ADOPTED

# ASEAN LEADERS' DECLARATION
# ON STRATEGIC TRADE MANAGEMENT FOR SECURE REGIONAL TRADE

**WE**, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, gathered in Manila, Philippines on the occasion of the 49th ASEAN Summit on 15 November 2026;

**RECALLING** the ASEAN Charter and its objectives to promote regional peace, stability, shared prosperity, including through an effective facilitation of trade and investment.

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* and the *AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030*, which envisages a resilient, innovative, dynamic, future-ready, and people-centred ASEAN that is responsive to emerging opportunities, globally competitive and a seamlessly integrated single market and production centre with enhanced global supply chain linkages that harness collective impact and influence as a major player in the global economy;

**RECALLING** ASEAN's commitment under the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for the Future-Ready ASEAN* and *ASEAN-Centred Regional Architecture* to develop the capacity to leverage new growth drivers by ensuring open, inclusive, and non-discriminatory global supply chains, while also accelerating efforts towards inclusive digital transformation;

**CONSIDERING** that Strategic Trade Management (STM) systems are developed with due regard to relevant international instruments, such as the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, particularly in relation to the responsible management of dual-use items.

**ASPIRING** to enhance ASEANs position as a competitive, resilient, and trusted trading hub and investment destination.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that ASEAN's long-term economic resilience depends on deeper and more inclusive economic integration, underpinned by secured, interconnected, transparent, and resilient supply chains that support sustainable growth, attract investment, and strengthen ASEAN's role in regional and global value chains;

**EMPHASISING** the need to protect high-value export sectors from trade disruptions and compliance-related risks;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** STM's role in contributing to economic resilience and competitiveness by promoting responsible trade practices, strengthening trust among trade partners, and safeguarding legitimate trade involving dual-use items, in an evolving global trade and technological landscape

**RECOGNISING** that regional cooperation on a coherent, coordinated and forward-looking STM will strengthen ASEAN's reputation as a reliable and trusted trade and investment partner;

**HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. **PURSUE** regional cooperation on STM to foster an environment that balances trade facilitation and security, while respecting national sovereignty, neutrality, differing levels of readiness and development, national circumstances, institutional capacities, and ASEAN's Agreements and fundamental principles;

2. **ENSURE** that ASEAN's STM approach is non-discriminatory, neutral, inclusive, and independently developed by ASEAN, consistent with regional and multilateral trade frameworks and ASEAN Centrality;

3. **INTENSIFY** regional cooperation and information-sharing, to the extent possible and subject to domestic laws and regulations among ASEAN Member States, to identify, prevent, and address evolving trade security risks while supporting trade facilitation and investment flows;

4. **STRENGTHEN** regulatory, technical, and institutional capacities of ASEAN Member States, through capacity-building, technical cooperation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives and targeted assistance, particularly for ASEAN Member States requiring support in developing their national STM systems to effectively manage trade in dual-use items in accordance with international best practices, and where appropriate, in collaboration with ASEAN External and Development Partners;

5. **ENSURE** a balanced integration of trade facilitation and security so that STM measures remain transparent, proportionate, and supportive of economic growth and innovation;

6. **ENHANCE** ASEAN's attractiveness as an investment destination and manufacturing hub by reinforcing a predictable, transparent, rules-based, and trusted regional trade environment including through regional cooperation on STM;

7. **ESTABLISH** an ASEAN Expert Group on Strategic Trade Management (AEGSTM) under the AEC to:

    a) serve as voluntary platform for technical dialogue, information-sharing, exchange of best practices, and capacity-building initiatives;

b) promote understanding on foundational and core elements of STM systems across ASEAN to ensure a more efficient, secure, and resilient supply chain, while allowing ASEAN Member States to retain flexibility in domestic implementation;

c) Develop a roadmap that sets indicative milestones to discuss and recommend practical modalities for strengthening STM implementation and regional cooperation, while respecting national laws and regulations, national circumstances, and the differing levels of readiness of ASEAN Member States;

d) engage relevant stakeholders, including industry and the private sector, to promote compliance, awareness, and shared responsibility in maintaining secure and trusted supply chains; and

e) monitor regional and global developments relating to STM and provide recommendations to relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies on potential implications for ASEAN economic integration and competitiveness; and

**8.** **TASK** the ASEAN Economic Ministers to oversee the overall implementation of this Declaration, supported by Senior Economic Officials' Meeting (SEOM) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Adopted this Fifteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six in Manila, Philippines, in a single original copy in the English Language.