



Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

# Key APEC Documents 2018

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# Introduction

*Key APEC Documents 2018* is the 25<sup>th</sup> in a series produced by the APEC Secretariat. The Key Documents' publication provides a reference set of the key policy decisions and initiatives endorsed by APEC Leaders and Ministers each year. Collectively, these documents frame the policy directions for APEC's annual work programs.

This issue presents a compilation of the statements from each of the APEC Ministerial Meetings held during 2018 together with the Chair's Statement on the 2018 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The APEC website, [www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org), offers a further source of documentation of policy and reference papers; APEC committee reports; and information relating to APEC's wide-ranging activities.

APEC Secretariat  
December 2018

## **The 26<sup>th</sup> APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting**

**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
18 November 2018**

### **“The Chair’s Era Kone Statement”**

#### **Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future**

1. The Statement of The Chair reflects the chair’s assessment of the prevailing views of all APEC member economies as expressed during discussions at the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting held in Port Moresby. Most economies agreed to the following text, while a small number had alternative or additional views on paragraphs 9, 16 and 17.
2. Exactly a quarter of a century after Papua New Guinea joined APEC, which coincided with the historic first APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, we, the Economic Leaders of APEC, met in Port Moresby under the theme, “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future”. In this era of rapid technological change, we continue to recognize the importance of international trade to stimulating growth that is inclusive and sustainable, and driving prosperity for all. We reaffirm APEC’s core objectives in promoting free and open trade and investment. To that end, we recommit to advance balanced, innovative, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth and highlight APEC’s work on structural reform and regional economic integration. We seek to ensure that all people of the region can share in the benefits of a digital future.
3. We welcome the global growth achieved in 2018 and the economic outlook for the Asia-Pacific region. However, growth has become less balanced and downside risks have risen. We will continue to promote an open economy in the Asia-Pacific that is responsive to rapidly changing economic conditions and that is conducive for increased investment and job creation.
4. We are optimistic about the future recognizing that 2018 has bridged our efforts to attain APEC’s current goals and setting APEC’s vision beyond 2020. We are resolved to take concrete steps to foster a shared future of a peaceful, stable, dynamic, inter-connected and prosperous Asia-Pacific region, through the following actions:
  - I. **Embracing the Digital Future**
5. We recognise the increasing benefits of the digital economy in all APEC economies whether in the form of internet connection and usage, government services, the growing number of businesses producing digital products and services, or trade in these products and services across borders. Innovations involving the use of digital technologies are increasingly being seen in many sectors of our economies and contribute to economic growth. Furthermore, digital technologies and innovations are increasingly changing the way businesses and government operate across all sectors of our economies.
6. We recognise that APEC economies’ collective efforts on the digital economy have the potential to increase productivity leading to significant gains for our economies as a whole. We acknowledge that the ability to harness such gains for all in a balanced and equitable manner will also depend on APEC’s collective effort in enabling an open, accessible, and secure environment for the growth of, the digital economy. We note, that promoting stability, security, trust, confidence and protection of consumer rights in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) are also essential. We emphasize the importance of enabling the free flow of information and data, recognizing

legitimate domestic public policy objectives. We recognize the importance of facilitating e-commerce and digital trade, including the identification and reduction of unjustified barriers.

7. To ensure that no one is left behind, we will promote the participation of all groups in the digital economy including women and those from remote and rural areas. The digital economy also has the potential to promote greater engagement by disadvantaged groups in the broader economy. We are committed to making joint efforts to improve digital inclusion and to bridge the digital divide. These efforts will include among others, capacity building, facilitating the construction of and access to secure and resilient digital infrastructure, and the development of skills. We will promote the use of digital technology and innovation for high quality and sustainable development. We recognize that there is significant potential to speed up the pace of development through the facilitation and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and improved internet connectivity.
8. In order to meet such challenges, in 2017 we welcomed the adoption of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap. Given the rapid development of digital technologies and their far-reaching implications for all our economies, the implementation of the Roadmap has now become more urgent than ever. We therefore endorse the APEC Action Agenda on the Digital Economy (Annex A) and instruct officials to begin implementing this Agenda starting from 2019. We also recognise that addressing these issues requires a multi-faceted approach and we welcome work with other relevant fora on digital economy issues, including among others WTO, in particular the E-commerce discussion. To implement the Roadmap, we encourage economies to work closely with private sector and other stakeholders.

## **II. Progressing the Bogor Goals**

9. It is imperative that we hasten our efforts towards attaining the Bogor Goals. We urge economies to make maximum progress under their individual action plans by the deadline of 2020. We further urge economies to advance trade in the region in a free, fair, and open manner, in a way that will support non-discriminatory, and mutually advantageous trade and investment frameworks.

## **III. Post-2020 Vision**

10. We reiterate our commitment to developing a strategic, forward looking, and ambitious post-2020 vision that will position APEC to better address 21st Century challenges and opportunities for member economies and our people. This vision would build upon past achievements, address unfinished business, and explore new areas of cooperation to better respond to new and emerging challenges and pressing issues in the coming decades. We welcome the discussions on the post 2020 vision and note the progress on the ongoing work of the APEC Vision Group (AVG).

## **IV. Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration**

### **Improving Connectivity**

11. Today, as we gather in Papua New Guinea, the only APEC member economy in the region that physically connects the Pacific to Asia, we reaffirm our commitment to implement the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, which aspires to build a seamless and comprehensively connected and integrated Asia-Pacific by 2025. We welcome the progress of quality infrastructure initiatives in APEC. We are committed to pursuing all ongoing commitments in progressing work on connectivity, including sub-regional,

remote area connectivity and rural urban development and will identify future areas of cooperation.

12. We commit to bringing member economies and people closer together through policy and regulatory cooperation and coherence, trade facilitation and people-to-people exchanges. We resolve to developing better regional networks in ICT infrastructure.

### **Deepening Regional Economic Integration**

13. We reiterate the importance of APEC's regional economic integration agenda. We welcome progress to date to implement the Lima Declaration on Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) and urge further progress on issues identified by economies in order to enhance APEC economies' ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreements in the future. We instruct officials to report progress to us in 2020.
14. We welcome ongoing progress on developing statistics in Trade in Value Added (TiVA). This cooperation will produce tools to assist economies to better understand global production networks.
15. We are committed to further actions to increase APEC's competitiveness in the services sector by 2025 and intensifying our efforts to address barriers and facilitate services trade that will better enable our businesses to compete or trade in services markets.

### **World Trade Organisation**

16. We recognise the importance of working toward achieving free and open markets and the significance of international trade and investment in delivering prosperity for our people. We reaffirm the importance of trade liberalisation and facilitation in achieving sustainable global economic growth and creating jobs in our economies. We recognise the contributions that the multilateral trading system has made towards that end. We support a well-functioning WTO that provides a transparent, and non-discriminatory framework for progressive trade liberalisation, based on rules agreed upon by its members.
17. In order to improve the functioning of the WTO and to deliver for all its members, we commit to work together to improve its negotiating, monitoring and dispute settlement functions. We also encourage APEC economies to increase their participation in the WTO to advance its work.

### **V. Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

18. We reaffirm our commitment to promote sustainable and inclusive growth that benefits our people, raises living standards, lifts people out of poverty, and harnesses and develops our resources sustainably in collaboration with the private sector. Recognizing the interconnectedness of the economy with our societies and the environment, APEC should take a comprehensive approach to its work to advance sustainability and inclusion in the region, and put our peoples' economic prosperity and well-being at the center of our considerations. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to APEC's agenda on advancing economic, financial and social inclusion through APEC initiatives. These initiatives complement and are consistent with our individual economy efforts as well as those undertaken in other frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
19. Recognizing the critical importance of energy security to support sustainable economic growth in the APEC region, we commit to enhance access to affordable, sustainable, reliable and clean energy, including clean and advanced fossil fuels and technologies by

facilitating energy-related trade and investment, reducing energy intensity, enhancing energy resilience to avoid disruptions to the energy sector, and scaling up deployment of efficient and clean energy sources.

20. We underscore that it is crucial to improve the business environment for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as part of our efforts to advance inclusive growth.
21. We emphasize the importance of the economic empowerment of women and girls. We underscore the need to bridge the digital divide between men and women and the gender pay gap thereby increasing opportunities for women and girls towards fully realizing their potential and enabling them to increase their participation in the digital economy. In this regard, we welcome further initiatives to implement APEC's work on human resources development in the digital age. We recognise the importance of further promoting the full advancement of women and girls as a means of realising sustainable development, economic growth and gender equality.
22. We recognise the importance of science, technology and innovation in enabling inclusive, sustainable economic growth for the region.

## **VI. Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reform**

23. We recognise the critical importance of structural reform as a driver to strengthen inclusive, innovative and quality economic growth. An effective and holistic approach to structural reform improves the functioning of markets, enables deeper market participation by all segments of our society and advances our broader APEC goals. Improvements to the regulatory environment, including through strengthening competition policy, removing behind the border barriers, and facilitating the ease of doing business, can increase cross-border trade, finance and investment, as well as boost innovation and support the emergence of groundbreaking technologies. We welcome work on structural reform and infrastructure and encourage officials to undertake work in 2019 on structural reform and digital economy.
24. We reaffirm our commitment to foster integrity in the public and private sectors. We recognise the importance of our efforts to combat and prevent corruption, promote transparency and good governance and strengthen the rule of law.
25. We welcome the outcomes of the APEC Finance Ministers' Process, particularly the Finance Ministers Joint Statement, and the progress of accelerating infrastructure development and financing, advancing financial inclusion, fostering international tax cooperation and transparency, and further developing disaster risk financing and insurance.

## **VII. Looking Forward**

26. Under our Era Kone Declaration, we hereby commit to take forward the above actions which will harness inclusive opportunities, and allow our people to benefit from the digital future. We are committed to carrying out further actions to maintain APEC as a key driver of regional and global economic growth and we will strengthen APEC's global leadership in addressing the most pressing economic challenges.
27. On this historic occasion, we congratulate Papua New Guinea for its leadership this year in hosting APEC for the first time, and significantly promoting future work on the Internet and Digital Economy and APEC's Post-2020 Vision.

28. We thank the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for its continued cooperation, advice and support.
29. We look forward to meeting again in Chile in 2019.

## **ANNEX**

Annex A – The APEC Action Agenda on the Digital Economy



## **APEC ACTION AGENDA FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

At our meeting in Da Nang in 2017 we welcomed the adoption of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (“the Roadmap”). In doing this, we recognized that digital technologies (and their associated services and platforms) have the potential to continue providing significant gains. Under the Roadmap, we also recognized that if these gains are to be fully realized, significant challenges need to be addressed. The Roadmap sets out eleven key focus areas of work designed to address these challenges.

We welcome the progress that has been made in implementing the Roadmap during Papua New Guinea’s host year in 2018. This includes establishment of a new governance mechanism, the Digital Economy Steering Group. We also applaud Papua New Guinea’s leadership to facilitate discussions among APEC fora and sub-fora on how they can contribute to the implementation of the Roadmap.

To continue to implement the Roadmap in a comprehensive manner and to provide a platform for future work, we commit that APEC will by the end of 2019:

- a) Prepare a comprehensive work program on future implementation of the Roadmap with contributions from committees and sub fora, as appropriate. This will examine the broad potential opportunities and challenges presented by digital technologies.
- b) Develop a program for future data and analytical support for work under the Roadmap. As a contribution to this work, the 2019 APEC Economic Policy Report will be prepared on the topic of Structural Reform and the Digital Economy;
- c) Develop any further areas of work that might be examined, given the Roadmap is a living document and the rapid development of digital technologies points to the potential for new topics to arise in the future.

We further commit to continuing to engage all relevant public and private sector stakeholders on this work. In this respect, we applaud the contributions already made by the APEC Business Advisory Council and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. It will also be important for APEC to build closer cooperation with the relevant fora in this field.

Finally, we reaffirm the central role of APEC Senior Officials, supported by the Digital Economy Steering Group, in taking this work forward, including monitoring and evaluating progress in relation to the implementation of the key focus areas by the relevant fora and sub fora. We instruct Senior Officials to report on the achievement of these commitments when we meet in 2019.

**APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

1. The Statement of The Chair reflects the chair's assessment of the prevailing views of all APEC member economies as expressed during discussions at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Port Moresby. Most economies agreed to the following text, while a small number had alternative or additional views on paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16.
2. We, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers, met in Port Moresby on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 under the chairmanship of Honourable Rimbink Pato, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for Papua New Guinea.
3. We welcome the participation of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the APEC Secretariat.
4. On the occasion of our 30<sup>th</sup> Joint Ministerial Meeting, we recognise that amidst the efforts and progress in driving growth in the region, and a continued robust regional economic outlook, there are more pronounced risks and uncertainties, including barriers to trade. We ought to be cognizant of these challenges, and explore ways to deal with them both regionally and globally.
5. We reaffirm our commitment to address these challenges and work towards achieving APEC's goal of free and open trade and investment in the region. We further reiterate our commitment to support balanced, inclusive sustainable, innovative and secure economic growth and prosperity in the region to ensure that the benefits are shared broadly, and no one is left behind.
6. Under the theme of "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future", we focused this year on our vision for driving economic prosperity through creating new opportunities that are inclusive and beneficial to the region with deliberate emphasis on digitalization. Our growth story was pursued through three priorities: Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration; Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth; and, Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reforms.

