



## **ASEAN-CHINA JOINT STATEMENT ON FACILITATING COOPERATION IN BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM**

We, the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China gathered at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit in Vientiane, The Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 10 October 2024.

**Recognizing** that the world is currently undergoing a rapid digital transformation, acknowledge that building an open, secure, inclusive and interoperable digital ecosystem will help accelerate the development of the digital economy, digital society, and digital government, and is therefore of great significance to the economic and social development of all Parties.

**Noting** that the Parties are at different levels of development and have different specific situations, and face different challenges in promoting digital development. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen regional and global cooperation across mechanisms, capitalize on their respective strengths, establish a sustainable and inclusive digital ecosystem, jointly seize new opportunities in the digital economy and improve the level of economic and social development through the use of digital technologies.

**Realizing** that digital technologies and the digital industry are central to promoting digital development, and are increasingly becoming the focus of national policy and regulation in addition to international economic and trade cooperation. The Parties expect to strengthen cooperation in technological innovation and industry development in the digital economy, deepen policy exchanges and communication, accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society, and better promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

We have agreed to take the following measures to promote cooperation in digital ecosystems on the basis of mutual respect and according to the will, capacity and needs of all Parties through cooperation:

### **I. Strengthen policy exchange and strategic matchmaking**

Encourage the development and cultivation of a trusted and inclusive digital ecosystem,

Carry out exchanges and communication on digital development strategies, digital regulatory practices, policies and rules and standards,

Build a platform for promoting exchanges among governments, businesses and academia.

## **II. Promote the development of digital infrastructure**

Promote the development of digital infrastructure of all Parties to, strengthen the connectivity, interoperability and capabilities of ICT.

Promote the joint contribution maintenance and technical exchange of international communication infrastructure projects.

## **III. Accelerate innovative application of emerging digital technologies**

Strengthen the exchange of information in emerging technologies and promote cooperation in innovative applications, including but not limited to 5G technologies and applications, cloud computing, digital government and future networks.

Facilitate the exchange and communication of best practices in artificial intelligence principles, development, safety and governance.

Promote the process of digital trade, and jointly carry out pilot projects for digitizing trade scenarios.

Conduct exchanges and cooperation on best practices and recognition of international standards, and explore technology sharing, enterprise matchmaking, and business model sharing.

## **IV. Promote digital transformation of industries**

Encourage the development and utilisation of digital technologies in industries including, but not limited to manufacturing, agriculture and service industry.

Through exchanges and cooperation platform, share experience and strategies for digital transformation and development.

## **V. Strengthen digital security capabilities and resilience**

Conduct exchanges and cooperation of technical best practices in the field of digital security, including but not limited to policies, technologies, standards, industries and capacity building.

## **VI. Improve digital literacy and digital capabilities**

Explore possible capacity building opportunities in developing digital talents and enhance digital development capabilities.

Promote policy communication, experience exchange and practice sharing between managers and technicians, improve digital skill and knowledge level, and improve overall digital literacy.

## **VII. Promote more inclusive digital development beneficial to all**

Promote access and use of digital technologies, and support all types of enterprises, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), to actively participate in the digitalized, network-based and intelligent upgrading of traditional infrastructure, so as to narrow the digital divide.

We encourage ASEAN Member States and China to deepen the cooperation in digital sector under mechanisms such as the ASEAN-China Digital Ministers' Meeting among public, private, academia and civil societies to build a sustainable and inclusive digital ecosystem.

