Counter-Terrorism Working Group
Proposed Work Plan for 2014

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: CTWG Chair

SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation - Committee of the Whole Meeting
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Proposed Work Plan for 2014
APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)

1. Proposed Work Plan for 2014 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, and to ABAC recommendations:

As outlined in the APEC Growth Strategy endorsed by the Leaders in 2010 and in the 2011 APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, APEC member economies recognize that creating a secure environment for economic activity is a vital part of ensuring regional growth and prosperity. Since 2001, APEC has played a valuable and constructive role in helping to protect the economic systems of the Asia-Pacific region from disruption as an important component for a safer business environment and a pretext to meet the Bogor goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific. This include risk-based efforts to mitigate risks and enhance the resilience of transportation, the supply chain, infrastructure, and the financial systems, while ensuring the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

The 2013 APEC Joint Ministerial Statement recognized the continuing threat of terrorism in the Asia-Pacific region and the importance of mitigating this threat as we seek to achieve APEC’s vision and objectives. It also recalled the Leader’s commitment in 2011 to make regional commerce and travel more secure, resilient as well as to APEC's Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, which takes a comprehensive integrated approach to ensuring the resilience of regional commerce by enhancing the ability of member economies to protect their economic systems, recover rapidly from disruptions, and maintain the flow of legitimate trade and travel. The Ministers also encouraged economies to continue implementing the Strategy, including through capacity building initiatives that support secure regional supply chains, travel, finance and infrastructure. They also noted the importance of continued and close cooperation with the private sector and relevant multilateral organizations in implementing the Strategy.

Cognizant that the threat of terrorism, frequency and intensity of disruption will continue to exist in the decade ahead, the SOM ECOTEC (SCE) endorsed the upgrade of the CTTF to a permanent Working Group. The Counter-Terrorism Working Group’s mission is to:

- Build capacity in the region to mitigate, prepare for and respond appropriately to the threat posed by terrorism, including by building business resilience and fostering private-public partnership to protect business, trade and economic growth from disruption; and
- Improve coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best practices on counter-terrorism preparedness and response efforts in APEC.

APEC’s Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy identified three fundamental pillars namely security, efficiency, and resilience that will underpin CTWG’s efforts over at least the next five years.

The CTWG proposed activities in 2014

The CTWG is committed to work in line with the CTWG mission and APEC’s 2014 theme of ‘Shaping the Future Through Asia Pacific Partnership’ through the following steps:

- Continue implementation of the CTWG Medium-Term Work Plan and the recommendations of the Independent Assessor’s report;
- Continue implementation the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy as recognized in the 2013 Ministerial Joint Statements;
- Strengthen the CTWG operationally as an effective facilitator of counter-terrorism and secure trade and travel cooperation within APEC;
- In close cooperation and coordination with relevant lead APEC sub-fora, conduct and advance activities related to capacity building in counter-terrorism and secure trade and travel.

Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Work Plan with relevant organizations in response to Ministers’ call for greater engagement with:
The Business Sector: Cooperation with the private sector also helps to connect APEC’s security-related efforts to APEC’s core mission of promoting economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The CTWG will reach out to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the broader regional business community to explore opportunities for collaborating on issues and activities of mutual interest, including holding a Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) conference.

Other Organizations/Stakeholders, including IFI’s and other international Organizations: The CTWG will seek to enhance dialogue and engagement with relevant multilateral organizations to exchange and utilize lessons learned from efforts conducted elsewhere that could be applicable to the Asia-Pacific region, to discuss current and emerging challenges and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

2. Cross cutting issues and how they will be coordinated across fora.

As set forth in its medium-term work plan and the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, the CTWG will consult and cooperate among relevant APEC sub-fora on issues related to counter-terrorism and secure trade, and work to improve its effectiveness in this regard. This could include holding regular briefings by the chairs of the CTWG and other relevant APEC sub-fora at each other’s meetings; convening joint meetings and/or scheduling of joint discussions during CTWG meetings; collaborative planning and coordination of capacity building initiatives; and regular exchanges of sub-fora reports on meeting outcomes and key initiatives.

Consultation, collaboration and coordination between the CTWG and other relevant lead APEC sub-fora will be done in four cross-cutting activity areas of the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy:

- **Secure Supply Chains**
  - The CTWG will work with CTI/SCCP, TPTWG and other relevant sub-fora to identify and close vulnerabilities in the regional supply chain and to enhance supply chain resilience, and particularly to restore trade following major disaster and disruptions.
  - The CTWG will consult with and support the CTI/SCCP in its efforts to strengthen supply chain security as well as continue to engage on initiatives such as the APEC Trade Recovery Program and Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programs and also consult on other opportunities for cooperation to enhance supply chain security, including by inviting the CTI/SCCP Chair to participate in a joint dialogue on supply chain security;
  - The CTWG will work closely with the TPTWG and in particular, the Maritime Security Experts Group (MEG-SEC) to advance the APEC Trade Recovery Program and to identify remaining security gaps in the regional supply chain.
  - The CTWG will continue to work to increase regional awareness of food defense, taking particular aim at threats associated with small scale sabotage, food fraud, and terrorism. Interest generated from past efforts will promote new networking and outreach, specifically in regard to vulnerability assessments, mitigation strategies, and food defense plans. The CTWG will continue to engage food sector stakeholders through electronic collaboration and the sharing of updated guidance materials.

