU Standard Contractual Clauses, the ASEAN Regional CERT, ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection, ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance, ASEAN Data Management Framework and ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses (MCCs) the Best Practices Guides for 5G Ecosystem System Development in ASEAN and, Regulatory Pilot Space (RPS) to Facilitate Cross-Border Digital Data Flows to Enabling Self-Driving Car in ASEAN to encourage greater participation by our citizens and businesses in the digital economy.
2. Intensify collaboration among ASEAN Member States on the governance of emerging technologies such as generative AI, including through the establishment of an ASEAN Working Group on AI Governance to provide guidance on implementing AI governance frameworks.
3. Build a secure, diverse and resilient submarine cable network for regional and global connectivity, in coordination with relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, through recognition and strengthening of best practices and information sharing frameworks, to facilitate the expeditious deployment, repair, maintenance, removal, and protection of submarine cables, between ASEAN Member States.
4. Enhance cooperation to prevent and combat online scams through collaboration on measures to tackle scams on digital and telecommunication channels, sharing of information about policies and best practices, and supporting enforcement action to build confidence and trust in network and information security infrastructures, through the establishment of the ASEAN Working Group on Anti-Online Scams (WG-AS).
5. Develop a high quality, open, safe, flexible, inter-operable digital public infrastructure and e-government services to connect people and businesses in ASEAN, to develop a digital ecosystem, undergirded by robust efforts to enhance cybersecurity.
6. Strengthen cooperation between the ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, international organisations and other relevant stakeholders through technical assistance, knowledge sharing and capacity building, to bridge the digital divide, enhance digital literacy, develop digital skill workforce in the digital age accelerate digital transformation, enhance connectivity, and strengthen resiliency of digital infrastructure, for a common ASEAN vision and identity.
7. Implement the recommendations of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 Mid-Term Review to empower inclusive and innovative digital communities in ASEAN.

ADOPTED this Declaration at the 4th ADGMIN in Singapore, on 2 February 2024.