



**THE 46<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**16-22 September 2025**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

*Parliament at the Forefront for Inclusive Growth and  
Sustainable ASEAN*

*(Res 46GA/2025/Eco/07)*

**RESOLUTION ON**

**HARNESSING DIGITAL ECONOMY AND TRANSFORMATION  
THROUGH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION FOR  
INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN ASEAN**

*Co-Sponsored by Lao PDR, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and Cambodia*

*The Forty-sixth General Assembly:*

**Recalling** 2024 UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/78/265](#) on Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development;

**Recalling** the [ASEAN Economic Community \(AEC\) Blueprint 2025](#), the [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#), and the [Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap \(2021\)](#), which outline ASEAN's commitment to digital transformation as a key driver of integration, sustainable development, and inclusive growth, and noting their alignment with [ASEAN Community Vision 2045](#);

**Also Recalling** the importance of the [ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics](#), endorsed by the 4th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) in February 2024, and further welcomed by ASEAN Leaders at the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summit in October 2024;

**Further recalling** AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.39GA/2018/Eco/03](#) on Deepening Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN and [Res.40GA/2019/Eco/01](#) on Fostering Inclusive Economic Development in ASEAN, which call for the strengthening of ASEAN's economic integration by removing trade and investment barriers, improving regulatory coherence, and promoting competitiveness, particularly in services and trade facilitation;

**Noting** the AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.40GA/2019/Eco/03](#) on Improving Digital Connectivity to Support the Growth of MSMEs; [Res.42GA/2021/Eco/01](#) on Promoting Inclusive Digital ASEAN to Empower MSMEs and Strengthen the ASEAN Economic Integration; and [Res.43GA/2022/Eco/02](#) on Promoting Capacity Development for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in Digital Transformation, which emphasise the importance of enhancing digital connectivity, supporting MSMEs, and promoting capacity building for inclusive participation in the digital economy;

**Also Noting** AIPA Resolutions No. [Res.39GA/2018/Eco/01](#) on Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Cross-Border Data Flows in ASEAN; [Res.41GA/2020/Eco/01](#) on the Role of Parliaments in Promoting ASEAN Cohesiveness and Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19; [Res.45GA/2024/Eco/01](#) on Strengthening ASEAN Cyber Resilience Through Parliamentary Cooperation Towards a Future Safe and Vibrant Digital Economy; and [Res.45GA/2024/Eco/04](#) on The Role of Parliament in Promoting ASEAN Digital Technological Integration Towards the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and Beyond, which collectively underline the significance of cross-border data flows, cyber resilience, technological integration, and the proactive role of parliaments in ASEAN's digital agenda;

**Recognising** the ongoing efforts to negotiate and conclude the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) as a comprehensive instrument to harmonise digital trade norms and to promote a seamless, secure and integrated regional digital economy;

**Acknowledging** the rapid advancement of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud services, and e-commerce, and their transformative potential to enhance productivity, connectivity, and competitiveness across ASEAN;

**Noting** that fragmentation of national laws and regulations governing cross-border digital transactions, data protection, cybersecurity, and digital payments creates legal uncertainties, higher costs, and barriers to regional integration; and that such barriers disproportionately impact Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly women and youth-led enterprises, which form the backbone of ASEAN's economy, thereby limiting their capacity to fully benefit from digital opportunities;

**Emphasising** the vital role of parliaments in harmonising policies and legislation, providing oversight, and fostering inclusive and equitable digital participation for all citizens;

**Reaffirming** the need to advance inclusive digital literacy and skills development, and to deliver targeted programmes for all citizens, in particular youth, women, seniors, and underserved groups so that no one is left behind in the digital transformation;

**Recognising** the critical importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in accelerating infrastructure development, fostering innovation, and expanding digital access in rural and underserved areas;

**Affirming** ASEAN's collective commitment to reduce development gaps and strengthen resilience, in line with the [ASEAN Community Vision 2045](#).

