



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2023/SOM3/CTI/SUM

Summary Report - Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting 2023



**Third Committee on Trade and
Investment Meeting
Seattle, United States
13-14 August 2023**

**SUMMARY REPORT
COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (CTI)**

**Third Meeting of 2023
13 & 14 August
Seattle, Washington, United States**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) met on 13 and 14 August 2023, in Seattle, Washington, United States. 20 APEC economies were represented. In terms of the CTI sub-fora, the CD, GOS and SCSC convenors joined the meeting along with representatives for the convenors of the BMG, DESG, IEG, IPEG, MAG and the SCCP. We were also joined by the Chairs of the Economic Committee (EC) and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE). The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) also joined the meeting as well as guest from the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Fair Tech Policy, Asia; the St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade (SGEPT); and the World Economic Forum (WEF). The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) was also present and contributed to a number of items, including those which it is leading work for CTI.

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

2. The **Chair** thanked the United States for hosting the CTI meeting, and encouraged members, observers and guests to actively join the discussions.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. Following amendments, the agenda was adopted.¹

BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

4. The **United States** welcomed members to Seattle and updated the meeting on arrangements for the two-day meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING

5. The Summary Record from CTI2 2023 was endorsed intersessionally.²

PRESENTATION BY THE PECC AND A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE PECC "STATE OF THE REGION" REPORT

6. The Secretary-General of the PECC, Eduardo Pedrosa, updated members on the PECC's 2023-2024 "State of the Region" (SOTR) report.³ The PECC highlighted that, 47 percent out of the 700 respondents expected worse growth for the global economy. At the

¹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/001

² 2023/SOM3/CTI/002

³ 2023/SOM3/CTI/003 & <https://www.pecc.org/research/state-of-the-region>

same time, they were slightly less pessimistic about the prospects for their own economies with 33 percent expecting weaker growth. The SOTR report also showed that inflation was still considered the highest risk to growth by respondents. Although fewer respondents selected geo-economic fragmentation as a risk, those who did considered the impact of the world dividing into blocs as posing a slightly higher risk for their economies. The top 5 risks were: rising cost of living; geo-economic fragmentation; climate change; slowdown in world trade growth; and increased protectionism and trade wars.

7. The PECC then led a panel of guests from SGEPT and WEF to discuss the issues raised in the report. CTI members took note of the SOTR report and engaged with the panel.

INFORMATION SHARING MECHANISM (ISM): POLICY DIALOGUE ON WTO-PLUS ASPECTS OF FTAs/RTAs

8. Australia led the discussion at the annual ISM on the topic of “Institutional provisions in FTAs/RTAs”. Johannes Fritz, CEO, SGEPT, provided the opening remarks. Indonesia spoke on the ASEAN-Australian-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)⁴ while Peru spoke on the Pacific Alliance (PA).⁵ New Zealand spoke on how institutional provisions can support Indigenous economic empowerment and cooperation. Members appreciated the updates from these economies and engaged in the discussions.

UPDATE FROM ABAC

9. ABAC updated members on the 3rd ABAC Meeting that took place from 27 to 30 July 2023 in Cebu, Philippines⁶. ABAC members agreed on six sectoral ministerial letters/reports as well as the ABAC Letter and Report to Leader. The key messages to Leaders encompass ABAC’s theme of *Equity, Sustainability and Opportunity*. ABAC shared a number of their recommendations, which included issues related to resilient supply chains; paperless trade; inclusion for MSMEs, women, Indigenous business; Leveraging trade for climate and sustainability; Interoperable digital trade/digital economy; and Generative Artificial Intelligence. ABAC also circulated two letters to CTI, (a) Recommendations on Regional Cooperation for Cross-Border Paperless Trade;⁷ and (b) Recommendations on Facilitating Trade in Environmental Goods & Services.⁸

UPDATES FROM GUESTS

10. The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** updated the meeting on recent WEF trade and investment initiatives and outputs, including on Indigenous trade; Guidebook to Facilitate Climate FDI; Action on Climate and Trade (ACT) with the WTO and World Bank Group, and supporting ASEAN’s plans on a Digital Economy Framework Agreement.⁹

11. Dr. **Peter Lovelock**, Head, Fair Tech Policy, Asia / Access Partnership, spoke on Artificial Intelligence for trade and regulatory options.¹⁰ He suggested that APEC could develop principles relating to AI, as APEC has done in the past on other emerging issues.

⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/004

⁵ 2023/SOM3/CTI/005

⁶ 2023/SOM3/CTI/006

⁷ 2023/SOM3/CTI/007

⁸ 2023/SOM3/CTI/008

⁹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/009

¹⁰ 2023/SOM3/CTI/010

12. Johannes Fritz, CEO, **St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade (SGEPT)** updated members on work at the SGEPT. The SGEPT's (a) Global Trade Alert (GTA); and the (b) Digital Policy Alert were already widely known; while (c) a repository of digital agreements; and (d) the "globalization trajectory" project are in the pipeline and scheduled to be launched by end-2023.

13. Alain Borghijs, of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** spoke on work at the ADB and how its work could be aligned to APEC, including on digital issues. The ADB noted that lack of trade financing was an obstacle and was looking for partnership with the private sector. Amongst others, the ADB was also looking at trade cost; trade infrastructure gaps and gaps in digital connectivity. On digitalization of trade, the ADB noted that initiatives in this area would help with transparency and connectivity and these would help with SMEs. It was of the view that harmonisation of standards was important given the lack of interoperability as well as legal recognition of electronic trade documents.

UPDATE ON THE BAY AREA AGENDA

14. The **United States** shared with members the Bay Area Agenda, which aims to ensure that the work of APEC 2023 strengthens economic ties throughout the region and increases supply chain resilience, while continuing to integrate the cross-cutting concept of inclusion.

SUPPORT FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM (MTS)

15. The **APEC Secretariat** provided an update on the status of members' acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Three additional APEC members, namely China, Japan and Peru, have accepted the agreement bringing APEC's total to six. The Secretariat reminded members that the next submission of members' status would be at the AMM.

16. **Canada** updated members on developments in the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD). Canada noted that TESSD members were now considering possible outcomes to promote opportunities for environmentally sustainable trade for delivery by MC13.

17. **China** updated members on the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP). China noted that the IDP participants were looking now considering elements for a potential outcome at MC13 and encouraged members who have not already signed up for the IDP to consider doing so.

18. **New Zealand** spoke on the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR) initiative.

19. **Singapore**, on behalf of the co-convenors of the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce, updated members on a presentation the co-convenors gave at the Digital Economy Steering Group plenary meeting.

20. **China** updated members on developments of the JSI on Investment Facilitation for Development. China noted that on 6 July, the conclusion of the negotiations on the text of the Agreement was announced. This was after three years of text-based negotiations amongst over 110 delegations across all levels of development.

21. From the **United States**, Andrea Durkin, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, provided a broad overview of US' perspectives and its priorities and how APEC could serve to support the MTS, including ahead of 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13).

22. Members discussed their priorities in supporting the WTO and the MTS, including those ahead of the MC13. These covered APEC's role as an incubator of ideas; support of live and outstanding issues; and implementation of existing and new initiatives. APEC's significance in the global economy was noted, as well as APEC members' active participation in a wide range of WTO initiatives. Members also took note of ABAC's intervention in which it recalled its May 2023 statement on the WTO/MTS letter where it had provided specific recommendations and updated members on its work on WTO.¹¹

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE REGION

23. The **CTI Chair** led a discussion on the *FTAAP agenda Work Plan*. Members exchanged views on the document.¹² It was noted that reporting would have to done at this year's AMM.

24. Christopher Langman, Chair of the **Australian PECC committee (AUSPECC)**, provided an update on the PECC *Signature Project: FTAAP Pathways to Prosperity*.¹³ The project aims to give greater substance to the FTAAP and provides an opportunity to engage APEC economies, businesses and academics to develop a longer-term vision for trade and economic collaboration in the region. For the PECC, the goal is to support greater cooperation on trade and other economic issues, to build deeper understanding of the key drivers of future economic growth and welfare, and to help APEC chart a stronger, collective path to capture more fully the benefits of regional economic integration. AUSPECC invited CTI members to the PECC FTAAP event on 14 August in Seattle.

25. **Indonesia** provided an update on the Regional Economic Comprehensive Agreement (RCEP), noting that with the entry-into-force by Indonesia and the Philippines on 2 January 2023 and 2 June 2023 respectively, the RCEP has been implemented by all participating members.¹⁴

26. **New Zealand** provided updates on developments in Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Members noted that the 7th Commission Meeting, took place on 16 July, where CPTPP ministers welcomed ratification and entry into force of the Agreement for Chile on 21 February and Brunei Darussalam's ratification and entry into force of the CPTPP on 12 July. CPTPP. CPTPP participants also welcomed the United Kingdom as the first economy to accede to the CPTPP.

