

## JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ACCELERATION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY

**WE**, the Heads of Competition Agencies of ASEAN Member States (AMS), agreed to this Joint Statement on 27 August 2024;

**REAFFIRMING** the ASEAN Economic Community Vision, for ASEAN as highly integrated and cohesive; competitive and dynamic that continues advancing innovation, empowering people and businesses in the Region, and contributing to build a more resilient, innovative, dynamic and people-centred ASEAN;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the diverse economic and geographical circumstances, and legal system within ASEAN, each presenting unique challenges and opportunities, and united through our commitment towards building a fair and competitive market by closing the capacity and development gap between and within ASEAN competition agencies;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of cooperation and coordination to oversee the robust growth of industries and business behaviours toward competition;

**EMPHASISING** that the Joint Statement is aimed at strengthening the competitive environment in ASEAN and encouraging closer governmental engagement for a more resilient ASEAN;

**CONSIDERING** the efforts and activities undertaken, as well as the survey and background study initiated and prepared by Indonesia on strengthening regional cooperation in competition policy and law, to identify key concerns and establish strategic orientations to promote regional cooperation;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the ongoing work by the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) in accelerating the signing and implementation of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Competition and the ASEAN Competition Action Plan 2026 – 2030;

## WE HEREBY COMMIT TO:

- 1. **PROMOTE** greater cooperation and coordination on cross-border competition law enforcement, and **ENDEAVOUR** to address any associated challenges that may arise from regional cooperation.
- 2. STRENGTHEN dialogue among competition agencies with respect to competition cases in emerging industries, particularly in the area of digital technologies and sustainability.

- **3. FACILITATE** exchange of best practices and experiences with the aim of enhancing government policies that support the creation of fair and competitive markets in the region.
- **4. IMPROVE** information sharing among competition agencies through various agreements and tools.
- **5. ENCOURAGE** capacity building and reciprocal assistance among competition agencies in the region, particularly on issues related to cross-border trade and investment.
- **ENHANCE** current institutional mechanisms and their deliverables, particularly through the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition and the ASEAN Competition Enforcers' Network, to ensure effective curtailment of anti-competitive activity in the region.

**ADOPTED** on the Twenty-Seventh Day of August in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four, in a single original copy in the English Language.

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