

PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION

Malaysia, 22 January 2021

ASEAN: A DIGITALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the ASEAN Digital Sector, convened through video conference on the occasion of the First ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (1st ADGMIN) on 21 and 22 January 2021:

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

RECALLING the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which calls for a peaceful, stable and resilient community with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges and an outward-looking region within a global community of nations, while maintaining ASEAN centrality;

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-centred community, integrated with the global economy;

EMPHASISING the importance of harnessing ICT as a basis of progress and unity in line with the visions of ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Political-Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; and the importance of strengthening cybersecurity cooperation towards promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible, interoperable, and peaceful ICT environment in ASEAN that will support our digital economy;

Inspired by the ASEAN Leaders' recognition at the 37th ASEAN Summit held via videoconference on 12 November 2020, which underscored the increasingly pivotal role of digital technology in achieving an inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic growth in the region, especially during and in the post COVID-19 pandemic era;

Further guided by the endorsement of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan by the 37th ASEAN Summit on 12 November 2020, which called for the acceleration of inclusive digital transformation in ASEAN including promoting e-commerce and the digital economy, enhancing digital connectivity, and strengthening data governance and cybersecurity, to emerge more resilient and stronger from the COVID-19 crisis;

Recalling further the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 6 September 2016, including digital innovation as one of the five strategic areas, that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community; and

which proposed for TELSOM to oversee key initiatives such as the ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance.

Re-emphasising the ASEAN Leaders' commitment at the 33rd ASEAN Summit held in November 2018 in Singapore on TELMIN's initiative to develop an ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance to strengthen the data ecosystem achieving legal and regulatory alignment of data regulations and governance frameworks, and fostering data-driven innovation across ASEAN Member States to boost the growth of the digital economy in the region, and which proposed key initiatives including the ASEAN Data Management¹ Framework and ASEAN Cross Border Data Flows Mechanism;

Hereby agreed to:

1. Adopt the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM2025) to guide ASEAN Digital cooperation from 2021 to 2025 in realising ASEAN as a leading digital community and economic bloc, powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies and ecosystem. The ADM2025 is driven by eight desired outcomes:
 - 1.1. Actions of ADM 2025 prioritised to speed ASEAN's recovery from COVID-19;
 - 1.2. Increase in the quality and coverage of fixed and mobile broadband infrastructure;
 - 1.3. The delivery of trusted digital services and prevention of consumer harm;
 - 1.4. A sustainable competitive market for the supply of digital services;

¹ Previously Data Classification Framework

- 1.5. Increase in the quality and use of e-government services;
 - 1.6. Digital services to connect business and to facilitate cross-border trade;
 - 1.7. Increased capability for business and people to participate in the digital economy; and
 - 1.8. A digitally inclusive society in ASEAN.
2. Encourage ASEAN Member States to cooperate and implement the actions and measures outlined in the ADM2025.
 3. Promote further cooperation with Dialogue Partners and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, where appropriate, in the implementation of digital programmes to achieve the intended objectives of the ADM2025.
 4. Adopt the Implementing Guidelines for the ASEAN Data Management Framework and ASEAN Cross Border Data Flows Mechanism, which build on the principles and initiatives of the ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection and ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance to harmonise data management and cross border data flows standards in the ASEAN region, raise the digital competitiveness of ASEAN Member States by establishing a trusted, transparent and accountable environment for doing business, and build ASEAN's readiness to take up new digital opportunities. This will prepare ASEAN to work with other regional and global partners on creating interoperable data management and cross border data flows standards globally.

5. Promote and recognise the ASEAN Data Management Framework and ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows as important tools for data governance and to facilitate flows of personal data, including through, but not limited to, translation into national language(s) and dissemination to businesses, issuance of regulations, provision of guidance and capacity building for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
6. Continue to cooperate with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organisations and other stakeholders in the implementation of programmes in support of the new ADM2025.

ADOPTED this Declaration at the 1st ADGMIN via video conference on 22 January 2021.