27. **Chile** updated on recent developments in the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA). Chile noted work was ongoing in regards to the matter of accessions and also shared that four "affirm" provisions in the DEPA have been amended to become legally, certain, and enforceable commitments. These are on Non-Discriminatory Treatment of Digital Products; Information and Communication Technology Products that Use Cryptography; Cross-Border Transfer of Information by Electronic Means; and Location of Computing Facilities.

¹¹ 2023/SOM2/CTI/004

¹² 2023/SOM3/CTI/011

¹³ <https://www.apec.org.au/ftaap-pathways-to-prosperity>

¹⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/012

28. **New Zealand** provided an update on the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) and the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA). It was noted that Australia is in the process of joining the both initiatives.

29. **Peru** and the **APEC Policy Support Unit** provided an update on the initiative, “*A New Look at the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)*”.¹⁵ The PSU updated the meeting that it was reviewing APEC’s work last done in 2020. The PSU highlighted that CTI has been unable to agree on Next Generation Trade and Investment (NeGETI) issues for almost a decade. For the study on convergence and divergence, the PSU has received a record number of proposal and are reviewing all the proposals. Members took note of the update.

30. **Peru** thanked members for their support and agreement on its initiative “*CTI Dialogues on A New Look at the FTAAP: How to Advance the FTAAP Agenda*”. For 2024, a half-day dialogue will be held a day before the CTI meetings where ABAC and PECC members are also invited to participate. Peru may also invite other speakers, subject to APEC processes. Members took note of the update.

31. **Korea’s** “Action Plan Framework” for the “4th Regional Economic Integration Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI)” was endorsed at the plenary meeting. The CBNI will run from 2024 to 2025.¹⁶

32. The **United States** sought endorsement of its updated initiative *FTAAP Agenda Work Program on Labor-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs, including information-sharing on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building provisions*.¹⁷ The proposal was unable to achieve consensus as one economy had comments. The Chair set a deadline of 30 August for written comments.

33. **Japan** spoke on its revised joint proposal with the **United States** *FTAAP Agenda Work Program on State-owned Enterprises (SOEs)*.¹⁸ The proponents suggested tasking the PSU to undertake a compilation of provisions - divergences as well as convergences - related to SOEs in members’ RTAs/FTAs. The proposal was unable to achieve consensus as one economy sought further clarifications. The Chair set a deadline of 30 August for comments.

34. **Japan** updated members on its SCCP “*Workshops for Capacity Building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs*”. Members took note of the update.

TRADE FACILITATION, CONNECTIVITY, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

35. **China** sought endorsement for the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the *Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN)*,¹⁹ and the *Annual Work Plan*.²⁰ The proposal was unable to achieve consensus at this stage as one economy was of the opinion that the APMEN no longer needs to be in APEC. The Chair set a deadline of 30 August for written comments.

36. **Japan** updated members on the ToR for the “*Research on how economies can help utilize digital trade platform in post-COVID 19 era*” which had been endorsed

¹⁵ 2023/SOM3/CTI/013

¹⁶ 2023/SOM3/CTI/014

¹⁷ 2023/SOM3/CTI/015

¹⁸ 2023/SOM3/CTI/016

¹⁹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/017

²⁰ 2023/SOM3/CTI/018

intersessionally.²¹ The PSU-led study will explore the possibility of interoperability between paperless trade platforms by: (i) conducting a stocktake of paperless trade platforms used by each economy; (ii) reviewing each platform's functions and discussing on the necessary elements for paperless trade; and (iii) developing recommendations to help businesses engage in paperless trade through the platforms. Members took note of the update.

37. **Japan** provided updates on *Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment*. The PSU provided further details on the work it would be doing with Chile. Members took note of the update.

38. **Singapore** and the **PSU** updated the meeting on the "Indicators and Policy Practices for Measuring the Progress of Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP III) 2022-2026". The PSU noted that the final draft report had been presented to CTI at CTI2. Following that, the PSU had refined the draft, taking into account comments received from members. A revised draft was subsequently circulated on 5 August and the PSU hoped that the report could be finalised as soon as possible.

39. The **United States** spoke on its endorsed self-funded project "*Workshop on Implementing the APEC Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade*".²² The project aims to deepen economies' ability to implement reforms relevant to the building blocks contained within the Pathfinder, while also contributing to the understanding of the issues for economies who have not yet joined the Pathfinder. In particular, this project will provide an overview of the ten building blocks, highlight policies related to the building blocks for facilitating digital trade, and enable APEC economies to share experiences in policy development in these areas. In this regard, the U.S. is planning to hold a workshop at SOM1/2024. This will be accompanied by an "outcomes" document. Members took note of the update.

40. The **United States** provided an update on the 15th meeting of the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) on 1 August and sought renewal of the A2C2's ToR for 2024-2027.²³ One member asked for more information in order to support renewal of the ToR.

