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Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: SCCP Convenor



**Third Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)
Strategic Plan 2022-2025

1. Introduction

In 1994, the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) was established to serve as the forum to fulfil the commitments of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders and Ministers relating to customs matters. The SCCP reports to the APEC's Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI).

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to global supply chains and trade flows. The functions of the SCCP over the next four years will be critical as the APEC economies continue responding to the pandemic and embarking on recovery journeys.

As well as focusing on supporting the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCCP's direction for the next four years will be guided by this Strategic Plan as well as the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, the CTI's priorities and the La Serena Roadmap on Inclusive Growth 2019-2030.

2. Vision Statement

As an incubator for innovation and technology-led customs, the SCCP will lead trade facilitation and trade security measures that promote inclusive growth and create more connected, secure, and resilient global supply chains across the APEC region.

3. Mission Statement

The SCCP will achieve its Vision by pursuing opportunities and increasing cooperation on projects, initiatives and outputs which focus on:

- A. all member economies implementing customs elements of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA);
- B. promoting the harmonization, simplification and digitalization of customs procedures within the APEC region;
- C. spearheading innovation and technological development to facilitate trade and manage critical safety and security matters more effectively; and
- D. creating an environment that increases access to trade for all.

4. Implementation Roadmap: Priorities, Objectives and Indicators

The below table describes the SCCP's priorities and objectives for the 2022 – 2025 period. The indicators will show how the SCCP is progressing in achieving the objectives according to its set priorities.

| SCCP's priorities | SCCP's Objectives | Indicators |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Contributing to economies' responses to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of APEC-led COVID-19 trade facilitation initiatives • Facilitation of COVID-19 medical supplies and essential goods, including COVID-19 vaccines, across borders • Cooperation with other agencies within and outside of APEC to boost economic recovery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedited clearance and release of COVID-19 medical supplies and essential goods • Continued efforts to embed the trade facilitation measures introduced during the pandemic • Amplified efforts against the pandemic via active collaboration with relevant APEC and non-APEC agencies |
| 2. Accelerating implementation of the WTO TFA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving initiatives to support APEC economies to implement customs elements of the WTO TFA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment and willingness to implement customs elements of the WTO TFA • APEC economies meeting their obligations under the WTO TFA |
| 3. Enhancing supply chain predictability and connectivity in the APEC region | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of customs procedures between APEC economies to facilitate trade and improve predictability of supply chains • Encouraging paperless trade and digitalization of customs processes to connect, streamline and modernize global supply chains | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of digitalized customs processes and use of electronic declarations, payments, and documents • Wider implementation of single window systems to achieve interoperable trading environment • Implementation of more Mutual Recognition Arrangements and Authorized Economic Operator schemes between APEC members • Well-connected customs agencies through integration of customs procedures, including coherent electronic information exchange • Faster clearance and release of goods through pre-arrival processing |
| 4. Exploring the use of new technology and innovative solutions to secure supply chains | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting smart and innovative working methods and cooperation models, including use of technology, to improve efficiency of border management • Strengthening supply chain security and resilience through technological innovations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth flow of legitimate goods between APEC economies while protecting the integrity and security of supply chains • Successful enforcement of risk management programs and intellectual property rights |
| 5. Achieving the above priorities while promoting inclusion and fostering capacity building in the international trading environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling a more inclusive customs environment that supports access to trade for all by addressing barriers that limit inclusion and equality in international trade • Fostering targeted capacity building, sharing solutions and exchanging best practices on trade facilitation and development of technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater operational efficiency through strengthened public-private sector partnership • Increased participation of micro, small and medium enterprises, women, and indigenous-led businesses in global trade • Greater sharing of information, knowledge and experience between APEC economies through workshops, toolkits, reports, and publications |

6. Critical Success Factors

The following factors are critical to the SCCP's success in achieving its Vision and its Mission:

- a) commitment and willingness to support the multilateral trading system;
- b) commitment and willingness to champion the adoption of the SCCP initiatives in member economies;
- c) support to the Chair, SCCP governance mechanisms and the APEC Programme Director to ensure effective operation of the SCCP;
- d) ensuring SCCP projects and initiatives are focused on achieving the SCCP's vision and mission;
- e) the SCCP actively identifying and pursuing opportunities for cross-fora collaboration;
- f) each member economy contributing to the SCCP's work, taking into account individual member economies' circumstances and responsibilities; and
- g) regular communication within the SCCP, between member economies, and with the CTI to ensure CTI's support of the SCCP's work.

7. Annual Work Plan

The Strategic Plan will be accompanied by the Annual Work Plan. The Annual Work Plan will list projects and deliverables the SCCP expects to progress and complete during each host year. The SCCP will update the Annual Work Plan collectively as part of a handover of chairing responsibilities to an incoming host chair. The SCCP may also agree to update the Annual Work Plan intersessionally as its work progresses.

8. Monitoring and Review Mechanisms

The SCCP will monitor the implementation of its Strategic Plan on an annual basis. This will ensure that SCCP's projects and initiatives remain fit for purpose according to its mission, priorities and objectives.

The Strategic Plan is valid from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025. The SCCP may otherwise decide to review and update the contents of the Strategic Plan with the consensus of all member economies.

APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures Annual Work Plan

Year: [insert year]

Host: [insert host]

| | Title of Project/Initiative | Purpose of the project/initiative | Goal by the end of the SCCP year | Relevance to the Strategic Plan | Responsible economies |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| 1 | [Insert title of the project/initiative] | [Describe the overall objectives of this project/initiative] | [Insert realistic goals to be achieved by the project/initiative overseer(s) at the end of the year] | [Insert how this project/initiative will contribute to achieving the SCCP Strategic Plan's priorities and objectives] | [Insert economy/economies responsible for this project] |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
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