



**THE FIFTEENTH AEM-RUSSIA CONSULTATION
22 September 2026, Manila, Philippines**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Fifteenth ASEAN Economic Ministers-Russia (AEM-Russia) Consultation was held on 22 September 2026 in Manila, Philippines. The Consultation was co-chaired by H.E. Ma. Cristina A. Roque, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines and H.E. Vladimir Ilyichev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.
2. The Meeting noted that based on ASEAN's preliminary statistics, two-way merchandise trade between ASEAN and Russia stood at USD 17.8 billion in 2025.
3. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and global economic developments, noting that rising geopolitical tensions, including unilateral trade actions and regional conflicts collectively threaten the rules-based international order. The Meeting also took note that these developments, compounded by the Middle East crisis which has heightened the volatility in global energy markets – including disruptions to oil and gas supply chains – have inflicted significant costs on businesses, heightened inflationary pressures, and created an increasingly unpredictable operating environment, particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). In this challenging climate, the Meeting stressed that closer and more substantive economic partnership between ASEAN and Russia is essential and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen trade and investment ties and deepen supply chain integration. In this regard, the Meeting further reaffirmed the importance of dialogue and the shared resolve to constructively engage all trading partners to address legitimate trade concerns in a balanced and forward-looking manner, and to refrain from any unilateral measures that could further destabilise global economic conditions.
4. The Meeting endorsed the ASEAN-Russia Strategic Programme on Trade and Investment Cooperation 2026-2035 ("ASEAN-Russia SPTI"). The Meeting underscored the importance of this document as a key strategic framework to enhance economic cooperation between ASEAN and Russia, covering eleven (11) areas of cooperation on economy, trade and investments; digital transformation; science, technology and innovation; transport; agriculture; energy; mining; climate change; circular economy; tourism; and creative economy. The Meeting looked forward to the implementation of the ASEAN-Russia SPTI to further strengthen ASEAN-Russia cooperation in trade and investment. The Meeting noted the ongoing progress in bilateral cooperation in the frames of ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partnership Financial Fund particularly in the areas of digital skills, smart and sustainable cities, and animation.

5. The Meeting welcomed the progress in implementation of the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) under the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) on Economic Cooperation in 2026-2030. The Meeting commended the successful holding of ASEAN-EEC joint seminar on Customs Regulation and Best Practices for Developing the Single Window Mechanism in the EAEU and ASEAN, which was held on 28 January 2026 via videoconference. The seminar provided an avenue to exchange experiences in the field of customs regulation and possible development of the single window mechanism in the EAEU and ASEAN. The Meeting noted preparation of the other joint seminars on energy, e-commerce, agriculture, and technical regulation planned for the end of 2026. The Meeting also noted the progress in preparation of the second stage of the Seminar on Digital Transformation in the EAEU and ASEAN and the EAEU-ASEAN Days at the EEC headquarters to be jointly held in first quarter of 2027 in Moscow.

6. The Meeting acknowledged the outcomes of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 26 - 29 March 2026 and reaffirmed its strong commitment to upholding an open, predictable, transparent, free, fair, inclusive, sustainable, and rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. The Meeting underscored the urgency of delivering meaningful WTO reform to improve all its functions, including the dispute settlement system, to address the challenges facing today's global economy. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to work in close coordination to advance a reformed, revitalised and effective WTO that delivers tangible outcomes for all WTO Members, including developing and least developed countries. The Meeting also recognised the positive role that plurilateral initiatives play at the WTO, including the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs), to fostering new ideas and building the momentum toward multilateral outcomes.

7. The Meeting welcomed the organisation of the ASEAN-Russia Business Forum, held on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit on 17 June 2026 in Kazan, Russia. The Meeting noted that the Forum, which attracted the high-level participation, provided an opportunity to exchanging views on prospects for further strengthening ASEAN-Russia economic ties.

7. The Meeting noted the continued efforts of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council in strengthening economic cooperation through business forums, platforms, including ASEAN-EAEU Business Dialogue at the Saint-Petersburg International Economic Forum and ASEAN-Russia Business Dialogue at the Eastern Economic Forum. The Meeting also welcomed initiatives in key areas such as energy solutions, digital transformation and AI, infrastructure development, education and talent development, as well as environmental and waste management cooperation. The Meeting noted the continued active cooperation between the Russia-ASEAN Business Council and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, including efforts to engage representatives of the Russian business community in the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

8. The Meeting welcomed Timor-Leste's accession as the 11th Member State of ASEAN and looked forward to its closer engagement in ASEAN-Russia meetings and economic cooperation mechanisms. The Meeting acknowledged Timor-Leste's

continued efforts to advance its effective participation and full integration into ASEAN, including through the implementation of its ASEAN economic commitments in the *Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN*. In this regard, the Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to continue providing the necessary capacity-building and technical assistance to support Timor-Leste's effective integration into the regional economy.