*World Trade Organisation*

7. We recognise the importance of working toward achieving free and open markets and the significance of international trade and investment in delivering prosperity for our people. We reaffirm the importance of trade liberalisation and facilitation in achieving sustainable global economic growth and creating jobs in our economies. We support a well-functioning WTO that provides a transparent, and non-discriminatory framework for progressive trade liberalisation and its contribution to promote world trade, based on rules agreed upon by its members.
8. In order to improve the functioning of the WTO and to deliver for all its members, we commit to work together to improve its negotiating, monitoring and dispute settlement functions. We also encourage APEC economies to increase their participation in the WTO to advance its work. We also support necessary reform of the WTO in order to improve and strengthen it to better address existing and emerging global trade challenges. We agree to fight protectionism including all unfair trade practices.

9. We reaffirm the importance of the WTO's trade monitoring work and call on all WTO members to improve adherence to WTO rules. We note the progress of APEC economies in implementing the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). We welcome further APEC capacity building activities, including those that support implementation of transparency-related obligations, to support economies' implementation of the TFA in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
10. We agree to work together towards concluding negotiations on fisheries subsidies by the end of 2019 and continuing work under the Work Programme on E-commerce as agreed at the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. We note efforts by participating economies to advance discussions on initiatives on E-commerce, investment facilitation, services domestic regulation, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and trade and women's economic empowerment. In light of the importance of digital trade to the prosperity of the region, we encourage participating economies to actively engage in ongoing efforts in the WTO. We acknowledge the efforts by economies to progress work and initiatives in APEC related to WTO decisions, including on the elimination of export subsidies in agriculture and in promoting transparency through the improvement of WTO's sanitary and phytosanitary notifications.
11. We note the contribution of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and its expansion to promote APEC's digital economy work, and encourage economies to join in such initiatives.

#### *Progressing the Bogor Goals*

12. We reiterate our commitment to attaining the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region through both collective and individual efforts. We welcome the completion of the 2018 Bogor Goals Progress Report and urge all economies to take more concrete actions towards attaining the Bogor Goals by 2020.

#### *Post-2020 Vision*

13. We reiterate our commitment to developing a strategic, forward looking, and ambitious post-2020 vision that will position APEC to better address 21st Century challenges and opportunities for member economies and our people. We welcome the discussions on the post 2020 vision and note the progress on the ongoing work of the APEC Vision Group (AVG).

#### **Support for APEC 2018 Priorities**

##### **Priority 1: Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration**

14. We reaffirm that APEC's agenda on deepening regional economic integration plays an important role. We recognise that our economies can grow stronger together, and our people can become more prosperous through the ever-deeper connections between our 21 economies.

#### *Strengthening Connectivity*

15. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the full implementation of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint by strengthening physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity, and by taking other concrete actions and meeting targets by 2025 in order to achieve a seamless and integrated Asia Pacific.

16. We also reaffirm the importance of quality infrastructure and development for sustainable economic growth and pledge to promote infrastructure both in terms of quantity and quality, in accordance with sustainable financing practices, as well as through adequate investment and strengthened public-private partnerships. We encourage approaches that facilitate project transparency and ensure timely access to qualitative and quantitative project information. We welcome the revision of the APEC Guidebook on Quality of Infrastructure Development and investment (the Guidebook) and the completion of the APEC Guideline for Quality of Water Infrastructure. We encourage member economies to utilize the Guidebook and to implement the Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure.
17. We encourage further collaboration and synergy among various connectivity initiatives to work on advancing economic development through the integration of sub-regional, rural and remote areas in the region, including efforts to develop open, accessible, safe, secure, resilient, efficient, affordable, quality and sustainable transportation systems that, where practical, aim to connect more fully with ICT and energy systems. We welcome the Case Studies on Addressing Connectivity Challenges in APEC Economies and the work on bridging the gap in economic development and integration of remote areas for sustainable growth including the results of the Policy Support Unit (PSU) study.

*Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific*

18. Recalling APEC's vision for a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP), we welcome progress to date on efforts to implement the Lima Declaration and urge further progress on issues identified by economies in order to enhance APEC economies' ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreements in the future. We recall the APEC Economic Leaders' instruction for officials to report progress to Leaders in 2020.
19. We welcome the progressive trade liberalisation and the removal of barriers to trade and investment throughout the APEC region through the negotiations of trade agreements. We welcome the entry into force of those agreements, and substantial progress in ongoing negotiations.
20. We endorse the Cross-Cutting Principles on Non-Tariff Measures (Annex A) as a valuable tool to address non-tariff barriers in the APEC region. We further welcome initiatives undertaken under the Information Sharing Mechanism on Regional Trade Agreements/Free Trade Agreements (RTAs/FTAs) and the ongoing work in implementing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Economic Integration (REI) Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI) consistent with the Lima Declaration.

*Internet and Digital Economy including ICTs*

21. We re-affirm our commitment to implement the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap in a comprehensive manner and instruct officials to finalize existing initiatives, as well as develop new initiatives to progress work on the digital economy. We are committed to bridging the digital divide, including through expanded and affordable broadband access, building up digital capacity and competencies for all, and creating an environment to foster the digital economy. We also encourage improving access to the digital economy and the use of new technologies which we recognize contributes to economic development and poverty alleviation in the region.

22. We support the continued work on the development of information and communications technologies (ICT) infrastructure and services to promote inclusive growth and drive innovation through improving access to the digital economy. We acknowledge the importance of trust and security in the use of ICTs and commit to work together to develop an open, accessible, reliable, secure and resilient ICT environment. Therefore, we look forward to the finalization of an APEC Framework for Securing the Digital Economy.
23. We call for continued dialogue on relevant legislation and policies to promote transparency, regulatory cooperation and coherence in the digital economy. We support policy and regulatory frameworks that protect privacy and consumer rights and promote interoperability in rules and regulations, whilst creating a favourable environment for the digital economy.
24. We emphasize the importance of enabling the free flow of information and data, recognizing legitimate domestic public policy objectives. We note the progress to expand participation in the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules, a voluntary mechanism whose participants seek expansion of participation. We encourage enhanced understanding and cooperation in this area including through capacity building, as appropriate.
25. We reaffirm our commitment to implement the APEC Cross Border E-commerce Facilitation Framework. We encourage economies to identify and reduce unjustified barriers to e-commerce and digital trade, and instruct officials to finalize the building blocks to facilitate digital trade and to advance studies to better understand the digital economy including the state of data – utilizing businesses, as well as encourage economies to advance new and existing initiatives including those that increase MSME competitiveness in cross border trade. We therefore welcome the Survey on E-commerce Regulations in APEC to encourage transparency in rules and regulations. We also encourage economies to constructively engage and support discussions in international fora including the WTO.

#### *Intellectual Property Rights*

26. We uphold our commitment to fostering cooperation in the area of intellectual property rights, which serve as a catalyst for creativity and innovation. We welcome collaboration among relevant stakeholders in relation to protection and enforcement, as well as capacity-building initiatives, including cross-fora collaboration, on border enforcement against trademark infringing goods.
27. We reiterate our commitment to promoting intellectual property rights through policies and programs that support and advance innovation, creativity, and commercialization for development and growth, and with respect to innovation in the digital economy to increase economic benefits.

#### *Environmental Goods and Services and Green Growth*

28. We encourage economies to make further progress in implementing the commitment to reduce tariffs to five percent or less on the 54 products in APEC's List of Environmental Goods and urge economies that have yet to fulfil this commitment to do so as soon as possible. We welcome the interim review of the Environmental Services Action Plan and instruct officials to implement the recommended action agenda.

29. We also welcome the ongoing work on the Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network and other initiatives in this area and instruct officials to progress implementation of these initiatives.

*Investment*

30. We recognise investment as a key driver of economic growth and job creation in the Asia Pacific region, including through creating new opportunities, especially for MSMEs. We encourage economies to continue joint work through policies and investment dialogues through capacity building including community engagement to communicate the benefits of investment, and work related to sustainable and inclusive policies. We encourage economies to take measures to improve investment flows and explore further areas of possible regional cooperation.
31. We support the work on advancing the investment aspects of Next Generation Trade and Investment issues (NGeTI), promoting inclusive business, investment in services, the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP), international investment principles and practices and addressing issues in international investment agreements, all of which will help improve the investment climate in the Asia Pacific region.

*Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues*

32. As we move forward into the 21st Century, it remains important that APEC continues to address next generation trade and investment issues. In this regard, we welcome the 2018 interim review of the Manufacturing-Related Services Action Plan and encourage economies to continue work in this area. We encourage officials to continue to explore new next generation trade and investment issues.

*Global Value Chain Cooperation*

33. We welcome the progress towards completing the APEC Trade in Value Added (TiVA) Database and its integration into the WTO-OECD TiVA Database by the end of the year. The database demonstrates a significant milestone on economies' cooperation on statistics and will serve as an effective tool in understanding the impact of global production networks in economies and the development of policies to improve opportunities for businesses to participate in the global economy. We note the Summary Report on Measurement of APEC TiVA under GVCs.

*Services*

34. We recognise the importance of improving the competitiveness of the services sector and reducing barriers to trade in services and support initiatives that promote cooperation, liberalisation and transparency. We commit to intensifying our efforts to address barriers that prevent our businesses from competing or trading in services markets on a non-discriminatory basis and therefore, we welcome the APEC Non-Binding Principles for Domestic Regulation of the Services Sector.
35. We reiterate our support for advancing work in services through continued implementation of individual economy and APEC-wide actions to achieve the objectives of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap. We also welcome the work towards developing an Index for Measuring the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade in APEC region which aims to provide up-to-date and comprehensive data in APEC economies and to conduct seamless cross-economy analysis within APEC, and also with non-APEC economies. We instruct officials to expeditiously

progress further work on services and encourage capacity building to support the collective implementation of these actions.

*Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation*

36. We welcome APEC's efforts in the area of Customs Procedures as a contribution to trade facilitation in the region. We commend efforts to improve supply chain connectivity and efficiency to promote increased participation in trade. We note the Stock-take of Initiatives for the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP) Phase II (2017-2020) and acknowledge the progress of work to address the chokepoints identified in SCFAP Phase II, including the outcomes of the PSU Study on Single Window Systems' International Interoperability.
37. We welcome the progress of the Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN) and its updated terms of reference. We further encourage economies to enhance cooperation and capacity building in this area.
38. We encourage further efforts to strengthen work in trade facilitation through building on existing work streams, including on simplification of documents and procedures and transparency through the APEC Trade Repository, and through further capacity building.

*Standards and Conformance*

39. We support the continuing work to strengthen standards and conformance infrastructure and promote innovation. We commend the efforts to enhance good regulatory practices in the APEC region and encourage additional initiatives to improve transparency, through consulting with relevant agencies and affected stakeholders and conducting regulatory impact assessment, where appropriate.

*Food Safety Cooperation*

40. We also commend the efforts of the Food Safety Cooperation Forum and its Partnership Training Institute Network to promote regulatory frameworks harmonized with science-based international standards, improve food safety, and ensure predictability and transparency in the trade in food and agriculture products and to build capacity and confidence, ultimately reducing non-tariff barriers. In this regard, we note the contributions of the Wine Regulatory Forum, including the successful implementation of the APEC Model Wine Certificate. We also welcome the information on shared analytical technologies to address issues of food safety.

*Regulatory Coherence and Cooperation*

41. We recognise the importance of regulatory coherence and cooperation, and encourage economies to share best practices in this area, and cultivate open and competitive markets. We call for closer cooperation between government and the private sector in developing regulatory and policy processes.
42. We also note the initiative for understanding non-tariff measures on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors to enhance rural development and poverty alleviation.

**Priority 2: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

43. We recognise that APEC's agenda on sustainability and inclusion remains crucial to our economies' approach to economic growth. This is reflected in many areas of APEC's work, and we direct officials to continue to develop and implement

initiatives to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. We recognise that APEC's work can have a positive effect on achieving economic prosperity, raising living standards, and lifting people out of poverty. We note the potential for our work to positively impact all segments of our populations, including disadvantaged groups. We welcome economies' efforts in this regard, which strongly resonates with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### *Human Resources Development*

44. We acknowledge efforts by APEC member economies to take advantage of the technological advancements and the digital age to improve the quality of education, including in remote and rural areas, and prepare our people to adapt to the future of work. We also encourage economies to invest more in skills across various levels of education and training, especially in Technical and Vocational Education and Training and supporting lifelong learning and upskilling and reskilling for those already in employment. We reassert our support for the APEC Skills Development Capacity Building Alliance project.
45. We acknowledge that collaboration with the private sector is necessary to ensure that education and training meets industry needs and delivers an effective, progressive and productive workforce. We recognise the role that qualification recognition can play in facilitating skilled and professional labour mobility within the region. To this end, when considering domestic policies, we encourage economies to continue implementation of the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age.

