



**THE 46TH 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/05)

RESOLUTION ON

**ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING INTRA-
ASEAN TRADE FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN
ASEAN**

***Sponsored by Viet Nam
Co-Sponsored by Cambodia***

The Forty-sixth General Assembly:

Emphasising the effective utilisation of ASEAN's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with partner countries including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to address current challenges and work towards a transparent, stable, and fair international trading environment;

Acknowledging that ASEAN has made remarkable progress in regional economic cooperation through the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), the [ASEAN Economic Community \(AEC\) Blueprint 2025](#), and the [ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement \(ATIGA\)](#) as the primary framework for facilitating intra-ASEAN trade, which has helped ensure trade liberalisation and minimise negative impacts caused by non-tariff barriers;

Concerned about the situation of global trade tensions, which have posed significant challenges to multilateral trade cooperation at regional and global levels;

Appreciating the importance of cooperation to enhance logistics capacity, connectivity, sustainability, and resilience within ASEAN, recognising the positive correlation between improved logistics performance and regional trade competitiveness, export growth and supply chain security;

Recognising that disparities in infrastructure and customs efficiency have significantly affected logistical performance among ASEAN Member States;

Recognising that intra-ASEAN movement of goods continues to be affected by differences in technical regulations, standards, and specialised inspection procedures among countries;

Concerned about the limited level of complementarity among regional economies, as many countries export similar goods while lacking high-value brands;

Concerned about the persistence of non-tariff barriers including inconsistent standards, divergent safety regulations, and cumbersome rules of origin certification procedures which continue to impede ASEAN and international trade;

Recalling AIPA Resolution No. [Res.45GA/2024/Eco/07](#) on Improving Institutional Capacity to Promote Transport Connectivity in the ASEAN Region and emphasise the importance of ensuring seamless movement of goods, services and peoples;

Concerned about prevalence of cross-border trade fraud, including fraudulent schemes, origin falsification, and trans-shipment aimed at evading tariffs;

Recalling AIPA Resolution No. [39GA/2018/Eco/01](#) on Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Cross-Border Data Flows in ASEAN and Resolution No. [39GA/2018/Eco/02](#) on Promoting Innovation and E-commerce in ASEAN; and highlighting the transformative potential of digital trade and e-commerce, requiring harmonised policies and laws, digital infrastructure improvement, and robust consumer protection measures to enhance intra-ASEAN trade;

Reaffirming that regional peace, security, and stability are the absolute prerequisite and fundamental cornerstone for any meaningful economic integration, resilient supply chains, and shared prosperity within our ASEAN Community, and that these economic ambitions cannot be realised in an environment of tension or conflict;

Acknowledging the vital role of parliaments, as representatives of the people, in strengthening regional connectivity to foster economic growth for the benefit of all, through their legislative, budgetary, oversight, and diplomatic functions;

Acknowledging ASEAN's forward-looking and coherent policies that promote open trade, build investor confidence, and safeguard regional supply chains, while also supporting the strengthening of economic integration within the region and with ASEAN's external partners through existing ASEAN Free Trade Agreements, as well as proactively seeking and expanding new areas of cooperation, and reaffirming ASEAN's commitment to respecting and upholding the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Hereby resolves to:

Call upon ASEAN Member States to strengthen unity, leverage the region's collective strengths, and enhance regional preparedness to address future crises and uncertainties;

Encourage ASEAN Member States to further advance bilateral agreements while maintaining regional cooperation, and to continue pursuing deeper integration to realise an integrated single market and production base for the entire region in line with the AEC Blueprint 2025, [Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025](#) and beyond;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to strengthen institutional frameworks and promote harmonisation of legal provisions, where possible, in the field of trade, particularly e-commerce, taking into account the [ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce \(2019\)](#) and guided by the [ASEAN Digital Integration Framework](#), as well as to improve legal systems to effectively address cross-border trade fraud, enhance consumer protection, ensure data security, and promote fair dispute resolution mechanisms;

Urge AIPA Member Parliaments to encourage their respective governments to leverage digital trade frameworks and advance legal harmonisation in order to foster sustainable and resilient intra-ASEAN supply chains and logistics;

Call upon AIPA Member Parliaments to establish a harmonised policies and laws, where possible, to promote the integration and to strengthen parliamentary oversight over the implementation of trade commitments;

Call on ASEAN Member States to continue developing initiatives to improve logistics performance and trade facilitation, ensuring the smooth and seamless movement of goods and services within the region by simplifying customs procedures, reducing export time and costs, enhancing customs efficiency, and minimising disruptive actions and promoting regional connectivity;

Call upon ASEAN Member States to continue removing non-tariff barriers and enhancing regulatory transparency in order to maximise the comparative advantages of Member States; accelerate the harmonisation of standards; expedite the full implementation of the ASEAN Single Window and related digital trade facilitation measures; and prepare for the effective, timely, and meaningful implementation of the upgraded ATIGA, including provisions on sustainability, digital trade, and resilient supply chains.

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

In an increasingly unpredictable global landscape, ASEAN has exposed its vulnerabilities as a global manufacturing hub. This underscores the need for greater self-reliance, notably by strengthening intra-ASEAN trade, a promising avenue for member states to expand trade growth and reduce geopolitical risks in the years to come.

Despite the total population of approximately 700 million, ASEAN countries trade more with external partners than with each other. According to ASEANstats, intra-ASEAN trade accounted for only 21% of the bloc's total trade last year, a figure that has largely stagnated over the past 25 years and lags far behind the European Union's 60%, falling short of the region's potential.

However, ASEAN's intra-regional trade has yet to match its full potential due to various factors, including export-oriented economic structures, reliance on similar intermediate goods or raw materials, the increase of non-tariff barriers, and the lack of consistency in rules of origin.

ASEAN was founded to promote regional peace and security, without supranational institutions to enforce economic integration. Political, ethnic, and income diversity further compounds the challenge. Moreover, although ASEAN's young and growing middle class offers promise, purchasing power remains limited.

The economies of ASEAN, while sharing many similarities, show limited complementarity. Many countries export similar products such as palm oil, rubber, rice, footwear, textiles, electronics, and machinery which can overlap in global markets. The region has yet to develop globally recognized, high-value brands comparable to Apple or Samsung. Further challenges arise from non-tariff barriers, including inconsistent standards, safety regulations, and cumbersome rules of origin certification procedures persist. Unlike a customs union, ASEAN does not apply a common external tariff on imports.

Accordingly, ASEAN countries need to develop nationally tailored solutions, focusing on the following:

1. Strengthening unity and leveraging collective strengths, rather than rigidly applying models from other regions;
2. Advancing bilateral agreements while maintaining regional cooperation, and continuing to pursue deeper integration, including the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), with the aim of establishing a single market and production base for the region;
3. Building institutional frameworks and improving the quality of legal provisions in the field of trade, especially e-commerce;
4. Enhancing the region's preparedness for crises and future uncertainties;
5. Regularly organising training courses for officials in trade and customs;
6. Strengthening cooperation within ASEAN and between ASEAN and partners such as New Zealand, the EU, Japan, the United States, and China.

On this basis, Viet Nam has selected the theme **“Enhancing the Role of Parliaments in Promoting Intra-ASEAN Trade for an Inclusive and Sustainable ASEAN Growth”** for discussion at the Economic Committee of the 2025 General Assembly. This topic aligns with global trends as well as the current conditions of each ASEAN Member State.