41. **China** updated the meeting on its endorsed project "*Literature review and best practices of cooperation on data flows and cross-border payments to support digitalized supply chains among APEC economies*".²⁴ Members took note of the update.

42. **China** updated the meeting on its endorsed project "*Literature review on methods of greenhouse gas footprint measurement to better understand green and sustainable supply chains among APEC economies*".²⁵ Members took note of the update.

43. **New Zealand** updated the meeting on the 13 July 2023 virtual workshop "*Impacts of the Moratorium on Customs duties on electronic transmissions on business sector*".²⁶

44. **Japan** updated the meeting on its APEC "*Seminar on Cross-Border Telework*".

²¹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/019

²² 2023/SOM3/CTI/020

²³ [MDDDB link here](#)

²⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/021

²⁵ 2023/SOM3/CTI/022

²⁶ [MDDDB link here](#)

45. **Japan** updated the meeting on its project “*Sharing best trade policy practices to enhance synergies between trade and innovation*”.

46. **Japan** updated the meeting on the MAG Study on the Impact of Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and future of ICT trade.

47. **China** spoke on its endorsed project “*Literature review on cooperation of data flows and cross border payments to support digitalized supply chains among APEC economies*”

48. The **United States** updated on the initiative on “*Open Government Data (OGD)*”. Following the study, which was endorsed in early 2023, the United States has drafted a set of principles for facilitating access to open government data, which it hopes would serve as a guide towards meaningful and impactful OGD operationalization. The United States plans to circulate this document to CTI economies for endorsement following CTI3.

49. **Korea** updated on the past events of the APEC Harmonization Center (AHC) in 2022 and 2023 and provided an update on future events for 2024.²⁷

50. The **United States** provided an update on and sought an agreement in principle for the CTI to take under its reporting structure the Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC), the AHC, and HeSay. One economy suggested that more clarification on the working mechanisms and procedure should be provided before CTI discusses these issues.²⁸

51. **Chile** updated members on its *Workshop Measuring the economic impact of trade facilitation policies on trade* which took place on 8 & 9 August 2023.

INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

52. **China’s** ToR for the *APEC Cooperation Network on Green Supply Chain (GSCNET)* was endorsed at the plenary meeting²⁹ In addition to the ToR, China also circulated a number of documents, including (a) Review of APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network (GSCNET) Work and Achievements (2015 – Present) ³⁰ as well as the GSCNET Research 2019 – “Fighting the Plastic Pollution in Asia-Pacific Region: Application of Green Supply Chain Management” ³¹ and a 2018 report “Green Supply Chain: Accelerating Green Development in the Asia-Pacific Region”³²

53. The **United States** sought endorsement of the self-funded proposal “*Circular Economy Approaches to Promote E-waste Recovery in the Asia Pacific Region*”. The proposal calls for a “Needs Assessment Survey”; a capacity building workshop; and a study which incorporates the survey findings and outcomes of the workshop. Two economies had comments, and the Chair encouraged economies to find consensus soon.

54. **Australia** updated the meeting on the 11 August CTI hybrid workshop “*Increasing Access to the Benefits of Trade for Indigenous Businesses and Entrepreneurs*” which saw around 70 participants.

²⁷ 2023/SOM3/CTI/023

²⁸ This issue was also discussed at the SOM3 plenary.

²⁹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/024

³⁰ 2023/SOM3/CTI/025

³¹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/026

³² 2023/SOM3/CTI/027

55. The **United States** initiated a discussion on the next steps in support of identifying practical ways to integrate inclusion and sustainability into trade policy by the end of this host year, as called for in the 2023 MRT statement. The US shared that it was looking to introduce a “principles” document in late August. The CTI Chair suggested that the document also take into account feedback from the CTI sub-fora.

56. **New Zealand** provided an update on the *Structural Reform for Sustainable Green Growth Sub-Fund* noting that Chile and Korea had applied for funding. Members appreciated the update, with a number expressing interest to apply for funding.