#### *Health*

46. We consider people-centred approaches to health and healthcare important to sustainable and inclusive growth. We support ongoing work under the Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Initiative. We welcome the outcomes of the 8th High Level Meeting on Health and Economy including the re-commitment to the principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care.
47. We support work on enhancing preparedness and response to public health emergencies and disasters, and strengthening health systems. We welcome the Port Moresby Statement to End Tuberculosis (TB) through Multi-sectoral Response (2018) presented to the United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on TB by member economies, and we look forward to the End TB Collaboration Framework and the work on Anti-Microbial Resistance.
48. We recognise the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region, and emphasise the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment. We acknowledge and support ongoing work on Mental Health, Cervical Cancer, and Rare Diseases.
49. We support work on developing principles for improving transparency and stakeholder consultations in the health and life sciences sector. We also welcome the action plan for addressing barriers to health care services for populations especially those affected by rare and preventable diseases and the work on developing alternative financing mechanisms to support greater access to health care in the region through collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.
50. We reaffirm our goal to advance convergence on regulatory approval procedures for medical products. We welcome the identification of performance indicators and look forward to tracking these indicators across all member economies. We recognise the



magnitude and impact of substandard and falsified medicines and other medical products especially with the constant international movement of goods. We call for closer collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen information sharing processes and infrastructure to improve prevention, detection and response to product quality and supply chain security issues within the global medical product supply chain.

#### *Women and the Economy*

51. We recognise the critical importance of women's contributions to economic growth, and sustainable development and commit to promoting women's economic empowerment, gender equality and inclusion in the APEC region. The expansion of the digital economy provides a vital pathway for women to fully participate in the global economy. We emphasise the need to pursue an environment where women and girls are free from all forms of discrimination and violence and promote an enabling environment that facilitates equal opportunities for women and girls to actively and fully engage in the economy. We encourage economies to focus on promoting increased women's participation in growth industries, particularly those industries where women are under-represented. We also recognise the importance of improving women led MSMEs access to finance, technology and capacity-building and welcome new initiatives in this area.
52. We are committed to tackling discriminatory barriers that impede women and girls from attaining equal pay for equal work and pursuing opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, training and education, innovation, access to markets, and financial services. We welcome APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target Award (APEC BEST Award) for women-entrepreneurs. We recognise the Women and the Economy Dashboard as an important source of data to inform decision making in APEC on women's economic empowerment, and we welcome the 2018 updates by the PSU.

#### *Emergency Preparedness and Disaster*

53. We continue to promote disaster resilience by exchanging information on disaster risk communication methods and strategies to enhance knowledge and improve the efficiency and coverage of multi-hazard risk assessments and early warning systems, search and rescue, as well as encouraging research on the application of technology for disaster early warning and response.

#### *Sustainable and Inclusive Mining*

54. We note the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministers Responsible for Mining Meeting which underscored how transformative technological advances combined with the appropriate structural and regulatory reforms, can help economies manage next generation growth and mitigate emerging challenges in the mining sector. We acknowledge that APEC should continue to be a platform for collaborative work on mining issues, including with the private sector.

#### *Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism*

55. We support the commitment of the 10<sup>th</sup> APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting (TMM) to harness sustainable and inclusive tourism in the digital age. We recognise the economic significance of tourism, as illustrated in the State of APEC Tourism Report, in terms of regional cooperation, trade, MSME support, job creation, skills enhancement, innovation, and the development of ICT.

56. We note the APEC Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders endorsed by the 10<sup>th</sup> TMM and recognise that they are founded on the values of sustainability, inclusivity, respect, responsibility, openness, innovation and partnership.

*Forestry and Wildlife*

57. We remain committed to our efforts in combating illegal logging and promoting the trade of legally harvested forest products through capacity building initiatives, development of appropriate policies and digital and other technologies. We acknowledge continued efforts by APEC and relevant stakeholders including the private sector to address illegal logging and strengthen sustainable and legal forest products supply chains and further encourage increased collaborative efforts by all. To this end we support enhancing focused policy discussions and we call on economies to expedite completion of their Timber Legality Guidance document. We also emphasize the importance of strengthening our efforts and increasing cooperation among member economies in combating wildlife trafficking.

*Transportation*

58. In working towards achieving regional economic integration and the overarching pillars of APEC, our economies will collaborate to develop safe, secure, resilient, efficient and sustainable transport systems. We support work to accelerate innovation in the transport sector to achieve inclusive mobility and global supply chain resilience. We agree to promote comprehensive and seamless connectivity through transport systems, and enriched human resources capacity, including through increasing women's employment in transport. We welcome the progress made by the APEC Port Services Network (APSN) to strengthen supply chain connectivity and sustainability.

*Supporting Persons with Disabilities*

59. We acknowledge the vital importance of the contributions persons with disabilities can make to the economy. However, we recognise that their talents often remain untapped and their exclusion from the economy results in significant economic losses. To this end, we reaffirm our commitment to reduce barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from equal access to high quality, inclusive education and employment opportunities. We encourage member economies to assess the effectiveness of their laws, policies and programs to facilitate inclusive and equal opportunities.

*Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)*

60. We welcome the outcomes of the Mid-term Review of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs and the annual stock take for 2018 and urge further efforts towards its implementation.
61. We acknowledge the importance of MSMEs' integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs) in services industries and note the Compendium on Methodologies for SMEs Internationalization through the participation of economies. We will continue our efforts in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation amongst MSMEs, fostering MSMEs capacity building and participation in E-commerce and Online-to-Offline business model. We encourage activities and initiatives that promote the implementation of APEC Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs and the APEC initiative on Promoting Innovative Start-Ups. We urge third parties to join the effort to promote ethical business practices which are crucial to the sustainable growth of MSMEs.

*Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management*

62. We recognise the importance of exploring and promoting strategies to foster economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability. We welcome additional APEC work to advance sustainable materials management and work related to the circular economy, and green economy. We invite economies to explore ways to adapt and integrate these innovative economic strategies in order for MSMEs to more effectively participate in GVCs.

*Enhancing Food Security and Sustainable Fisheries*

63. We will continue to implement the APEC Food Security Roadmap 2020 focusing on sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries sectors. We further encourage the implementation of the Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020. We encourage sustainable and productive food systems, including sustainable aquaculture, that efficiently utilise resources such as water resources and fisheries waste. Improving resilience, adaptation and productivity of food systems contributes to protecting and conserving the environment and mitigates the effects of natural disasters and climate change.
64. We encourage the promotion of best practices on connectivity for food value chains to increase agricultural productivity and market access. We also support agricultural innovation and technical cooperation, including among others biotechnology, and regulatory cooperation as tools to enhance productivity, raise farm incomes, protect the environment, improve climate resiliency of food systems, benefit consumers, and strengthen food security. We also encourage economies to reduce trade distorting measures, including non-tariff barriers, that can promote unsustainable practices. We attach great importance to reduce food losses and waste for sustainable APEC food system.
65. We recognize the negative impacts on food security and fisheries trade from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Asia Pacific region, and fisheries subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, which undermines our efforts towards sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources. We believe it is crucial to strengthen policy and technical cooperation to improve sustainable use of natural resources while securing long term food supply, including taking appropriate actions to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.
66. We underscore our commitment to increasing the participation and improving the status of women in the agriculture and fisheries sectors and welcome the outcomes of the Dialogue on Women in Agriculture and Fisheries to focus on empowering women and addressing barriers to women's participation in these sectors.

*Marine Debris Management*

67. We recognize that marine debris and inadequate sea and land-based management are challenges that have significant environmental, economic and social costs to our region. We call on member economies to take concrete action to improve liquid and solid waste management systems to mitigate and manage the negative impact of marine debris. We also encourage economies to increase regional and international cooperation to comprehensively reduce and prevent marine debris. We value the progress made by member economies to address marine debris with relevant

activities, including Marine Sustainable Development Report II, which will be finalized next year.

### *Energy*

68. We recognise the importance of energy connectivity and the contribution of energy-related trade in the Asia Pacific region to enhance energy security and stimulate regional economic growth and development. We encourage member economies to create favourable conditions for energy-related trade and investment, including supporting a diversified, flexible, and integrated natural gas market in the Asia Pacific region.
69. We continue to strive for clean, affordable, sustainable and secure energy systems. We welcome member economies' efforts to reduce aggregate energy intensity, pursue resilient energy development, and accelerate cleaner energy deployment through renewables, cleaner and more efficient fossil fuels, hydrogen and nuclear energy for interested economies, adhering to nuclear safety, security, and peaceful use.
70. We encourage economies to strengthen coordination and cooperation through analysing energy data, sharing best practices, conducting peer reviews, pursuing energy smart and low carbon communities, and fostering innovation.

### *Counter-Terrorism*

71. We welcome the updated APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy for 2018 – 2022, and commit to continue implementing the Strategy by taking collective and individual actions to promote the security and resilience of regional supply chains, travel, finance, and critical infrastructure, as well as soft targets from terrorism to achieve secure growth.

### *Anti-Corruption*

72. We reaffirm our commitments to prevent and combat corruption domestically and globally, to ensure transparency, and to effectively implement the UN Convention against Corruption, the Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption and other APEC commitments to combat corruption.
73. We acknowledge that tackling corruption requires collaboration and a holistic and comprehensive approach. In this regard, we are committed to strengthening cooperation and promoting cross-border coordination on denying safe haven to those engaged in corruption, including through the extradition of corrupt officials, combating foreign bribery, as well as on the tracing, freezing, confiscating, recovery and return of the proceeds of corruption. We commit to do so through existing multilateral networks, including the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET). We also commit to criminalize the bribery of foreign public officials and actively enforcing those laws, applicable in the respective economies.
74. We remain cognizant of the equal importance of our efforts to prevent corruption, promote transparency and good governance, and strengthen the rule of law. We will continue our efforts in this regard through focused technical cooperation and capacity building.

### *Urbanization*

75. We recognise that a healthy, sustainable, accessible and people-oriented urbanization process creates new opportunities and revitalizes inclusive and innovative growth. We encourage member economies to share best practices, experience and lessons on sustainable urban development. We welcome the 2018 APEC Urbanization Forum in support of the Ningbo Initiative.

### *Science, Technology and Innovation*

76. We are committed to promoting innovative and accessible, science, technology and innovation within the region that can benefit all of our economies, including creating inclusive science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and career opportunities for women and disadvantaged groups. We encourage business, academia, government and civil society to develop an enabling environment and strong partnerships to promote lifelong learning to foster and apply new technologies and innovations to the challenges of an aging society. We encourage the utilisation and coordination of APEC Centres, and cooperation and promotion of earth and marine observing capabilities that address food security, water security, and coastal hazards. We welcome efforts on sharing current practices and raising awareness on challenges of new and emerging technology markets, sustainable mining, technology commercialisation, and exploring innovation cluster collaboration.

### **Priority 3: Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reform**

77. We continue to acknowledge the essential role of structural reform in removing the structural and regulatory obstacles that inhibit cross-border trade and investment and in promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth. Structural reforms can create more open, well-functioning, transparent and competitive markets, and deepen participation in those markets by all segments of society. Thus, we acknowledge that undertaking structural reforms is key to reducing inequality, stimulating economic growth, and narrowing gender gaps.
78. We welcome the 2018 APEC Economic Policy Report (AEPR) on Structural Reform and Infrastructure which encourages member economies to develop efficient long-term infrastructure planning processes and highlights a menu of structural policies for promoting quality infrastructure. We instruct officials to continue strengthening cross-fora collaboration on infrastructure and structural reform. We welcome and endorse the topic 'Structural Reform and the Digital Economy' for the 2019 AEPR.
79. We reiterate our support for ongoing work on structural reforms in the areas of Good Regulatory Practices (GRP), Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), Public e-Services, Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure, Competition Policy, and Corporate and Public Sector Governance agendas. We support greater use of international instruments to strengthen economic legal infrastructure, and welcome efforts on online dispute resolution.
80. We welcome continued efforts to promote good regulatory practices and in particular, focus on regulatory reform in the digital age. We encourage economies to advance international regulatory cooperation and to collaborate through sharing experiences and capacity building.

81. We remain committed to the implementation of the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR) through economies' Individual Action Plans, and call on member economies to take concrete steps to implement actions identified in their Plans. We welcome the RAASR Mid-term Review and the outcomes of the High-Level Structural Reform Officials' Meeting, which explored ways to improve the RAASR process, and future structural reform, including how it can contribute to APEC's post-2020 agenda.
82. We welcome the progress achieved to date on Phase II of the EoDB initiative towards reaching a target of 10% improvement across the five priority areas for the period 2016-2018, and note that in 2019 APEC plans to consider next steps on this body of work.

### **Strengthening APEC as an Institution**

83. We welcome continued deliberation and efforts aimed at improving and streamlining APEC and its governance to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, responsiveness, and accountability, while ensuring continuity of its core agenda. We emphasise the importance of cross-fora collaboration within APEC and encourage outreach and collaboration with the business community and other stakeholders.
84. We welcome the APEC Guidelines of Drafting of Ministerial Statements and Leaders' Declaration to help future hosts manage the drafting process.
85. We welcome the 2018 APEC SOM Chair's Report and endorse the Committee on Trade and Investment Annual Report to Ministers, and take note of the 2018 Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director. We approve the 2019 APEC Secretariat Account Budget and corresponding level of 2019 Members' Contributions.
86. We welcome the successful selection and appointment of the new Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta. Maria. At the same time, we thank the outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Alan Bollard, for his outstanding contribution during his tenure.
87. We welcome preparations for APEC 2019 in Chile and look forward to continuing our important work.