**Hereby resolves to:**

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to prioritise the alignment of national legislation with the objectives of the DEFA, upon its adoption, in order to advance ASEAN's digital economic integration agenda;

**Urge** AIPA Member Parliaments to streamline the development of coherent national policies and regulation in line with ASEAN's regional digital economy objectives, particularly in the areas of cross-border digital transactions, data protection and privacy, cybersecurity, and digital payments, so as to foster interoperability and strengthen ASEAN's role in regional and international e-commerce and digital supply chains;

**Call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to enact legislation and promote policies that support the adoption of ethical, responsible and safe AI across key economic sectors, enhancing productivity, job creation and high-value investment, while ensuring consistency with the [ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics](#);

**Call upon** AIPA Member Parliaments to enact legislation that supports a conducive digital economy ecosystem, including measures that enable MSMEs to access digital platforms, fintech, and e-commerce through simplified regulations, skills training and innovation support; and provision for financing mechanisms, PPPs, affordable digital financing solutions for women and youth-led businesses, and tax incentives to mobilise private sector investment in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, human capital, and AI;

**Recommend** AIPA Member Parliaments to advocate, and ASEAN Member States to initiate, strategic investments in inclusive digital infrastructure, including advanced connectivity and emerging technologies, and support targeted regional capacity-building programmes that equip ASEAN's workforce, particularly youth, women, seniors, and underserved communities, with essential digital skills, AI literacy, and technical expertise, including through platforms for knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices, in order to promote digital inclusion and enable all to thrive in the digital economy;

**Recommend** ASEAN Member States to establish Digital Innovation Hubs and regional incubators to support start-ups, facilitate technology transfer, and foster collaborative research and development that foster the growth of high-value sectors, thereby building a more resilient and competitive ASEAN economy;

**Encourage** the creation of a regional “regulatory sandbox” as a collaborative platform for regulators and innovators to test emerging technologies, including Fintech and AI in a safe and responsible manner with strong safeguards on privacy and data protection;

**Recommend** ASEAN Member States to strengthen regional cybersecurity capacity through joint training exchanges, interoperable frameworks, and ASEAN cyber dialogues, with particular support for Member States with emerging digital infrastructure;

**Encourage** AIPA Member Parliaments to exercise oversight of regional cooperation in the digital economy, and to report progress through AIPA’s existing mechanisms, including the AIPA Caucus, for subsequent reporting to the AIPA General Assembly.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the Twentieth Day of September, in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.



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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*Original Version*

The digital economy has emerged as a key pillar for ASEAN's economic growth, resilience, and integration. This vision which is underpinned by ASEAN's sustained efforts to advance digital transformation through established frameworks such as the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, and the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap. Together, these initiatives provide the stepping stone towards a secure, inclusive, and integrated digital economy, enabling all ASEAN's Member States to leverage digital opportunities more coherently and sustainably. AIPA has also advanced this agenda through resolutions on digital connectivity, cybersecurity, innovation, and inclusion. These efforts are further reinforced by the ongoing negotiations of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), envisioned as ASEAN's most comprehensive framework to establish a secure, inclusive, and integrated regional digital economy.

Despite this progress, challenges remain. Differences in policies, uneven access to infrastructure, and gaps in digital capacity continue to hold back regional digital economic integration. These barriers disproportionately affect micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which form the backbone of ASEAN's economy, as well as youth, women, and underserved groups who risk being excluded from the benefits of the digital economy. In this context, AIPA Member Parliaments have a vital role not only in law-making but also in advocating for more coherent national policies and regulations aligned with ASEAN's digital economy objectives, exercising oversight, and ensuring that the economic opportunities of digitalisation are distributed equitably.

This draft resolution highlights the shared priorities of AIPA Member Parliaments in shaping a digital economy that is secure, inclusive, and competitive. It calls for the need to align national policies with DEFA, the responsible adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and the creation of enabling ecosystems where MSMEs can thrive through access to digital platforms, fintech, and e-commerce. At the same time, it underlines the need to strengthen regional cybersecurity cooperation and to invest in inclusive digital skills that benefit all sectors of society.

Therefore, translating these priorities into action, the draft resolution further recognises the importance of strategic investment in inclusive digital infrastructure and the establishment of innovative mechanisms such as digital innovation hubs, regional incubators, and regulatory sandboxes. These platforms will enable regulators and innovators to collaborate, test emerging technologies safely, and foster innovation while supporting ASEAN's competitiveness in global digital value chains. Public-private partnerships are likewise acknowledged as critical enablers for mobilising investment in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and human capital.

By adopting this resolution, AIPA reaffirms its collective commitment to advance an inclusive and future-ready ASEAN digital economy that contributes directly to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.