UPDATE ON OTHER CTI INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

57. The **United States** as the lead economy of the pathfinders listed below provided an update.³³

- Pathfinder on the APEC Technology Choice Principles.
- Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value;
- Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically; &
- Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade

58. **Peru** provided an update on Concept Notes tabled for Project Session 2 which would be implemented during its host year.³⁴

UPDATE FROM OTHER FORA; REPORT BACK BY SUB-FORA CONVENORS & ENDORSEMENT SUB-FORA CONVENORS' REPORTS, INCLUDING UPDATES ON TASKING TO SUBFORA & MINISTERIAL MANDATES

59. Nine sub-fora convenors (or their designates) presented their reports (Annex A) to CTI.³⁵ They were the:

- a) Chemical Dialogue (CD);³⁶
- b) Business Mobility Group (BMG);³⁷
- c) Digital Economy Steering Group (on work other than the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap);³⁸
- d) Group on Services (GOS);³⁹
- e) Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG);⁴⁰
- f) Investment Experts' Group (IEG);⁴¹
- g) Market Access Group (MAG);⁴²
- h) Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC);⁴³ &

³³ 2023/SOM2/CTI/029

³⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/030

³⁵ The Automotive Dialogue did not meet between CTI2 and CTI3

³⁶ 2023/SOM3/CTI/031

³⁷ 2023/SOM3/CTI/032

³⁸ 2023/SOM3/CTI/033

³⁹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/034

⁴⁰ 2023/SOM3/CTI/035

⁴¹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/036

⁴² 2023/SOM3/CTI/037

⁴³ 2023/SOM3/CTI/038

- i) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)⁴⁴

60. The CTI endorsed the nine Convenors' Report.

Taskings from Leaders and Ministers

61. The **MAG Convenor's** representative updated members on the HS Transposition. MAG agreed that economies will submit their comments on the EG list by 25 August 2023. Thereafter, the MAG Convenor will initiate an intersessional virtual meeting in September 2023, with a view to making progress on the outstanding tariff lines. Economies also discussed the Ministerial instruction to begin work to develop a Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in support of developing a new, voluntary, non-binding APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods. On the Environmental Goods Workplan, and there was consensus to renew the Workplan for another 12 months.

62. The **GOS Convenor** provided a status update on the *“Non-Binding Guidelines (NBGs) on Logistics-related Services that Support the Movement of Essential Goods in Periods of Crisis”* as well as work on the GOS. On the NBGs, the GOS convenor expressed disappointment that the GOS still could not find consensus despite extensive consultations intersessionally. A number of members expressed hope that consensus could be found soon. The Convenor shared that GOS conducted the first review of the reference list of environmental and environmental-related services, as required by the decision of ministers adopting the list in 2021. He noted that after GOS had identified two possible sub-sectors for addition to the list in the fields of recycling and forestry. Further, in order to keep the list relevant, GOS agreed to conduct a second review of the list in two years

63. **New Zealand** updated members on work on Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidy reform and encouraged members to participate in the voluntary transparency exercise.

64. CTI members engaged with the **Chairs of the Economic Committee and PPWE** who shared updates on developments and work in their respective fora.

65. The **EC Chair** spoke on work on structural reform under the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR).⁴⁵ He noted that the EAASR Mid-Term Review Meeting took place on 13 August and shared progress on the APEC Economic Policy Reports (AEPR) with this year's topic as *“Structural Reform and an Enabling Environment for Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Businesses”*

66. The **PPWE Chair** looked forward to the Joint Dialogue with CTI on 15 August 2023, with the theme of *Advancing Gender Equity in Trade: Challenges and Opportunities*. In this context, some members noted APEC could play an important role in addressing the structural and systemic inequalities in trade, and ensure women can seize the benefits of global trade transformations. The PPWE Chair proposed a number of suggestions for CTI's consideration:

- a) Improve the collection of disaggregated data for gender equality relevant to trade – including employment, skills, wages and firms' revenue;
- b) Consider mandating gender analysis of proposed trade agreements before they are signed – understand how FTAs will impact women in your economy both as traders and consumers before agreeing to them;
- c) Develop a network of gender focal points in APEC economies;

⁴⁴ 2023/SOM3/CTI/039

⁴⁵ 2023/SOM3/CTI/040

- d) Increase capacity building in the area of improving quality and spread of gender-aware policy making, especially in tradable services; and
- e) Suggested that CTI use its standing meeting agenda item on *Inclusion and Sustainability* to discuss the ways members can better expand trade and facilitate investment through the inclusion of all people and perspectives.

67. Some members expressed appreciation to the updates and suggested that there could be future dialogues with the EC and the PPWE, including on issues such as AI; sustainability and inclusion.

IMPLEMENTING THE PUTRAJAYA VISION, INCLUDING THROUGH THE AOTEAROA PLAN OF ACTION

68. **Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines** voluntarily showcased their individual actions under the APA.⁴⁶ This was the fourth time CTI had highlighted individual actions under the APA.⁴⁷ Members and the Chair thanked economies for presenting.

