



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM1/CTI/027

Agenda Item: XI

Chemical Dialogue Convenor's Report – Endorsed

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: CD Convenor



**First Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
3-4 March 2021**

CHEMICAL DIALOGUE CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI 1 2021

1. How does the Forum's work contribute to CTI's Objectives of:

a. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

b. Regional Economic Integration, including taking forward the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and contributing to the development of the Implementation Plan in 2021

- The CD will continue its efforts to address marine debris including work to examine and overcome barriers to investment in waste management infrastructure that would support a more circular economy.
- The CD will look to support CTI efforts on sustainable materials management policy and help APEC economies identify and frame domestic policies that promote waste management and recycling (WMR) infrastructure, addressing barriers to trade and increasing markets for sustainable materials.
- The CD will undertake new work to help APEC economies better understand the role of chemistry in addressing sustainability challenges and promote economic policies, cooperation, and growth to address environmental challenges, spur innovation and improve productivity as called for in the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

c. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- The CD will build on outcomes of the [2020 Chemical Dialogue Regulatory Cooperation Report](#) including the drafting of a regulatory cooperation checklist that can be used by regulators seeking to promote regulatory cooperation efforts, regardless of their stage of development.
- The CD will continue its capacity building work on risk assessments, often a key factor inhibiting the cooperation of chemical regulators.
- The CD will continue work to promote more consistent international implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals ("GHS"). The GHS is a UN-developed system that was designed to promote a globally harmonized approach for all chemical labeling. The CD intends to submit a report for the Ministers Responsible for Trade ("MRT") on GHS implementation; revise the GHS comparison report and convergence recommendations to take into account recent developments and look to develop additional capacity building efforts to help APEC economies address GHS divergences.
- The CD will continue work to support the implementation of Good Regulatory Practices in the chemical sector.

d. Inclusion

2. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2021

List of the forum's 2021 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- CD to amend and endorse Terms of Reference 2022 to 2025
- CD to provide input and contribute to the Putrajaya 2040 vision
- CD to develop the CD Regulatory Cooperation Checklist
- CD to hold multiple capacity building workshops on risk assessment.
- CD to develop annual GHS implementation report and revise the existing comparison report and convergence recommendations as well as develop GHS capacity building webinars.
- CD to host an intersessional webinar on sustainable chemistry and to hold sustainable chemistry discussions at CD27.

3. Planned private sector engagement in 2021

List of planned private sector engagement in 2021

- The CD is one of APEC's three industry dialogues and, as such, the private sector is institutionally involved in every aspect of the CD's work.
- Industry has a formal role in the CD meetings and each economy is encouraged to ensure at least one industry delegate is represented at the meeting.
- Additionally, an industry representative serves as the Industry Chair of the CD and Industry representatives serve as co-chairs of each of the CD's Virtual Working Groups.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2021

- The CD regularly engages in cross-fora collaboration including work with the OFWG on marine debris, work with PPSTI on circular economy, work with CTI on sustainable materials management policies, and work with the SCCP on customs practices for chemicals.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

- The 26th CD took place virtually on February 17th - 18th 2021.
- The CD encouraged economies to contribute to the Regulatory Cooperation Checklist, to be endorsed in 2021.
- The CD encouraged all delegates interested in participation in a future virtual Risk Assessment project to register that interest with the project overseers.
- The CD welcomed proposed work from subgroups on regulatory cooperation, GHS, data exchange and marine debris.
- The CD noted the intention of U.S. industry to further develop a proposal on sustainable chemistry for presentation at CD27.

6. Was quorum¹ reached at the most recent plenary meeting?

- Quorum was met, with 17 economies participating.

¹ Quorum requires 14 economies or more. Quorum is measured by member economies (not including private sector) participating. Remote participation is counted.

7. What is your Forum doing to maintain/increase its relevance to APEC member economies and increase participation from its members?

Please provide a brief list of planned efforts to increase participation from members

- Updating the CD's webpage on the APEC home page to identify recent accomplishments and upcoming workstreams to be used as a marketing tool to promote participation.
- Organizing a series of capacity building events on both regulatory cooperation efforts and risk assessments.
- Engaging additional participants through virtual/online participation.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- Seek CTI's endorsement of the Chemical Dialogue Convenor's Report.