### **ANNEX**

Annex A: Cross Cutting Principles on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)

## **Cross-cutting Principles on Non-Tariff Measures**

Noting that non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the APEC region,

Noting previous evidence presented in APEC on the cost NTMs impose on trade in the region,

Noting that unwarranted NTMs constitute non-tariff barriers (NTBs), which can be particularly burdensome for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises,

Recognising in this regard the concerns raised by the APEC Business Advisory Council in its 2016 Report to APEC Economic Leaders, as well as international studies on the topic,

While recognising that economies have the ability to implement warranted policy measures based on each economy's individual circumstances,

APEC adopts the following principles as a reference to guide member economies' development and implementation of NTMs,

To reduce the extent to which NTMs act as an unjustified barrier to trade, and

To facilitate free and open trade in the Asia-Pacific region, as envisioned in the Bogor Goals.

### **Principles:**

- The processes to develop non-tariff measures should be transparent, consultative (including with business and other affected stakeholders) and timely, resulting in predictable, coherent, and non-discriminatory application; and information about non-tariff measures should be publicly available;
- Non-tariff measures should be consistent with member economies' commitments and obligations as members of the WTO;
- Non-tariff measures should not be more trade-restrictive than necessary to meet a legitimate objective, and where appropriate, should focus on outcomes, rather than mandating prescriptive approaches;
- Non-tariff measures should be based on relevant international standards, where appropriate, and should be developed in accordance with the WTO TBT Agreement, the WTO SPS Agreement or recommendations and/or decisions of the WTO TBT Committee or the WTO SPS Committee;
- Non-tariff measures should not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate against imported products;
- Non-tariff measures should not pose unwarranted barriers to the development of new technologies that drive innovation; and
- A regulatory impact analysis could be considered as a possible tool to assess consistency with the principles stated above.

## 2018 APEC WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY FORUM STATEMENT

07 September 2018

### “Seizing Opportunities for Women and Girls to Advance in the Digital Age”

1. The Asia-Pacific Region is a vibrant region that continues to experience robust economic growth. APEC recognizes the importance of harnessing this growth in a period of rapid economic transformation and the emergence of the digital era to ensure that no one is left behind. APEC remains fully cognizant of the need to realize the full potential of women and girls to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic growth.
2. Under the overarching 2018 APEC theme of “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future”, we the APEC Ministers and Heads of Delegation gathered in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 5 - 7 September 2018 for the APEC Women and the Economy Forum (WEF) chaired by the Minister for Community Development, Youth and Religion for Papua New Guinea. We welcomed the participation of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the private sector and official observers.
3. We met under the 2018 WEF theme of “**Seizing Opportunities for Women and Girls to Advance in the Digital Age**” which draws focus on the new digital frontier and the opportunities and challenges it presents for women and girls. We seek to explore practical and meaningful ways in which APEC can respond to these challenges, while realizing and harnessing the many associated opportunities. Our deliberations and efforts in 2018 were focused on four main priority areas: (1) Empowering Women to Participate in the Digital Economy; (2) Gender Inclusion and Empowerment: a catalyst for growth in all sectors; (3) Leadership; and (4) Forging Partnerships, Narrowing the Gap.
4. At a time when APEC seeks to review its outlook and explore ways to carry its work beyond 2020, we remind ourselves of the significant progress that our region has made in ensuring the greater integration and empowerment of women in the region since the first APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue held in San Francisco in 2011. We are reminded of APEC Leaders’ encouragement to economies and the private sector to implement initiatives that enhance women’s economic empowerment, improve women’s access to capital, assets and markets, increase women’s high growth and high wage sectors, and promote women’s leadership, entrepreneurs, skills and competencies.<sup>1</sup> We therefore seek to promote the inclusion and economic empowerment of women and girls through policies and measures across the five pillars.<sup>2</sup> We recognize that women, including indigenous women and women in remote and rural areas, make vital contributions to economic and social development and prosperity of

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<sup>1</sup> 2017 Annual Economic Leaders’ Statement

<sup>2</sup> The five pillars are: access to capital and assets; access to markets; skills, capacity building, and health; leadership, voice and agency; and innovation and technology.



the Asia-Pacific region, and commit to take concrete actions to further promote the full advancement of women as a means of realizing sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

5. We commend the extensive work that the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) continues to pursue, and its unwavering efforts to mainstream women's economic empowerment perspectives into all of APEC's work streams. We encourage the PPWE to advance its work in view of emerging challenges and opportunities, and to collaborate and coordinate the appropriate responses by generating knowledge, learning and experiences on gender issues, unconscious bias, women's economic empowerment and the collection of relevant data.

### **Empowering Women to Participate in the Digital Economy**

6. We reiterate that women are important contributors to economic growth, and we therefore continue to explore ways to unleash the potential of women in the economy. Building on efforts in APEC in various areas, we urge economies to work towards creating opportunities for women to participate in the global economy including through; fostering conducive environments for women to start and run businesses; promoting women-owned MSMEs and women entrepreneurship in the digital economy; improving access to quality employment; advancing skills and resources, such as digital literacy and identity protection so that women can safely benefit from digital access to the fullest extent; and developing policies to improve access to finance, markets, start-up capital, and capacity building.
7. We recognize the role that trade promotion organizations can play to equip women entrepreneurs with the skills to build their businesses' export capacity and strengthen MSMEs competitiveness and ability to participate in global markets and value chains.
8. We welcome the application of innovative and smart business models that meet the diverse needs of women to bridge the digital divide. As the region draws closer through greater connectivity, we commit to ensuring that women and girls are equipped with the skills required to respond to the shifting demands of the workforce.
9. We recognize that the digital economy provides increased opportunities for women to participate in the global economy. To harness these opportunities, we must invest in the development of women and girls in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) fields.
10. With the many opportunities that information and communication technology (ICT) has on offer to improve the livelihood of women and girls, including the way they transact and interact, we encourage economies, and especially the private sector, to continue efforts to narrow the digital divide and to harness opportunities, and respond to challenges associated with digitization. We encourage the sharing of best practices and experiences of APEC

women entrepreneurs in utilizing ICT to advance gender equality and support women's access to ICT and encourage women's income growth, including through e-commerce.

11. We note that the third APEC Business Efficiency and Success Target Award (APEC BEST Award) gives women entrepreneurs opportunities to present their projects and business models, share best practices and useful experiences, attract potential investors and partners, and increase their potential to enter new markets.
12. We share APEC's commitment to the digital economy, including through the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap. In particular, we seek to explore ways to encourage the participation of women and girls in the digital economy, regardless of socio-economic status. This can be realized through building and strengthening the appropriate infrastructure, ensuring full access for women and girls to this infrastructure, building skills and capacity for women and girls to take equal advantage of and benefit from these advancements. As the region draws closer through greater connectivity, we encourage women and girls' training in technology-enabled skills to be able to respond to shifting demands of the workforce.
13. We call for collective action to ensure that the digital economy is a useful tool for unleashing the economic potential of women and girls, and to take advantage of the opportunities that transformative technology provides. Efforts to achieve digital inclusion should consider the protection of women and girls from online harassment and predatory behavior.

### **Gender Inclusion and Empowerment: A Catalyst for Growth in Sectors**

14. We recognize the importance of regulatory and structural reform to remove behind the border barriers affecting businesses across the region in order to enhance the functioning of markets and institutions that support their effective functioning; increase productivity; and support inclusive growth and women's economic empowerment, in line with broader APEC efforts on structural reform.
15. Economies are encouraged to address gender disparities hindering women from taking full advantage of economic opportunities in rural and urban settings or areas, and in resource sectors, including energy, fisheries, agriculture, tourism and mining.
16. We stress the importance of decent work, education and health as enablers in empowering women and girls. We encourage APEC and relevant stakeholders to promote, as applicable, laws and policies for decent work, creating conducive work environments for women, and social protection. We will work together to ensure full and non-discriminatory access for women and girls to quality education and skills development, and welcome the progress in the implementation of the APEC Education Strategy and Action Plan. We support improved women's economic participation through better health and nutrition. We are committed to promoting these efforts, emphasizing the impact of women's economic participation on poverty reduction.

17. We acknowledge that while it is important to encourage a holistic approach towards promoting gender inclusion and empowering women in the region, we also recognize that women may face sector-specific challenges that prevent their full and non-discriminatory participation in the workforce. To this end, we commend APEC's existing work and encourage efforts to promote sectoral approaches to exploring opportunities and addressing challenges faced by women working in STEAM, transportation and infrastructure, MSMEs, and health, and for advancing discussions in 2018 on tourism, agriculture and fisheries, mining and the extractives, and energy. We acknowledge the important contribution of women to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, and encourage collaboration between government and the private sector to empower women to contribute in all sectors. We note the discussions at the APEC Women in Tourism Dialogue and the Women in Agriculture and Fisheries Dialogue in 2018. We recognize the benefits of promoting female participation in all industries given the economic and social benefits of greater diversity.
18. We recognize the importance of accessing capital and credit for women. We will work to promote access to financial products and services appropriate for unserved and underserved women to promote sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.
19. We reemphasize our call to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls and recognize that these forms of violence are significant impediments to the achievement of women's economic empowerment and economic growth, and that every effort to achieve digital inclusion should ensure that women and girls are free from violence to promote their safety in all private and public spaces.

## **Leadership**

20. We are pleased at the increasing number of women in key leadership positions in government, business and at the community-levels. However, we recognize that more can be done to achieve gender parity. Therefore, we endeavor to empower women to take on more leadership roles for balanced decision making, and continue to inspire other women and girls to aspire to become leaders.
21. We recognize the importance of women's representation and voice for balanced decision-making at the highest levels of politics and government. Similarly, we encourage women's increased involvement in decision making as business leaders and entrepreneurs. Economies are encouraged to enhance the ratio of women's representation in leadership and enhance gender diversity management. We acknowledge the outcomes of the APEC Top Management Forum on Diversity Management for Women's Empowerment.
22. We recognize that the APEC narrative on leadership should extend beyond the idea of women as leaders. We should also focus on educating and encouraging men in leadership and decision making roles to aspire to achieving gender equality in all areas.

### **Forging partnerships, bridging the gap**

23. We welcome the outcomes of the Symposium on Promoting Champions to Drive Gender Inclusion and Empower Women held on 5 September 2018. These outcomes emphasize the important roles that men and boys play in the full realization of women as equal contributors to economic growth and gender equality. We encourage efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming and ensuring that men and boys strategically engage in leadership, management and decision-making levels to drive efforts in the APEC region on gender equality and women's economic empowerment.
24. We are delighted with the increased engagement of the relevant APEC fora, and the integration of gender into their activities. We recognize the importance of engaging with relevant stakeholders.
25. We welcome the participation of the private sector through the Public Private Dialogue on Women and the Economy, and underscore the importance of ensuring private sector engagement and partnership, as appropriate. We agree that the PPWE should increase engagement with the private sector and the relevant APEC fora to strengthen efforts to promote gender inclusion at all levels and in all sectors. We recognize the immense potential that well-coordinated and consistent partnership with the private sector has to catapult progress towards the full realization of the potential of women in the economy. We encourage continued collaboration with ABAC, and welcome ABACs efforts to connect business women and promote women's entrepreneurship through digital solutions

### **Moving forward**

26. We suggest continued exchanges and cooperation in the APEC region on women's economic empowerment, and the building of diversified platforms and networks of cooperation and practical cooperation in areas such as capacity building, information exchange, and best-practice sharing.
27. We welcome updates on the Women and the Economy Dashboard, and recognize the Dashboard as being an important source of data to allow for informed decision making in APEC on women's economic empowerment. We acknowledge the Policy Support Unit, and specific support and resources for initiatives to promote women's economic empowerment.
28. We welcome the operation of the Women and the Economy Sub-Fund in 2018, and encourage contributions and applications to utilize the fund.
29. We commit to further promote women's full advancement as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and foster a conducive environment for women's economic empowerment.

30. We seek APEC Leaders' consideration to recommit to women's economic empowerment and gender equality in the APEC region amidst a rapidly changing economic landscape.

**Women and the Economy Forum 2019**

31. We look forward to progressing our efforts in 2019, and the WEF and related activities in Chile.

**Statement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the APEC  
Ministers Responsible for Mining Meeting (MRM6)  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

## **Introduction**

1. We, the APEC Ministers Responsible for Mining (MRM) and other senior officials, met in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 under the Chairmanship of Hon. Johnson Tuke, Minister for Mining for Papua New Guinea.

2. Reaffirming the 10 APEC Mining Policy Principles, we recognize that inclusive and sustainable development in mining remains a significant part of development and prosperity of the region, and will continue to be so going forward. We note also the growth of the Digital Economy and we stress the need to explore opportunities brought about by the digital era that can contribute further towards sustainable development in mining. In this light, we embrace the APEC theme for 2018 “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future” with three key priorities: ‘Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration’ ‘Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth’ and ‘Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reform’.

3. We continue to acknowledge that significant challenges exist that entail the need to overcome barriers to innovation-driven growth and further investment. Equally important, we acknowledge the need for shared value in developing these resources so that the benefits accrued are enjoyed by all without compromising the environment.