69. The **CTI Chair** and **the PSU** led a discussion on *Evaluating Progress under the APA*. Following agreement at CTI2 for the PSU to provide a report for members' consideration, a draft was circulated on 3 August. The PSU presented on the findings in the report.⁴⁸ The PSU requested that comments to the draft be submitted to the PSU by 30 August.

UPDATES FROM THE APEC SECRETARIAT

Project Update

70. The **APEC Secretariat** provided an update on projects including key dates for Project Session 2, as well as the implementation of the APEC Project Administration System (APAS) that would come into effect from second half of 2023.⁴⁹

Items for Noting

71. CTI **endorsed** the *Items for Noting* which serves as an update to committee members. It is attached as Annex B.⁵⁰

Document Classification

72. The Document Classification List was circulated after the meeting.

GOVERNANCE

73. The **incoming CTI Chair (2024-25)**, Christopher Tan, from Singapore, was introduced to members ahead. Members thanked the current CTI Chair for his work over 2022-2023.

⁴⁶ 2023/SOM3/CTI/041 to 046

⁴⁷ Peru and Canada spoke at CTI3/2022. Australia and Hong Kong, China at CTI1/2023. Singapore and Viet Nam at CTI2/2023.

⁴⁸ 2023/SOM3/CTI/047 & 048

⁴⁹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/049

⁵⁰ 2023/SOM3/CTI/050

OTHER BUSINESS

74. **Indonesia** shared information on its ASEAN Chairmanship including its “Priority Economic Deliverables” under the three Strategic Thrusts of (a) Recovery and Rebuilding; (b) Digital Economy and (c) Sustainability.⁵¹ Among the 16 deliverables mentioned, they include the (a) ASEAN Services Facilitation Framework (ASFF); (b) Signing of the 2nd Protocol to Amend the Agreement Establishing the AANZFTA (scheduled for 22 August 2023); (c) Establishment of the RCEP Support Unit in ASEAN Secretariat; (d) ASEAN Framework on Industrial Project-Based Initiative; (e) Full Implementation of e-Form D through the ASEAN Single Window; (f) Leader’s statement to develop the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA); and (g) Roadmap of ASEAN Harmonised Standards to Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation. The schedule for ASEAN meetings was also share - the 43rd ASEAN Summit would take place 4 to 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, while the 55th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting would take place in Semarang, Central Java, from 17 to 22 August 2023. There is also a flagship event during the 43rd ASEAN Summit which highlights four themes, which are, Green Infrastructure and Resilient Supply Chain; Sustainable and Innovative Financing; Digital Innovation; and Creative Economy.

75. **Peru** shared information on its 2024 Trade and Investment priorities.⁵² Under the theme “Trade and Investment for an inclusive growth”, Peru would seek to advance Trade Liberalization; Trade Facilitation; and Trade and Inclusion. For *Trade Liberalization*, Peru would seek implementation of MC13 WTO disciplines; advancement on efforts on the FTAAP agenda; discussions on, and studies into, areas of convergence and divergence of trade agreements. For *Trade Facilitation*, Peru would seek to strengthen connectivity and resilient supply chains; Adoption and improvement of effective standards and conformance systems and promote the flow of quality investment. Under *Trade and Inclusion*, Peru would seek to promoting start-ups and advancing MSMEs’ access to global markets and global value chains; promote the economic empowerment of women and the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal economy.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

76. The **CTI Chair** closed the meeting by thanking CTI members, and observers for their active participation, and the United States’ generous hospitality in hosting the meeting.

⁵¹ 2023/SOM3/CTI/051

⁵² 2023/SOM3/CTI/052

List of CTI subfora Convenor Reports:

1. Chemical Dialogue (CD)
2. Business Mobility Group (BMG)
3. Digital Economy Steering Group (on work other than the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap)
4. Group on Services (GOS)
5. Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)
6. Investment Experts' Group (IEG)
7. Market Access Group (MAG)
8. Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
9. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)

BUSINESS MOBILITY GROUP (BMG) CONVENOR'S

SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- Implement a shared leadership model for the BMG—amend terms of reference to incorporate the shared leadership model for the BMG for BMG endorsement ahead of providing to the CTI.
- Establish virtual ABTC business continuity/contingency plans—the Convenor's office will develop a discussion paper on risks and issues associated with the virtual ABTC, and circulate a survey to economies to seek feedback on their processes and implications should the virtual ABTC be unavailable for technical reasons.
- ABTC system and policy improvements—the Convenor's office will work with BMG members to identify shared solutions to improve the speed and confidence with which economies are able to undertake pre-clearance assessments of foreign ABTC holders, and to upload data into the ABTC system. A virtual discussion will be held to consolidate possible solutions.
- Identify and progress BMG projects
 - Australia and Singapore to discuss a possible workshop at BMG1 2024 on immigration systems enabling their economies to become card-less in international ports
 - Peru will develop two projects for its 2024 host year - ABTC and non-ABTC focused
 - Thailand will consult with the USA to develop a concept paper on the contactless travel innovations and the customer journey through international ports.
 - Philippines will consult with the Convenor's office to develop a concept paper on communication models for economies and ABTC holders, including how to improve the APEC BMG webpages.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision , including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