- **Secure Travel**
  - The CTWG will work with Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment Business Mobility Group (CTI/BMG), the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (CTI/SCCP) to implement the APEC Consolidated Counter Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy and support deeper cooperation and capacity building across the Strategy’s priority areas of secure trade and travel;
• The CTWG will continue to work with the SCE, CTI/BMG, CTI SCCP, TPT/WG, Tourism Working Group (TWG) on implementing the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative to make travel in the region faster, easier and more secure;

• The CTWG will work with the BMG, as the lead expert group on business mobility, to explore potential opportunities for cooperation to improve the secure flow of travelers throughout the region, including supporting, as needed, the BMG’s efforts to develop a Border Capabilities Model. Efforts should complement existing work being done in other international fora such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Standards Organization;

• The CTWG will work with the TWG, as the lead sub-fora on tourism, to explore potential opportunities to improve protections for tourists as well as to share experiences and best practices in securing tourist destinations and tourist products;

• The CTWG will work with the following TPTWG sub-groups:
  - the CTWG will work with the Maritime Security Experts Group (MEG-SEC) as the lead maritime security expert group within APEC, and support the Group in its ongoing efforts to enhance port and maritime security and to strengthen trade recovery efforts in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - the CTWG will continue to collaborate with the Aviation Security Experts Group (AEG-SEC), as the lead aviation security expert group within APEC, and support the Expert Group in its efforts to enhance aviation and transportation security.

• Secure Finance

• The CTWG will lead APEC efforts to prevent and combat terrorist financing and money laundering. These efforts will include implementing a capacity building workshop on counter-terrorism finance and the non-profit organization sector as well as identifying vulnerabilities and priorities for future capacity building initiatives;

• The CTWG will seek to engage other APEC sub-fora as well as relevant non-APEC entities, such as XXXX to ensure that secure finance efforts are fully coordinated and effective.

• Secure Infrastructure:

• The CTWG will collaborate with relevant lead APEC sub-fora to explore prospects for further cooperation on enhancing the security and resilience of infrastructure across the region.

• The CTWG will consider the Key Observations and Recommended Future Activities from the June 2013 APEC Policy Dialogue on Critical Infrastructure Protection, to develop capacity building proposals in the area of secure and resilient infrastructure.

• The CTWG will work to support the TEL/SPSG in its efforts to increase awareness and to enhance cyber security as well as to review the APEC Cyber Security Strategy and the APEC TEL Strategy to ensure a Trusted, Secure and Sustainable Online Environment (TSSOE) as a basis for planning future APEC efforts in this area. The CTWG will consult with the TEL/SPSG on the outcomes of the reviews and as appropriate, explore potential opportunities for cooperation.

• The CTWG will continue to work on major event security capacity building activities.

3. Progress on Developing/Implementing the Fora Strategic Plan

The CTWG recognizes that elements of APEC’s works on counter-terrorism and secure trade and travel are spread out across a number of APEC sub-fora.
The CTWG reaffirm its commitments to implement the APEC consolidated Counter Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy and support deeper cooperation and capacity building across the Strategy’s priority areas of secure supply chains, travel, finance, and infrastructure to make regional commerce more secure, efficient and resilient.

The CTWG will ensure robust building works in cross cutting activities areas, continue to improve CTAP process and summary report to maximize its relevance to the CTWG’s work and to continue to support coordination role on APEC secure trade and travel issues across APEC sub-fora and maintain engagement with relevant international organizations.

As called for by APEC Leaders in 2010 Growth Strategy, over the past two years, the APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group, The Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), The Sub Committee on Custom Procedures (SCCP), the Business Mobility Group (BMG), the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) and The Tourism Working Group have enhanced APEC’s collaboration on a comprehensive and integrated approach to address counter-terrorism and secure trade matters.

The CTWG, in collaboration with other APEC sub-fora, will continue to develop a systematic approach to address existing chokepoints in the supply chain through targeted capacity building and concrete steps towards making the supply chain more reliable, resilient, safe, efficient, transparent, diversified and intelligent.

In 2014, the CTWG will continue the practice of inviting representatives from other multilateral organizations to its meetings.

In fostering closer cooperation with the business community, the CTWG will invite representatives from ABAC and the private sector to CTWG meetings to discuss opportunities for cooperation, hosting dialogues between the private sector and relevant APEC sub-fora as part of CTWG meetings, or, where appropriate, inviting private sector participants to take part in CTWG capacity building initiatives.

4. **Expected CTWG Outcomes/Deliverables for 2014**

CTWG’s activities for 2014 include:

- identifying developing and delivering better targeted activities in order to meet specific counter-terrorism capacity building needs;
- maximizing participation of APEC member economies in the annual submission of Counter Terrorism Action Plans to better understand where needs and opportunities exist for capacity-building activities;
- enhancing the effectiveness of CTWG capacity building projects by placing greater focus on monitoring and evaluating these projects;
- considering and implementing, where appropriate, the recommendations set forth in the Independent Assessor’s reports;
- Reporting to APEC Senior Officials and Ministers the progress CTWG has made on implementing the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy;

CTWG Endorsed Projects for 2014

- Thematical debates on Container Transportation Security
- The 9th STAR Conference on People to People Connectivity