4. In this connection, we welcome the 6<sup>th</sup> MRM theme of “Embracing Inclusive and Sustainable Mining in the Digital Age” focusing on ‘promoting further investment in mining’, ‘overcoming innovation-driven growth barriers’ and ‘inclusive development – shared value’, to achieve sustainable growth in the mining sector whilst minimizing impacts on the environment and improving the livelihood of communities.

5. The APEC region continues to be an engine of global economic growth as well as a significant producer and consumer of minerals, metals and related products and with the emergence and growing importance of new commodities such as lithium, graphite, cobalt and nickel, we acknowledge that the mining sector continues to hold significant potential in contributing to global trade.

6. We are encouraged by the fact that prices for many commodities have been slowly recovering from low levels, and with the emergence of new commodities with record high prices, coupled with actions by governments and industry, the mining sector is once again poised for growth.

7. At this juncture we note the emergence of innovative business adopting transformative technologies and practices in establishing mines of the future, and the important role that the mining equipment technology and services sector plays, particularly as we move into the digital age. We encourage further investments in innovation, technological advancement, and appropriate capacity building, noting that digital technology is revolutionizing industries and has the potential to generate significant advances in the mining sector.

8. We also reaffirm our commitment to closer cooperation in the mining sector in the Asia-Pacific region to promote innovation-driven growth and coordinated, sustainable, quality

development as well as social responsibility to reduce project risk, by collaborating with all stakeholders.

9. In acknowledgement of the above, we call for appropriate structural reforms in government policies relating to project financing including investment in technology, as well as investments in social and economic development of all stakeholders including host communities. We further call for economies to continue work towards creating an enabling environment in which industry and government can regularly engage in dialogue to discuss policy outcomes and reforms.

To this end, we propose the following.

### **Promoting further investment in the Mining Sector**

10. Given the current global trend in commodity prices, we recognize the importance of continued investment in exploration and mining as a foundation for sustenance and growth, and call on all economies, and industry to continue to seek options to promote further investment in the sector.

Sound regulatory and fiscal frameworks are essential to encourage investment in mining, as are security of tenure to investors and stability of investment terms, as well as necessary safeguards for the environment, employees and communities.

11. We will continue to participate in the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan and encourage adoption of effective measures to promote an enabling environment for mining investment and trade facilitation in minerals, metals and related products. We also stress the importance of promoting open, transparent, and well operating markets in the mining sector, as well as in investment and cooperation.

12. We will continue to promote cooperation and collaboration on information sharing on mining issues with the private sector including through the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in order to find solutions to promote investment in new areas and address new challenges. We recognize the importance of strengthening dialogue on mining policy and practices by working closely with other relevant stakeholders and international organizations that play an active role in the mining sector including the World Bank, the Inter-governmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF), and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).

### **Overcoming innovation-driven growth barriers**

13. We affirm that innovation is necessary for the mining industry to transform. This includes technological advancement, adoption of more innovative approaches to engaging with stakeholders, re-envisioning the future workplace, and identifying commodities that will be in demand going into the future. In doing so, we acknowledge the importance of addressing barriers to innovation-driven growth and therefore call for more collaboration between all stakeholders. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen physical, institutional, and people to people connectivity by 2025.

14. We continue to support creating an enabling environment for scientific and technological driven innovation policies, appropriate structural reforms and facilitating market-based transfer of appropriate technology. We recognize the importance of appropriate policy formulation and implementation, which also improve standards and regulations to meet our social and environmental objectives whilst facilitating trade and investment.

15. We acknowledge the importance of the wider value chain and the mining equipment, technology, and services sector, which helps to drive employment, growth and innovation and is an integral part of the mining, energy and resources industry

16. We also recognize the importance of new technology and techniques that promote sustainable, safe and efficient exploration, construction and mining. We encourage further investment in technological advancement to increase employment, efficiency and productivity.

### **Inclusive Development – ‘shared value’**

17. We recognize the importance of development in mining and encourage government, private sector and other stakeholders to develop appropriate policies that support social and economic development.

18. We recognize the importance of having transparent and reliable information and data, which is crucial for the decision making process in any project design. We therefore acknowledge the work undertaken by Chile on the development of the report “Mining Industry Competitiveness: Improving Productivity and Data to Attract Investment”, to promote the sharing of existing publicly available commercial and official data.

19. We acknowledge the efforts of the private sector in the corporate social responsibility space including benefit-sharing arrangements as well as community development initiatives, and encourage continued collaboration and partnership with all relevant stakeholders including the Inter-governmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF), APEC’s Investment Experts Group, International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), and ABAC to forge new partnerships that go beyond traditional corporate social responsibilities.

20. We note the importance of the development of the mining, equipment, technology, and service sector as identified by Australia and the strong role which APEC plays in capability development given the similarities across economies. We therefore acknowledge the work undertaken by Australia on the development of the report “Mining Equipment, Technology and Services”.

21. We recognize that mine closure and rehabilitation including decommissioning of mine facilities is an integral part of the mining cycle. Improving international best practices concerning mine closure regulation increases overall trust in the mining sector, reduces environmental impacts and builds public confidence to deepen regional economic integration. Appropriate closure can also result in mines becoming engines for development beyond their own life, through a process that minimizes adverse impacts and maximizes after-use benefits in the long term. We therefore acknowledge the work undertaken by Canada on the development of the APEC Mine Closure Checklist for Governments, to promote governance frameworks for mine closure in the APEC region that support sustainable mineral development.

22. We also recognize the importance of participation by all stakeholders, especially that of local communities. In that regard, we look forward to the outcome of Papua New Guinea’s project on “Promoting Inclusive Mining: Consultation Model for Dealing with Local Interests Including Indigenous Communities and Women in Mining”.

23. We also recognize the importance to local communities of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the mining sector; therefore, we look forward to the outcome of Chile’s project on “Identify Good Practices in Policies/Models for SME Mining Development”.



24. Women contribute significantly to the mining sector both as employees and as an important stakeholder group representing impacted community members. We therefore call for economic empowerment of women in the mining sector.

25. Recognizing that artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) plays an important role in the economic development of many economies, we support the improvement of ASGM activities through the development of appropriate policy guidelines. We encourage economies to address environment, health and safety issues within ASGM and, if they have not already, to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which entered into force in August 2017. To this end, we welcome and look forward to the outcome of the U.S. project on 'Developing Training Materials to Promote Reduction of Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining'.

26. As part of the improvement of the ASGM sector, we encourage increased transparency within the sector and its absorption into the formal economic sector. Recognizing the increase in ties between illegal mining and criminal activities, we encourage collaboration between stakeholders to combat criminal mining and its impacts.

27. We are aware that large mining projects in the APEC region face challenges with relocation and resettlement for communities displaced by mining projects. We understand that mining companies do consider and have in place relocation and resettlement plans. Therefore, we call for both government and industry to work together to appropriately address this important concern with all necessary socio-economic and infrastructure services made available to them.

28. We express satisfaction with the practical and substantial work of the Mining Task Force (MTF) this year, including participation in the APEC Mining Public Private Dialogue held annually since 2014 in conjunction with MTF meetings and we agreed that APEC should continue to be a platform for collaborative work with the private sector on mining related issues. We agree to work more closely with APEC working groups by identifying synergies through cross fora collaboration in order to deepen mining cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

29. We also acknowledge the contribution of ABAC through its initiatives stipulated in the 'White Paper' which demonstrates the potential to track development indicators and build non-mine dependent economies that result in economic empowerment across the APEC region. Extractive companies, governments, communities and civil societies can work together to foster development and to drive inclusive growth that reduces poverty, generates income, and creates sustainable development for the regions' low-earning income communities.

30. We acknowledge also the direct engagement of the region's mining industry CEOs. We noted the deliberations and valuable contributions made during the discussion with them on the topic of promoting further investment in the industry.

31. We are grateful to our host, Papua New Guinea for its arrangements and organization of the meeting as well as its warm hospitality.

**Joint Statement of the 8<sup>th</sup> APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy**  
16-17 August 2018, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

1. Health Ministers of (*Chinese Taipei, Papua New Guinea*); State Minister of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Japan; senior officials from other member economies; academic and industry leaders; members of non-health sectors; representatives of non-governmental and international organizations met in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 16-17 August 2018 at the International Convention Center for the 8<sup>th</sup> APEC High Level Meeting on Health and Economy (HLM8). The meeting was jointly organized and chaired by the Health Working Group (HWG) and the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF). The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss how primary health care in the APEC region can be revitalized through investment, innovation and collaboration.
2. Primary Health Care<sup>1</sup> (PHC) is the foundation of an effective and resilient health system. It is commonly the first point of contact for individuals, families and communities within the health care system. It provides comprehensive, accessible, community-based care that meets the health needs of people throughout their life. It is critical to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, development and implementation of PHC has not been optimum due to a combination of factors such as insufficient investment, lack of political will, inadequate technical competencies and vertical disease-focused curative care models. In the APEC region, much work has been done to support PHC especially in the context of building sustainable and high-performing health systems, optimizing innovative approaches in health financing, and engaging in multi-sectoral partnerships and collaboration. We also recognize the importance of establishing platforms for policy dialogue and increasing transparency and stakeholder consultation in the health and life sciences sector. HLM8 emphasized that these must continue and expand to support the *Healthy Asia Pacific 2020* agenda.
3. HLM8 recognized that the exchange of the international and APEC region-specific experiences and lessons can help to invigorate the delivery of primary health care and make it more responsive to the broad challenges of the health systems of APEC economies. It provided the platform for strategic discussions around investments for health, the use of digital technologies, the role of health professionals, and health financing, all of which are critical in making people-centered healthcare a reality in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. HLM8 acknowledged the impact to the health system of the epidemiologic and socio-economic shifts in the APEC economies. As life expectancy increases, the major causes of death and disability shift from communicable, maternal and

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<sup>1</sup> Primary Health Care refers to essential health care based on scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods, universally accessible to individuals and families with their full participation at a cost that the community and country can afford in a spirit of self-reliance and self-determination. It is a concept elaborated in the 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata, which is based on the principles of equity, participation, inter-sectoral action, appropriate technology and a central role played by the health system.

perinatal causes to chronic, non-communicable diseases. These challenges, both old and new, present opportunities to re-establish the core value of healthcare - welfare of all people. Unfortunately, many health systems are not performing at an optimum level which leaves many segments of the population vulnerable and unhealthy. Using economy-specific contexts, HLM8 explained why PHC is a useful tool to ensuring all people stay healthy and get care when they need it. When PHC is well delivered, individuals, families and communities are linked with competent and caring health professionals, supportive systems and essential commodities that ensure continuous, comprehensive and coordinated care. Health systems built on strong PHC are more resilient, efficient and equitable. In this regard, HLM8 affirms the efforts initiated from the Asian region, Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN), which aims to encourage community-based integrated care and functional recovery care including human resource development and promotion of necessary healthcare services.

5. HLM8 agreed that sound investment in PHC can reap great cost savings in terms of health care spending and lost productivity. As PHC emphasizes upstream health promotion, disease prevention and general wellness of the people, the impact of many modifiable risk factors is minimized, leading to a decrease in morbidity, mortality and associated health care costs. Moreover, health has a bearing on people's productivity, which subsequently affects the performance and competitiveness of economies. HLM8 encouraged economies to invest in PHC information infrastructure, powered by digital technology, that should equip both decision makers and health care providers with useful information to identify specific weaknesses, understand their causes, and strategically direct resources to address them. Typically, health systems have insufficient data on inputs and outputs, such as performance data on important processes required to convert inputs to high-quality health care and coverage outputs critical to producing better outcomes.
6. HLM8 encouraged the use of new models of care that integrate innovative but appropriate technologies to address the challenges and gaps in present-day health service delivery. In PHC, appropriate technology refers to technology that is scientifically sound, adaptable to local needs and accepted and maintained by end users. HLM8 appreciated the value of digital health technologies in reducing the pressures on health care professionals, when it came to addressing issues of accessibility and equity, and organizing administrative and operative processes more efficiently. However, these benefits will only be assured with stable financing and a conducive regulatory environment, including health technology assessments that facilitate innovation and development. HLM8 welcomes the development of policies and regulations related to adopting digital technologies in PHC that underscore core consumer protections and assure public safety.
7. HLM8 underscored the critical role of health professionals in PHC, specifically on the need for an adequately skilled, well-trained, culturally-sensitive and motivated workforce to help attain Universal Health Coverage. While the largest shortages in terms of numbers are in the APEC region, it is necessary to go beyond mere figures and address gaps in equitable distribution, competency, quality, motivation,

productivity and performance. HLM8 agreed that changes will have to be adopted by economies and the global health community in relation to how health workers are trained, deployed, managed and supported.. Health labor forces should recognize the potential contributions of cadres of health care workers beyond physicians, pharmacists, nurses and midwives. For example genetic counselors, nutrition, community health workers, and traditional and complementary medicine practitioners and psychosocial and rehabilitation professionals can contribute to improving health service availability and accessibility HLM8 supported the development of new models of shared care based on multidisciplinary practice and noted that these also need to go beyond the health sector to develop strong linkages across other social care structures.

