

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a city at night, showing a dense grid of skyscrapers with many windows illuminated. The perspective is looking down from a high altitude, creating a sense of depth and scale. The lights from the buildings and streets create a vibrant, colorful scene against the dark night sky.

ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)

30 October 2025

20th ASEAN Economic Community Council on 18 October 2021



The Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap (BSBR) was officially endorsed at the 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC)

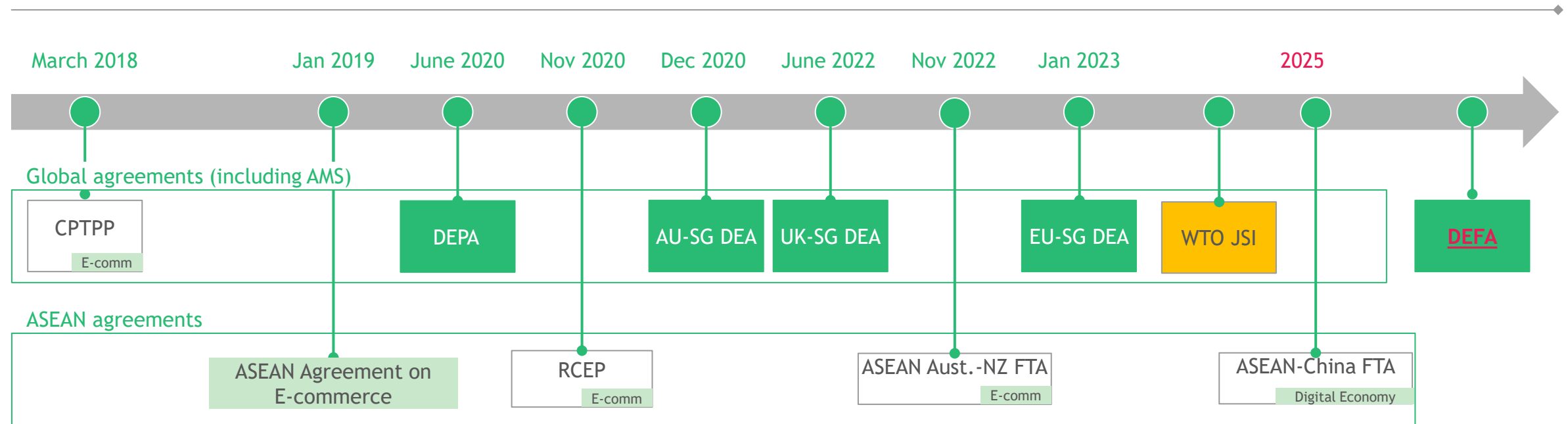
BSSR Objective:

- 1 Articulate a strong commitment to transform the ASEAN region into a leading digital economy
- 2 Work with single coherent document, The ASEAN Digital Economy with key areas of actions, flagship initiatives, specific targets and accountability.
 - A single coherent document put to an end the silo approach in ASEAN digital cooperation and secured a more coordinated approach across sectoral bodies
- 3 Setting the foundation for regional digital integration and paving the way for negotiations for an ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) by 2025.

Digital agreements are increasingly adopted to help countries keep up with the rapidly evolving digital environment

Digital Agreements focus on digital topics, which in the past were addressed as part of broader trade agreements...

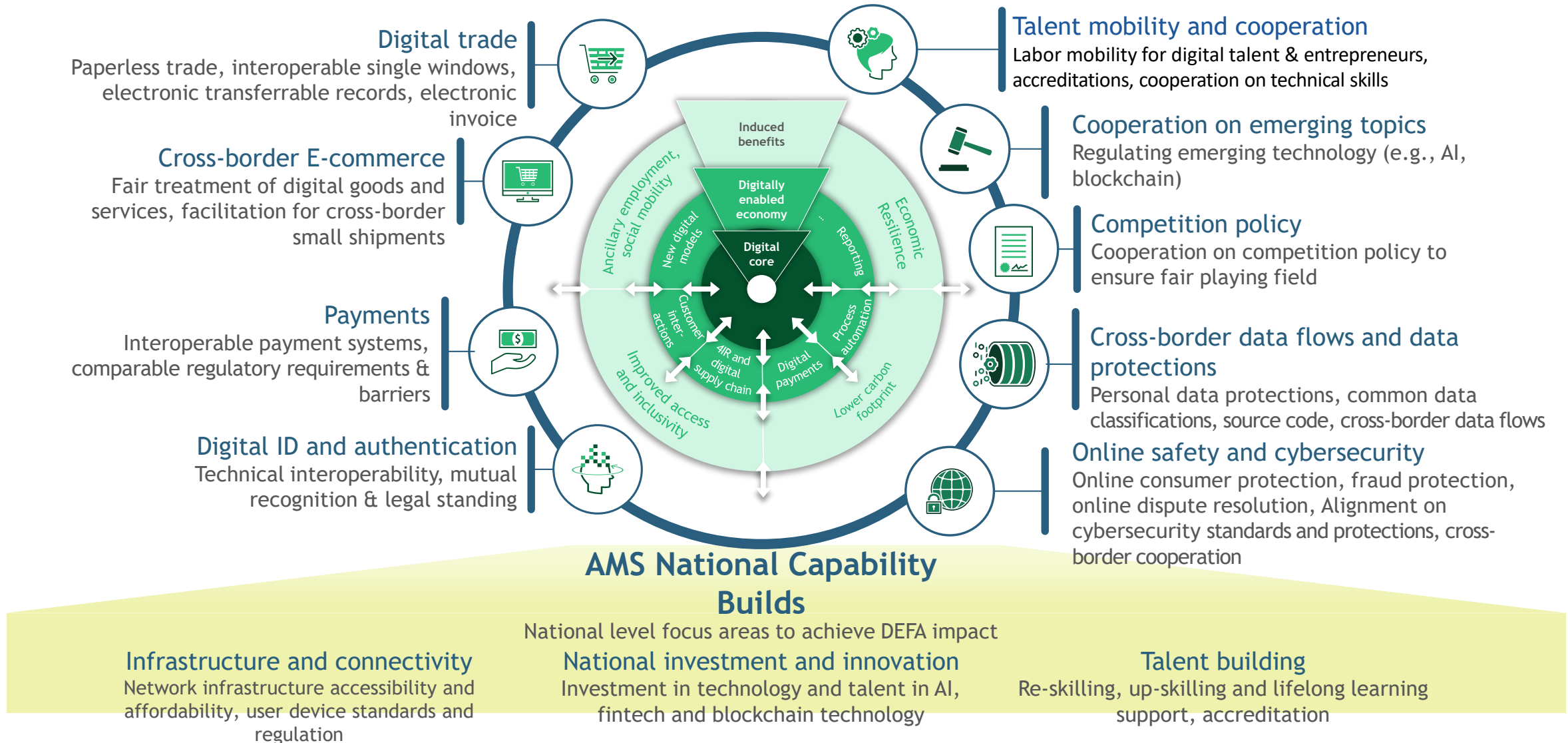
...supplementing existing FTAs which have a broader scope



Legend: Digital trade & E-comm stipulation (light green box), DEAs (dark green box), FTAs (white box), WTO (yellow box)

Nine (9) core DEFA elements endorsed without prejudice through various engagements

Core DEFA provisions



Way forward



Announce the substantial conclusion at the 26th AECC on 24 October 2025



Conclude the negotiations by April 2026, so the legal scrubbing and domestic clearance could commence.



Signing of the ASEAN DEFA at the ASEAN Summit, the Philippines in November 2026