The BMG contributes to all three APA economic drivers through:

- enhancement and digitalization of the ABTC Scheme, including through seeking to improve transparency, simplicity, and reliability of the Scheme.
- sharing innovations and best practices associated with safe and seamless cross-border travel facilitation and people-to-people connectivity, in consideration of economic resilience and recovery
- advancing inclusivity in the ABTC Scheme, including MSMEs and bona fide businesswomen.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

The BMG contributes to the implementation of mandates through:

- focusing on advancing inclusivity, including to promote MSMEs and women
- advancing resource efficiency through sharing best practices on, and implementing, streamlined and digital practices.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

The BMG supports the Multilateral Trading System by:

- enhancing and monitoring the integrity of the ABTC Scheme
- promoting digitalization of cross-border systems.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

The BMG supports regional economic cooperation by:

- contributing to collaborative, frank and open discussions about cross-border travel facilitation and the ABTC System
- committing to collaborative, open and transparent practices associated with the ABTC and business travel facilitation in the APEC Region.

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

The BMG supports the Multilateral Trading System by:

- enhancing and monitoring the integrity of the ABTC Scheme
- promoting digitalization of cross-border systems
- supporting and facilitating business travel.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

The BMG supports innovation and digitalization by:

- enhancement and digitalization of the ABTC Scheme, including through seeking to improve transparency, simplicity, and reliability of the Scheme
- sharing innovations and best practices associated with safe and seamless cross-border travel facilitation and people-to-people connectivity, in consideration of economic resilience and recovery.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

- The BMG support sustainable and inclusive growth by advancing inclusivity in the ABTC Scheme, in particular promoting the value of MSMEs and women in trade facilitation and economic growth.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- The BMG Convenor engaged with ABAC, IATA and ICAO in early 2023 to discuss other opportunities for collaboration. None were able to attend BMG2 2023 due to the timing of the meeting. However, an outcome of these discussions were two presentations delivered at BMG2 by Boeing and Delta.
- BMG convenor to engage with the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) to discuss its ‘Safe & Seamless Traveller Journey’ initiative and related lessons learned, as well as opportunities for collaboration in 2024.
- BMG Convenor to engage with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in relation to female entrepreneurs and business owners in Asia and the Pacific, and opportunities for collaboration in 2024.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- Some members at BMG1 2023, expressed their interest to further explore issues on gender and inclusivity in BMG. As a result, in early 2023, the Convenor discussed opportunities for collaboration with PPWE Chair, who made a pre-recorded presentation, played at BMG2 2023.
- BMG Convenor will also explore some ideas to collaborate with SMEWG related to inclusivity and businesswomen, the SME strategic environment and SME business travel trends and challenges.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- At the Plenary, Day 1, the BMG engaged in a productive discussion on the BMG's shared leadership model, proposed by members at BMG1 2023 and endorsed prior to BMG1. A few amendments were sought to support easier implementation of the model with respect to the Deputy Convenor's role—members reiterated their support for Australia maintain the Convenor's position noting it had been effective to date. Some members requested that the Deputy Convenor role be undertaken by the APEC host economy. This would be difficult for Peru to undertake at short notice. Members subsequently discussed commencing the model in 2025, with a volunteer to undertake the role in 2024. The Convenor agreed to discuss this with the 2025 host, the Republic of Korea, and committed to prepare a draft terms of reference for the Deputy Convenor to be a volunteer in 2024 and the APEC host economy from 2025.
- The Convenor raised issues with communicating with APEC economies and ABTC holders across all economies, especially given the recent virtual ABTC application outages. The Convenor sought advice on how economies undertake their communications. Some economies indicated they have issues communicating with their ABTC holders and a suggestion was made to establish a WhatsApp, or similar platform, group to share information. There was general support to have a WhatsApp group for immediate or emergency alerts, which would then be followed-up with emails providing relevant details. Australia will continue to work on opportunities to redevelop the virtual application so that it enable push notifications to virtual ABTC holders, something that is not currently possible. The Convenor agreed for her office to develop a concept note for a social media group for emergency alerts and to work with the APEC Secretariat to consider amendments to relevant webpages and information.
- The BMG continued its discussion on security and best practices associated with the protection of personal data and the verification of the virtual ABTC. Large numbers of ABTC holders are reporting to be travelling to various economies making it difficult for some to verify ABTCs at the border. The Convenor's office will establish an intersessional online discussion dedicated to sharing security concerns and practical lessons learned.
- The BMG discussed issues and potential solutions associated with ABTC pre-clearance processes. The Convenor opened the discussion with a summary of the intersessional meeting on pre-clearances held on 5 July 2023 that was open to all members. The Convenor confirmed that ABTC Operating Framework provides a standard for processing pre-clearances of two (2) weeks after receipt of a request or within three (3) weeks of the request where further information is required. It was acknowledged that many economies had experienced some challenges with catching up on the pre-clearance requests as borders re-opened