8. **Health Financing:** HLM8 reiterated the SDG sub-goal on health financing that aims to substantially increase health financing by 2030. Economies were encouraged to increase domestic funding for health by re-envisioning such commitments as investment cases and introducing innovative financing mechanisms, including private funding and external support. In implementing from a number of innovative and alternative health financing mechanisms that would leverage limited resources to expand health coverage, economies would take into account the absolute amounts needed to be raised, earmarking, potential regressivity on the poor, administrative costs and political feasibility. Through successful stories of innovative ways APEC economies are using public and private financing, and enhancing a unified system of governance across primary care providers. HLM8 facilitated understanding of the policy and regulatory environments that facilitate successful novel financing schemes. HLM8 welcomed the continued partnership with the APEC Finance Ministers' Process and the exploratory dialogue to address the fiscal and economic impacts of the steep rise in chronic disease and of ageing societies in APEC economies, while keeping the healthcare system sustainable.
  
9. **Tuberculosis:** HLM8 recognized tuberculosis (TB) as a major public health concern and a serious threat to global health security. TB is of special interest to the region given that APEC economies reported 3 million of the estimated 10 million cases of active TB disease reported globally. HLM8 encouraged economies to prioritize multi-sectoral actions for: reaching the "missed" cases; treating active TB and Latent TB infection; addressing MDR-TB; accelerating response to TB/HIV; increasing domestic financing while global health financing partners expand and diversify funding; and, increasing domestic capacity for multidisciplinary TB research. HLM8 noted the APEC End Tuberculosis Collaboration Framework, and committed to presenting an APEC Statement on TB for the United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis as articulation of the region's commitment to end the TB epidemic by 2030 as envisaged in the SDGs and the WHO End TB Strategy.
  
10. **Women in the workplace:** HLM8 appreciated the APEC initiatives to expand the implementation of the Policy Toolkit on Healthy Women, Healthy Economies (HWHE) to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and to elevate engagement to high-level government officials, parliaments and other decision-making representatives in order to obtain senior-level support. HLM8 welcomed efforts to engage governments in putting in place programs as well as legal and

regulatory frameworks that provide SMEs with options to implement health-related policies. This is in recognition that women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Workplaces have the potential to improve health and well-being of women employees while benefiting financially and socially from their productivity. In ensuring that women in the workplace have safe working conditions and available health services, workplaces are able establish healthier staff, better relationships, and in many cases higher investment returns.

11. **HPV and cervical cancer:** HLM8 recognized that the current burden and emerging cancer patterns justify the call for political recognition of cancer as an important public health problem. For cervical cancer, HLM8 appreciated the initiatives in putting together the APEC Roadmap on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control. Economies are encouraged to implement a comprehensive approach to cervical cancer prevention and control with recommended set of actions and interventions across the life course. These should include components from community education, social mobilization, healthy lifestyle promotion, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine delivery and confidence-building, screening, treatment and palliative care.
12. **Mental health:** HLM8 recognized that mental health is essential for sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region. Without it, individuals are limited in their choices and opportunities to improve their lives and to contribute as members of the society. HLM8 appreciated APEC efforts to address and have further discourse on mental health and wellness of their populations. The discourse included sharing current approaches and best practices, addressing key challenges and discussing where APEC's unique perspective can be leveraged within global discourse. Focus should include upstream prevention of mental illness through primary and community healthcare settings and ensuring e-access to mental health services. This builds on priorities outlined in the APEC Roadmap to promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia-Pacific (2014-2020) including the drive to promote multi-sectoral collaboration within and outside of APEC fora.
13. **Antimicrobial resistance:** HLM8 recognized the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the APEC Region and its negative impact on the health of people and animals, food safety and security, the environment and the economy. Given the complex, multi-sectoral nature of the problem, a "One Health" approach that harnesses the collaboration of various sectors especially human health, animal health, food production, aquahealth and environment is needed. Containment of AMR is a development agenda that is important for achieving the SDGs, and requires a high level of political commitment and action at economy, regional and global levels. Based on economies' experiences and lessons learned, HLM8 identified priority areas for actions which include: (1) increasing public and stakeholders' awareness and understanding; (2) strengthening surveillance for better information sharing and action planning; (3) improving infection prevention and control; (4) building research capacity together with policies to incentivize development of novel products; (5) ensuring rational and responsible use of antimicrobials, and (6) taking steps to promote access to effective, affordable and quality-assured antimicrobials. HLM8 encouraged economies to implement their

Economy Action Plans, and to continue working closely with relevant sectors and institutions using the “One Health” Approach.

14. **Medicines quality:** HLM8 recognized that efforts to improve access to medicines must be done side by side with initiatives to ensure that only safe and quality-assured pharmaceuticals enter and circulate in the market. No region or economy remains untouched by the issue of substandard and falsified medical products given the international movement of goods including medicines. These products cause harm to patients, and erode the trust and confidence of the public in the health system. They are most likely to reach consumers in contexts where there is weak regulatory framework, poor governance and weak technical capacity. HLM8 called for collaboration of economies to strengthen essential processes and infrastructure for improved quality testing and surveillance, regulatory information sharing and reliance, patient awareness and community engagement.
15. **Rare diseases:** HLM8 welcomed the recent activities led by the APEC LSIF Rare Disease Network, including the 1<sup>st</sup> APEC Policy Dialogue on Rare Diseases and the development of the APEC Rare Disease Action Plan.
16. **Regulatory convergence:** HLM8 recognized the critical role that strong, efficient, and harmonized regulatory systems play in enabling life sciences innovation and making new medical products available to populations across APEC economies. HLM8 welcomed efforts of the APEC Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) to accelerate regional regulatory convergence by growing a sustainable network of APEC Regulatory Science Centers of Excellence (CoE) for building human capacity and promoting cooperation. HLM8 urged regulatory authorities to participate in the RHSC and to send participants and faculty to CoEs. HLM8 also encouraged the RHSC to implement performance indicators across priority work areas so that regulatory convergence can be measured sufficiently and to ensure no economy is left behind in support of inclusive growth.
17. **Safe and readily available blood and blood products:** Access to a safe and sufficient supply of blood and related products and services, including blood transfusion, is a critical element of any health system. The APEC Blood Supply Chain 2020 Roadmap calls on APEC economies to establish robust quality systems and implement good manufacturing practices to optimize the safety of the blood supply and to improve standards of care for plasma protein replacement therapies in line with international guidelines. HLM8 welcomes efforts by LSIF to examine how centers of excellence can help accelerate GMP certification in APEC economies and open up new opportunities to converge the quality and safety standards for blood products across the region.
18. **Commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Alma-Ata Declaration:** HLM8 reiterated the economies’ renewed commitment to the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, particularly that everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, an act of solidarity and an inter-sectoral action, recognizing that health is indispensable to economic development and security within the APEC region and beyond. HLM8 reaffirmed the need to strengthen primary health care through investment, innovation and collaboration.

HLM8 encouraged economies to commit to: leadership and governance that appropriately prioritizes PHC; ensuring adequate financial investment in health by mobilizing domestic financing and better use of available resources; promotion and protection of health through community participation and inter-sectoral action; development, recruitment and retention of a competent health workforce for PHC; development of digital health information systems to enable continuity and coordination of care, continuous quality improvement and performance monitoring and evaluation; and, promoting scale up of effective PHC strategies.

19. **Looking Ahead:** The 9<sup>th</sup> APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy will be held during the Third Senior Officials' Meeting and Related Meetings (SOM3) in August 2019 in Chile.

## **APEC TOURISM MINISTERS' STATEMENT ON**

### **'HARNESSING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM IN THE ASIA PACIFIC'**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

**Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**

1. We, Tourism Ministers and senior representatives of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation member economies: Australia; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Republic of the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam, attended the 10<sup>th</sup> APEC Tourism Ministers' Meeting (TMM) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The Meeting was chaired by Honourable Emil Tammur, MP, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture of Papua New Guinea.
2. We gather under the overarching theme of APEC PNG 2018 "Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future" that draws focus on the new digital frontier and encouraging more digitally driven and inclusive trade and growth in the APEC region.
3. Under the APEC 2018 TMM theme of "Harnessing Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism in the Digital Age for the Asia-Pacific", we recognize the economic significance of tourism in terms of regional cooperation, trade, job creation, skills enhancement, innovation, and the development of information and communication technologies. We note the importance of empowering workers and businesses to thrive in an age of digital transformation and encourage economies to utilize inclusive and sustainable measures to drive the growth of tourism, whilst remaining cognizant to the diversity of APEC members.
4. We recognize the implementation of the [Lima Declaration on Connecting Asia-Pacific Tourism through Travel Facilitation](#), the [APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative](#) and [the APEC Connectivity Blue Print 2015-2025](#). We are encouraged to know these foundations will drive our joint effort as a region to reach the target of 800 million international tourist arrivals in APEC economies by 2025.
5. We commend the Tourism Working Group (TWG) for their efforts towards the implementation of the [APEC Tourism Strategic Plan \(ATSP\) 2015-2019](#) that focuses on four priority areas: (i) Promote better understanding and recognition of tourism as an engine for economic growth and prosperity in the APEC region; (ii) Ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the travel and tourism sector by encouraging socially, culturally and responsible tourism; (iii) Promote job creation, skills development and certification through increased cooperation in order to develop the tourism workforce in the region, and; (iv) Promote competitiveness and regional economic integration through policy alignment and structural reform. We acknowledge the work carried out as a reflection of the region's aspiration to foster and promote inclusive development and generate a robust industry that is competitive and sustainable. Looking forward, we encourage the TWG to review the four priority areas post 2019.
6. We unanimously agree that tourism has a significant effect in stimulating economic growth in the region. Travel and tourism's direct contribution to GDP in 2017 was 3.8% of total GDP,



creating approximately 2.9 million jobs in the region with over 8 billion USD worth of investment by 2017. We stand committed to supporting the growth of the tourism sector in our economies as a means to encourage job creation, entrepreneurship, access to finance for MSME's and innovation.

7. At this juncture, we acknowledge and reaffirm the commitment made at the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism in Ha Long, Viet Nam, in 2017. The principles and actions agreed to will provide guidance in the region as APEC begins to shape its post-2020 vision.
8. We reiterate the significance of responsible tourism and that respect for social-cultural diversity of host communities is paramount in conserving richly built and living cultural heritage and traditional values. We note with careful consideration the impacts of managing and conserving our natural resources and biodiversity.
9. Given its multifaceted and cross-cutting nature, tourism is a powerful tool for development and economic growth. In 2014, APEC Leaders' reaffirmed their commitment to "ensure that all our citizens have the opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from global economic growth". We hereby encourage member economies to consider the opportunities in tourism that can facilitate empowerment of all people through education, training, access to finance, infrastructure and employment. We encourage economies to identify collaborative approaches to maximize the economic and social benefits of tourism.
10. We welcome the outcomes of the Women in Tourism Dialogue held on the 28 May 2018 and reaffirm the importance of ensuring greater participation by women to spur economic growth. We therefore agree that there is great potential to expand and create economic opportunities for women in the tourism sector and promote women in leadership roles within the industry.
11. We recognize the significance of emerging trends in the tourism industry such as big data and the sharing economy that facilitate favourable tourism business opportunities that may lie in the digital age to foster innovative, sustainable and inclusive tourism growth.
12. The transformation of technology has altered significantly the productivity and efficiency of work and business in the region. The digital economy, including big data, is revolutionising business processes, particularly for the tourism industry. Big data provides the tourism industry with opportunities to access real-time information to strategically adapt to the changing needs of travellers and emerging trends.
13. The Asia-Pacific region is at a pivotal stage where the transformative power of technology has presented a unique scope of possibilities, providing opportunities for businesses in areas such as the sharing economy and seamless travel. We therefore encourage economies to share best practices on the modernization of tourism policy and regulatory approaches that will stimulate growth and create new jobs by harnessing innovation and technology. We encourage economies to develop inclusive policies that will take into account the technological advancements in the tourism industry, whilst ensuring proper guidelines are in place to support the industry's sustainable growth.

14. We welcome the APEC Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders (Annex A). The voluntary Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders are founded on the values of sustainability, inclusivity, respect, responsibility, openness, innovation and partnership of their respective tourism sectors. We acknowledge that the guiding principles complement the implementation of the ATSP under the objective to 'guide policy and decision makers in APEC destinations in developing policies that support tourism growth'. We endeavour to use the guidelines to improve cooperation and coordination mechanisms to optimize the benefits of tourism within and across all economies.
15. We seek APEC Leaders' consideration to include in the Leaders' Declaration, a statement that will focus on strengthening the competitiveness of travel and tourism in the APEC region by encouraging tourism investment, employment opportunities, development of regional occupational standards to better match the needs of the labour market with various aspects of skills training and MSME's support.
16. In this light, we welcome the adoption of the APEC Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSME's at the 29<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial Meeting in 2017 and encourage member economies to create an enabling environment for MSME's in the tourism sector to engage in activities that will contribute to our efforts in achieving green and sustainable tourism.
17. We encourage the TWG to explore joint initiatives and promote cross-fora collaboration in APEC as tourism is a cross-cutting sector. The TWG should work toward strengthening collaboration between fora such as: Transportation Working Group; SME Working Group; Oceans and Fisheries Working Group; Counter Terrorism Working Group; Human Resource Development Working Group; Group on Services; Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation; Policy Partnership on Women in the Economy and other relevant fora, as well as, the APEC Business Advisory Council.
18. As APEC moves towards an era to reinforce our economic, collective strength as a region, we recognize that sectoral APEC fora provide foresight of emerging issues and trends in the tourism industry post-2020. We encourage the TWG to be cognisant of the changing economic landscape from increased trade in travel and tourism services and to provide guidance to assist economies in driving the travel and tourism industry forward in a sustainable and inclusive manner.
19. We welcome the report of the TWG Lead Shepherd on TWG activities since we last met in 2016 and acknowledge the contributions made by APEC economies to engage in vibrant policy discussions that generate sharing of best practices and recommendations to promote partnerships and tourism growth in the region.
20. We recognize that the involvement of multilateral and regional organizations and private sector has a profound effect on creating partnerships in tourism for economic growth and prosperity. We express our sincere gratitude to the international organisations such as the World Travel and Tourism Council; the Pacific Asia Travel Association; the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for their engagement and collaboration.

