

LIMA STATEMENT

ADDRESSING THE CONVERGING THREATS OF CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT TRADE: MULTIPLIER OF GOVERNANCE DIVIDENDS ACROSS ECONOMIES AND MARKETS

APEC economies are at the forefront of economic growth, sustainable development and good governance. Among the main obstacles facing all economies are corruption and bribery which have damaging consequences for all our economies, deterring foreign and domestic investment, imperiling economic growth and development, distorting competition and hampering the smooth operation of markets.

Fighting Corruption and Bribery: We commit to enhance our efforts to fight corruption and bribery of domestic and foreign public officials; to promote the implementation of effective voluntary corporate compliance programs, and to strengthen public-private partnerships across sectors and economies with a view to preventing and minimizing all forms of corruption and bribery. We will continue to implement the actions outlined in the *APEC Course of Action on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency, Code of Conduct for Business, and Principles on the Prevention of Bribery and Enforcement of Anti-bribery Laws*.

We also reiterate our commitment to implement the *Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption*. In line with each economy's laws and policies, we commit to deny safe havens to those engaged in corruption and their stolen assets, and to continue international cooperation on the extradition or repatriation of corruption suspects and asset recovery.

We further commit to highlighting the importance of best practices shared on the implementation of anti-corruption and anti-bribery compliance programs designed to prevent and detect bribery. In addition to vigorously enforcing our respective laws, and recognizing the efforts of businesses that have effective compliance programs, we will promote the *APEC General Elements of Effective Voluntary Corporate Compliance Programs* within our economies and throughout the region.

We call the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts' Working Group to identify and promote best practices in anti-corruption compliance, including; considering incentives by member economies to encourage businesses to establish effective voluntary anti-corruption programs. We express our continued commitment to uphold our international obligations and, where our economies have not already done so, to establish the liability of legal persons for corruption and bribery offences.

ACTNET: Strengthening A Network: We held our third meeting of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET), which offers an extraordinary platform to enhance joint efforts against transnational corruption and bribery, as well as to reinforce the identification and recovery of stolen assets. We commit to further strengthening the ACT-NET and drawing on the experience of law enforcement by sharing best practices, and where applicable and in line with each economy's laws and policies, to promote pragmatic international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting corruption and bribery cases.

Fighting Corruption to Enhance Environment and Human Security: We recognize that corruption and illicit trade, in addition to its immediate impacts on economic, social and security consequences, critically undermine the sustainable future of all of our economies, our environment, and human capital. Illicit networks are expanding into the increasingly profitable illegal economy including illegal logging and mining, wildlife trafficking, and IUU fishing, and related modern slavery and human trafficking. Through our innovative APEC Pathfinder dialogues, we are working together on fighting corruption and illicit trade and promoting a green growth agenda to safeguard our precious natural resources, vital habitats and ecosystems to bring our humanity and planet back into balance.