21. We express our sincere thanks to the APEC Secretariat and the TWG Lead Shepherd for their efforts and contribution to the success of the meeting. We also sincerely thank the Host Economy, Papua New Guinea, for its hospitality and for ensuring a productive and successful TWG and Ministerial meetings. We highlight the significant efforts of the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority in the organization of these meetings.
22. We look forward to the next TMM to be held in 2020 in Malaysia and encourage the future host to ensure themes discussed today are given continuity in forthcoming tourism meetings.

**Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation**  
**10<sup>th</sup> APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting (TMM 10)**  
**APEC Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders**

**Preliminary**

In recent years Leaders' have reaffirmed their commitment to foster a peaceful, stable, dynamic, inter-connected and prosperous Asia-Pacific community. The shared sentiment of supporting sustainable economic growth within the region has been given prominence to ensure a collective approach is taken as a driver of growth, integration and innovation in addressing issues within our region.

In accordance with APEC Tourism Ministers' dedication to achieving inclusive growth through responsible use of environmental resources, we continue to pursue sustainable tourism development within the Asia-Pacific Region. Also noting global efforts towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In seeking to address issues that pose as an obstacle to fostering inclusive and sustainable development within the APEC region, we look to ensure services in the tourism industry are delivered in an efficient and effective manner. Furthermore, giving prominence to economic sustainable development in a balanced and integrated approach that pursues regional development through collaborative action. Hence, the necessity of ensuring a more deliberate and guided measure for service providers to increase travel and tourism flows in the region to distribute the social and economic benefits of tourism.

**Purpose**

The tourism industry has grown drastically in recent years, notably having a profound impact on trade within the APEC region. In 2017, the World Travel and Tourism Council stated that the industry alone "... generated more than 10% of global economic activity and providing approximately 292 million jobs worldwide."<sup>1</sup> The tourism industry has the great potential to grow as we look for ways to synergise efforts within the region to realize our collective goal for an integrated Asia Pacific.

In accordance with the 2017-2019 APEC Tourism Working Group Strategic Plan, the guidelines will set out to ensure that member economies efforts to promote an integrated Asia Pacific through sustainable and inclusive measures are steered in an appropriate manner. Stakeholders in the tourism sector are a key catalyst for development in the industry, hence the need for strategic guidelines that encourage investment in the industry, employment opportunities, human resource development, occupational standards and training tools, effective MSME support etc. By doing so, we address the need to reduce barriers that have a direct impact on visitor exports and tourist flows in the region. The development of improved cooperation and coordination mechanisms will

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<sup>1</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council Impact Report 2017.

in-turn allow for the benefits of the tourism industry to be shared equally across the region, including among women and indigenous peoples. It is our role to ensure that we help guide policy making in the region to reflect strong support for tourism growth in the region.

The APEC Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders seeks to add-value to the APEC Guidelines on Ensuring Tourist Safety, which was endorsed by APEC Ministers in 2012. By taking collective approaches to provide conduct benchmarks for different aspects of the tourism industry, we as APEC member economies will achieve our collective vision of promoting regional economic integration.

The Guidelines will be available for use by member economies on a voluntary basis.

## **Scope**

The Guidelines may apply to APEC Tourism Stakeholders in the Tourism industry that fall under the following categories:

### **• Tourism Investors**

*The growth of tourism flows has required and been facilitated by investment in infrastructure, transportation, accommodation, dining, entertainment and other facilities. Investment by both the private and public sector is critical to make natural and cultural resources accessible.<sup>2</sup>*

### **• Community Based Tourism (CBT)**

*Community Based Tourism involves interactions between visitor and host community, particularly suited to rural and regional areas. CBT is managed and owned by the community, for the community. It is a form of 'local' tourism, favouring local service providers and suppliers and focused on interpreting and communicating the local culture and environment.<sup>3</sup>*

### **• Food & Beverage Sector**

*The Food and Beverage service is described as the preparation, presentation and serving of food and beverage to customers.*

### **• Accommodation Sector**

*Refers to the accommodation sector (i.e. hotels, motels, lodges, guesthouses, homestay, back-packers), and includes green accommodation providers that are environmentally friendly through means of implementing programs within the organizational structure that save water, energy and reduce waste.*

### **• Tour Operators**

*Tour Operators are businesses that combine two or more travel services and sell them through travel agencies or directly to final consumers as a single product for a global price.<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> OECD Issues Paper, 'Levering Investment for Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Growth'.

<sup>3</sup> APEC Effective Community Based Tourism, Best Practices Manual, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> OCED, Glossary of Statistical Terms, 2003

- **Non-Governmental Organizations**

*Private organizations characterized primarily by humanitarian or cooperative, rather than commercial, objectives. NGOs are a subset of the broader non-profit sector that engage specifically in international development.*<sup>5</sup>

- **Shared Economy**

*The platforms in the sharing economy use technology to connect people who have private excess capacity to those who want to purchase.*<sup>6</sup>

### **Guiding Principles**

- **Respect** local resource custodians, traditions and culture.
- Enhance **sustainable** and **responsible** travel and tourism.
- Encourage **exchange of information** and **open dialogue**.
- Foster **human resource development, skills training** and **occupational standards** tools for a stronger industry workforce.
- Utilize **innovative technologies** to improve social well-being and establish partnerships.
- Identify synergies and utilize resources through **Public Private Partnership** to encourage tourism investment in the APEC region.

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<sup>5</sup> Harvard Business School, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Regulating the shared economy, Abbey Stemler, Betwixt and between, pg 3.

## **1. Respectful and Responsible Travel and Tourism**

- Acknowledge and understand that the region consists of diverse cultures, traditions, customs, religious and moral beliefs, which underpin the values of respectful and responsible travel and tourism in the Asia-Pacific.
- The conduct of both the hosting community and tourists alike should be harmonious with a common understanding of the respect for law and or customs.
- Give prominence to the significance of sustainability and ensuring service providers are environmentally conscious. Reduce, reuse and refuse are key actions to ensuring the environment in which local communities reside, cultural heritage sites are located and tourism products exist is vital.
- Promote cultural exchanges and preserve local tradition, art, storytelling, and song and dance.
- Explore sustainable initiatives in collaboration with non-governmental organizations to create efficient means of delivering tourism goods and services.

## **2. Inclusivity in the Travel and Tourism Industry**

- Noting that as tourism development is a powerful tool in society we are encouraged to create opportunities for women, youth, people living with disabilities and aging citizens.
- Provide opportunities for local communities in both urban and rural areas to participate in direct employment and providing of goods and services to tourism businesses in the supply chain.
- The cross-cutting nature of the travel and tourism industry requires a robust approach to ensuring marginalized groups have access to finance, entrepreneurial skills and technical advice and assistance.
- Stimulate new opportunities for MSMEs in the tourism industry through consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage proper mechanisms for fair distribution of resources.
- Strive to make APEC economies traveller-friendly destinations by providing necessary comforts for a diverse range of travellers, such as; the youth traveller, cultural traveller, adventure traveller, and so forth.
- Urge inclusive community-based tourism through initiatives that aim to enhance the livelihoods of local communities.
- Stimulate discussion through dialogues that identifying best practices in delivering inclusive programs and initiatives through tourism and travel. Robust discussions should have concrete outcomes that will help direct the growth of the industry, such as the APEC Guidelines on Voluntourism Best Practices.

## **3. Collaboration Opportunities and Initiatives**

- Acknowledge the private sectors pivotal role is keeping the industry vibrant and robust.
- Encourage to participation in private-public dialogues that initiate discussion on issues such as regulation and legislation that will have a direct impact on the performance of the travel and tourism industry.
- Be encouraged by best practices experiences and identify synergies to add value to existing projects and initiatives.

- Harness tourism investment that will boost competitiveness and expand economic opportunities.

#### **4. Smart Travel and Tourism**

- Be mindful of the development and growth of disruptive technology as well as the potential benefits for the travel and tourism industry.
- Acknowledge the potential risks that the shared economy presents in terms of consumer safety, fraud, data privacy, employee protection and anticompetitive behaviour.
- Consult with relevant stakeholders to determine the opportunities that lie within the 'shared economy' through formulation of modernised policy frameworks that take into account the nature of the shared economy.
- The protection of the operator and consumer is vital to ensuring the success of a shared business model in the tourism industry.

#### **5. Administration of Guidelines**

- The APEC Guidelines for Tourism Stakeholders will act as a benchmark for APEC economies to ensure the tourism industry continues to grow in a robust, mindful and adaptive manner.
- The TWG encourages APEC economies to observe the Guidelines in the conduct of their tourism activities.
- To promote cross-fora collaboration in APEC, TWG members are encouraged to initiate joint efforts/initiatives between fora and share the experiences of this Guideline.
- Guidelines will be utilized by member economies on a **voluntary** basis. Members will be encouraged to share best practices in the voluntary implementation of the Guidelines at TWG meetings.



**24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement  
(Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea – 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018)**

1. We, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade, met in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Rimbink Pato, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Papua New Guinea.
2. We welcome the participation of the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the 2018 Chair of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the APEC Secretariat.
3. As a driver of economic growth and greater regional integration, through trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, APEC continues to contribute to job creation and the improvement of living standards in the Asia Pacific region. However, we recognize that the full benefits of trade have not reached all segments of our societies. The widening income gap, social inequality and the need to narrow the digital divide, as well as the increasing impact of environmental degradation pose great challenges for the region.
4. In view of the challenges and opportunities, we reiterate our pledge to uphold the role of APEC as an engine for sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region through an agenda, which will take into account the concerns of all stakeholders and lays the foundations for a shared future.
5. We welcome the APEC 2018 theme of “Harnessing Inclusive Opportunities, Embracing the Digital Future”, with three key priorities: Improving Connectivity, Deepening Regional Economic Integration; Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth; and Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reform. We look forward to future work on Internet and Digital Economy and inclusion issues.

**Improving Connectivity and Deepening Regional Economic Integration**

*Progressing the Bogor Goals*

6. We reiterate our commitment to attaining the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. We note the progress on the 2018 review of the Bogor Goals, and instruct officials to complete the review by November 2018. We further encourage economies to conduct individual assessment and accelerate efforts towards progressing our collective efforts in achieving the Bogor Goals by 2020. However, we note more action is required to meet our commitment to achieve the Bogor Goals, and look to advance trade in the region in a free and fair manner. We also note the importance of non-discriminatory, and mutually advantageous trade and

investment frameworks. We urgently call for the removal of market-distorting subsidies and other types of support by governments and related entities.

*Beyond Bogor*

7. We reiterate our commitment to developing an ambitious post-2020 vision for APEC. We welcome the establishment of the APEC Vision Group (AVG), which held its first meeting this week in Port Moresby. We look forward to the development of a strategic and practical post-2020 vision that positions APEC to better address 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges and opportunities.

*Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP)*

8. We recommit to APEC's role to contribute towards the eventual realization of FTAAP as a concrete step toward greater regional economic integration. We encourage economies to make further progress in a comprehensive and systematic manner to develop and implement work programs consistent with the Lima Declaration on FTAAP to enhance APEC economies' ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreements in the future. We also recognise work in advancing FTAAP through the Information Sharing Mechanism. We commend the ongoing work under the third phase of the Capacity Building Needs Initiative and other capacity building initiatives. We instruct officials to report on progress to our Leaders by the end of 2018.

*Internet and Digital Economy*

9. We recognize the importance of the Internet, Digital Economy, as well as E-commerce and Digital Trade. Driven by technology and innovation, they are changing the pace of global trade and fostering innovative and inclusive growth in the Asia Pacific region. We note the importance of capacity building, sharing best practices, facilitating mutual understanding by conducting case studies and promoting E-commerce and digital trade in the region, recognizing the need to address opportunities and challenges of developing member economies. In this regard, we are committed to promoting cooperation on harnessing the opportunities brought by the Internet and Digital Economy, while working together to bridge the digital divide. We also encourage economies to constructively engage and support discussions in international fora, including the WTO.
10. We welcome the convening of the SOM Policy Dialogue on the Digital Economy. We are committed to implement the APEC Roadmap on the Internet and Digital Economy and the APEC Cross Border E-commerce Facilitation Framework in a comprehensive manner. We urge Senior Officials to develop a coordinated mechanism to guide and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap to facilitate and progress work on the

Digital Economy, including capacity building and cross-fora collaboration, and instruct officials to report on progress in this area at the 2018 APEC Ministerial Meeting.

11. We note the ongoing work on E-commerce and digital trade and encourage economies to identify building blocks to facilitate digital trade to foster APEC's leadership on internet and digital economy issues.
12. We recognize the importance of the APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules, a voluntary mechanism whose participants seek to expand participation. We support enhanced cooperation in this area, including through promoting capacity building, as appropriate.
13. Along with the other elements of E-commerce and digital trade, we affirm the importance of cross-border information flows for trade. We will continue work on enabling the free flow of information and data for the development of Internet and Digital Economy, while respecting data privacy and applicable domestic laws and regulations. We support efforts in improving access to the internet and digital infrastructure.

*Environmental Goods and Services*

14. We note the progress made by economies in advancing the implementation of the commitment to reduce the applied tariff rates to five percent or less on the 54 products in APEC's List of Environmental Goods and strongly urge the remaining economies to fulfil their commitments to reduce tariffs as soon as possible.
15. We welcome the progress of implementing the Environmental Services Action Plan and encourage economies to identify key challenges and compile a set of recommended action agendas.

*Progressing Work on Connectivity*

16. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen physical, institutional, and people-to-people connectivity by 2025, with the objective of achieving a seamless and comprehensively connected and integrated Asia-Pacific region through the APEC Connectivity Blueprint. We encourage economies to develop new initiatives to further progress the implementation of the Blueprint. We welcome economies' efforts to promote cooperation to advance collaboration, trade facilitation, connectivity, financing and people to people exchanges and new initiatives to achieve comprehensive regional connectivity, including the 2018 Case Studies on Addressing Connectivity Challenges in APEC economies.
17. We reaffirm the importance of quality infrastructure and development for sustainable economic growth and promoting them through adequate investment and

strengthened public-private partnerships. We welcome the progress of quality infrastructure initiatives including the Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment, and upgrading the APEC Guidebook on Quality Infrastructure Development and Investment.

*Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation*

18. Noting the importance of the WTO TFA, we welcome initiatives to implement the TFA, including work to address Category B and C commitments.
19. We encourage officials to continue implementing work programs aimed at reducing cross-border trade costs by promoting predictability, and reliability through addressing the chokepoints identified in APEC's Supply Chain Connectivity work. We welcome ongoing collaboration with the business community to jointly address barriers to cross-border supply chains, including green supply chains, and through simplified electronic processes at ports of entry.
20. We reaffirm the importance of the Asia Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN). In this respect, we welcome the progress of APMEN including its new membership this year. We encourage economies to enhance cooperation and capacity building in this area.

*Standards and Conformance*

21. We recognise the continued efforts to enhance good regulatory practices in the APEC region. We encourage economies to undertake initiatives in the areas of transparency, alignment of standards and conformity assessment systems as represented by the Voluntary Action Plan, as well as promoting good regulatory practices in the preparation, adoption and application of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.
22. We welcome ongoing work on reducing the use of excessive and unnecessary export certification, and streamlining and simplifying export certification requirements for food products, such as the implementation by the interested economies of the APEC Model Wine Certificate and harmonisation of import maximum residue limits to build robust food safety systems in the region.

*Regulatory Coherence and Cooperation*

23. We recognise the importance of regulatory coherence and cooperation in regional economic integration as it relates to strengthening regional supply chains and production networks. We encourage economies to share successful practices that have been used to improve their regulatory frameworks and support innovative businesses, and cultivate open and competitive markets as well as formation of new technology markets. We call for closer cooperation between government and the private sector in developing regulatory and policy processes to create a conducive

environment for doing business, including exploring international cluster cooperation in the region. We urge further work under the APEC Regulatory Cooperation Advancement Mechanism.

*Investment*

24. We recognise the importance of investment as a key driver of economic growth. We welcome the development of the work plan for the Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues. We encourage economies to continue joint work through policy dialogues and investment-related capacity building including community engagement to communicate the benefits of investment.
25. We support ongoing work on investment promotion, facilitation and retention including on the Investment Facilitation Action Plan and other international investment principles and practices which improve the investment climate in the Asia Pacific region. We urge economies to advance efforts in promoting inclusive business and initiatives that encourage sustainable and inclusive growth in the region.

*Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)*

26. We welcome the significant reduction of tariffs in most sectors in the APEC region. However, some NTMs undermine the efficient functioning of the global market and businesses ability to effectively compete in that market. We acknowledge the efforts made to address NTMs and encourage officials to continue work in this area including capacity building initiatives.
27. We call for intensified work on the implications and use of NTMs and for further efforts to develop policy alternatives that allow the achievement of legitimate objectives while minimizing negative effects on trade and investment and facilitating competition and innovation.
28. We encourage APEC's work on transparency. In that regard, we welcome the initiative on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notifications and encourage economies to continue APEC's work on a set of recommendations to improve the quality and completeness of the WTO's SPS notifications by 2019.

*Services*

29. We recognize the importance of improving the competitiveness of the services sector to facilitate trade and investment and encourage the participation of MSMEs in this sector. We encourage economies to continue implementation of individual economy and APEC-wide actions to achieve the objectives of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap.

30. We encourage the work on developing a set of Non-Binding Principles for Domestic Regulation of the Services Sector and the APEC Index on the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade for the ultimate goal of enhancing the regulatory environment of services trade in APEC economies.
31. We welcome the progress in implementing the Manufacturing-Related Services Action Plan and look forward to the completion of its interim review by the end of this year.
32. We welcome regular public-private dialogues to address fast moving issues in the services sector, including the role of E-commerce and digitally-traded goods and services. We encourage further collaboration between the public and private sectors in this regard.

#### *Intellectual Property Rights*

33. We continue to foster cooperation in the area of intellectual property (IP) rights, including protection and enforcement, as well as with respect to creative innovations in the digital economy. We welcome further capacity building, including across APEC sub-fora such as on border enforcement against trade mark infringing goods. We encourage economies to adopt IP policies and programs that cultivate, foster, support and advance innovation and creativity, including for MSMEs.

#### *Industry Dialogues*

34. We support work on developing principles for improving transparency and stakeholder consultations in the health and life sciences sector. We also support work on the development of an action plan for addressing barriers to health care services for populations, especially those affected by rare and preventable diseases. We will work towards the 2020 goal of regulatory convergence for medical product approvals.
35. We welcome the ongoing efforts to address and highlight the importance of issues surrounding industrial chemicals, such as regulatory cooperation and reducing divergence in the import requirements including classification and labelling. We also support the continued cross-fora work on marine debris.
36. We welcome recent efforts to promote electric vehicle use, production and trade, through the alignment of standards and regulatory approaches.

#### **Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

37. We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We acknowledge the important work related to rural

development and poverty alleviation. We encourage further activities to bridge the gap in economic development, including the integration of regional, sub-regional, rural and remote areas. We also note the ongoing work on sustainable and inclusive growth including but not limited to circular economy.

38. We note that inherent challenges and opportunities to promote inclusive and sustainable growth still exist and with the onset of new and emerging challenges such as the Digital Economy, we encourage a forward-looking approach to growth. In this regard, we note the role of human capital development in the digital age in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

#### *Women and the Economy*

39. We recognize the importance of women's contributions to economic growth. The expansion of the digital economy provides a vital pathway for women to increasingly participate in the global economy. Non-discriminatory access for women to entrepreneurship and education are among other priorities shared by APEC member economies to increase the potential of women to contribute to the economy and avail themselves of trade and investment opportunities. We also recognize the role that trade promotion organisations can play to assist women entrepreneurs with the skills to build export capacity.

#### *Enhancing Food Security*

40. We recognise that trade of food, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture products plays a significant role in ensuring people's access to food. In this regard, we agree to strengthen cooperation to foster a transparent, predictable and business enabling environment for trade in agriculture, food and fisheries products between APEC economies. We encourage economies to support trade of agriculture and fisheries products by exchanging information on food supply and demand and using science-based regulations. We are committed to continue to promote food security in the region in line with the APEC Food Security Roadmap 2020 and other initiatives related to Food Security.

#### *Strengthening MSMEs' Competitiveness and Internationalisation in the Digital Age*

41. We reaffirm our commitment to implement the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs through initiatives that strengthen MSMEs' competitiveness and ability to participate in Global Value Chains (GVCs) and look forward to the stocktake and 2018 mid-term review by November. We support efforts to improve the capacity of MSMEs to operate in an environmentally conscious manner through the APEC Strategy for Green Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs.

42. We note the important contribution of technology and the digital economy in empowering MSMEs and hereby welcome the APEC App Challenge initiatives to support MSMEs to export and underscore the importance of removing barriers for more MSMEs to participate. We further note the work plan for developing a cooperative online dispute resolution framework for MSMEs. We support greater MSME capacity building and participation in E-commerce, including through the online-to-offline model.
43. We encourage efforts to create an enabling environment for MSMEs through strengthening of ethical business practices, facilitating start-ups and fostering innovation in the digital age.

#### *Global Value Chains*

44. We welcome the progress to develop an APEC Trade in Value Added (TiVA) Database, as mandated by the APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chain Development and Cooperation. The database will serve as an effective tool in understanding the impact of global production networks in economies and the development of policies to improve opportunities for businesses to participate in the global economy. We look forward to the completion of the APEC TiVA Database by the end of 2018 and integration with the WTO-OECD TiVA Database.
45. We welcome the progress in implementing the initiatives on MSMEs integration into services sector GVCs, including fashion design, tourism and logistic sectors. We further encourage efforts towards the implementation of all other work streams set forth in the Blueprint.

#### **Strengthening Inclusive Growth through Structural Reform**

46. We recognize that structural reform is critical to removing barriers that inhibit cross-border trade and investment, and behind-the-border barriers to doing business. When well-implemented it improves how markets function, fosters broader and deeper market participation, increases productivity and promotes inclusive growth. We strongly support APEC's work that promotes good regulatory practices, ease of doing business, public e-services, strengthening economic legal infrastructure and competition policy and corporate and public sector governance agendas, through the use of international instruments.
47. We welcome the upcoming High-Level Structural Reform Officials' Meeting with a view to giving strategic direction at the mid-point of the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR) initiative. We therefore encourage economies to continue implementation of their Individual Action Plans to progress the RAASR.



48. We note the importance of further promoting the Regulatory Impact Analysis among APEC economies and look forward to the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Good Regulatory Practices scheduled for August 2018.

**Strengthening Economic and Technical Cooperation**

49. We are determined to strengthen collective action in our push for sustainable, secure, balanced, inclusive and innovative growth in the APEC region. We call for continued efforts to enhance economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) with the ultimate objective of achieving the core pillars of trade and investment liberalization and business facilitation through capacity building activities.
50. We appreciate the voluntary and in-kind contributions made by APEC economies to the General Project Account and other sub funds. We encourage more untied funding for capacity building to help economies meet their APEC commitments. In that light, we encourage further efforts to promote cross-fora collaboration in our pursuit of regional economic integration.
51. We welcome the report of the Chair of the APEC Senior Officials' on the progress of APEC wide efforts since the beginning of the year.
52. We urge officials to continue their efforts toward meaningful deliverables for Leaders in Port Moresby in November 2018.

**Statement of the Chair on Supporting the Multilateral Trading System  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 26 May 2018**

1. This Statement of the Chair on Supporting the Multilateral Trading System (MTS) reflects the Chair's assessment of the prevailing views of APEC economies.
2. Ministers welcomed the recent improvement in the global and regional economic outlook. We recognize the importance of international trade to stimulate economic growth, support job creation and drive prosperity and development.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to achieving free and open markets in the Asia-Pacific region and the importance of international trade to job creation. We therefore underscore the importance of ensuring the effective functioning of the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive MTS as embodied in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
4. Recognizing the importance of the MTS, we will strive to work together to support, strengthen and improve the MTS. At the same time, we will continue to ensure the effective and timely enforcement of WTO rules. We reaffirm the importance of the WTO's trade monitoring work, which is essential to the functioning of the MTS, by achieving greater transparency in, and understanding of the trade policies and practices of Members.
5. We underscore that trade liberalisation and facilitation are essential for achieving sustainable global growth and remain committed to continuing APEC's leadership to promote free and open markets. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to keep our markets open, and to fight against and to rollback protectionist and trade distorting measures, and we reaffirm our Leaders' pledge to extend the standstill commitment until the end of 2020.
6. Recalling the outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, we are committed to fulfilling the Buenos Aires Ministerial Decision on Fisheries Subsidies and Work Programme on E-commerce. We agree to advance discussions on initiatives on E-commerce negotiations, investment facilitation, services domestic regulation, Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment.
7. We welcome the ratification of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) by all member economies, which demonstrates APEC's commitment and support for the MTS. We call for its full implementation, recognizing that it helps bring about meaningful and widespread benefits for all economies and demonstrates the WTO's ability to deliver practical and development orientated outcomes.

8. We acknowledge APEC's work on the elimination of export subsidies and urge economies to comply with the decision on export subsidies on agricultural products in accordance with the Nairobi Ministerial Decision agreed at the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference.
9. We recognize the contribution of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to promote APEC's Digital Economy agenda, and encourage economies to participate in the ITA expansion.



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