post-COVID-19 and that some were continuing to struggle with their applicant backlogs. Barriers include adequate and skilled resources to undertake pre-clearance assessments, as well as inadequate applicant data with which to inform assessments. Despite this, a number of economies made extraordinary in-roads with clearing tens of thousands outstanding foreign applications during 2023. Thailand outlined a planned approach to dealing with backlogs, including the need to boost resources. The Convenor suggested opportunities to confirm and share data with each economy on its backlogs and clearance timeframes, with a view to voluntarily sharing these across all economies, data privacy legislation and policies permitting. The Convenor committed to develop a draft a template for sharing statistical information, and to hold a virtual, intersessional meeting to continue the exchange of information and lessons learned.

- The Convenor and Australia spoke to recent issues with virtual ABTC application outages, and sought advice on the impact of such outages on economies' virtual ABTC holders, including risks at borders. The Convenor agreed for her office to develop a discussion paper on risks and issues associated with the virtual ABTC, and to circulate a survey to economies to seek feedback on their processes and implications should the virtual ABTC be unavailable for technical reasons.
- The BMG discussed their implementation and management of APEC lanes at international airports, including their locations and signage. All economies indicated that they have dedicated APEC lanes at major international ports and/or allow ABTC holders to use diplomatic lanes. The USA noted that as it was a transitional member and its ABTC holders do not have pre-cleared economies shown on their cards, there are occasions that its ABTC holders have not been allowed to use APEC lanes per agreed policy. The Convenor's office and APEC Secretariat agreed to investigate options to communicate information about each economies' practices associated with APEC lanes for ABTC holders.
- Discussion was also held on training for frontline officers about the ABTC, and implementation and management of the virtual ABTC program. A number of economies welcomed opportunities to receive information and lessons learned from those who already issue the virtual ABTC. The Convenor agreed to consider the establishment of a virtual, intersessional meeting should members wish to participate. Malaysia and Vietnam shared their progress and intentions to transition to the virtual ABTC. The Convenor's office will share procedural instructions with all members yet to transition to the virtual ABTC, and share Japan's questions about transitional to the virtual ABTC with response from members who have transitioned.
- At the Plenary, Day 2, Boeing presented on its Confident Travel Initiative and efforts to help stakeholders make decisions that would protect travelers, thereby encouraging travel. Presentations were well received from the USA on its Mobile Passport Control Application and Thailand on its contactless travel innovations at international airports. These presentations led to contributions from other economies on their business travel facilitation best practices. An outcome of these discussions was for Thailand to develop a concept paper, in consultation with the USA, on a study or capacity building workshop on how to use technologies to support the business traveler's journey.

- The pre-recorded introductory message from the Chair of the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy was also shared, igniting discussions on:
 - gender and the uptake of the ABTC
 - data gaps to report such information
 - the importance of gender equality in the ABTC and frontline staff at international ports, and
 - the implementation of policies and practices that support the advancement of inclusivity associated with the ABTC.
- Peru also presented on its upcoming host year, sharing its trade and investment priorities for 2024, focusing on inclusive growth by three pillars: trade liberalization, trade facilitation, and trade and inclusion.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Yes: the quorum was reached with 16 members present. Chile, The Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, and the Russian Federation were not present.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- The meeting agenda was informed by a survey sent to all economies for feedback and ideas.
- The meeting agenda required input from all economies with most agenda items accompanied by a description of objectives and possible topics for discussion.
- Economies were strongly encouraged to ask questions of other economies, and the meeting was managed to ensure discussions were not stifled while also balancing the need to keep the meeting to time.
- The Convenor sought input and discussion from all members present on the future format of BMG meetings to ensure the meeting provides value to all members—the Convenor and Peru will work together to develop a revised format ahead of BMG1 2024.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI’s endorsement of the Convenor’s Report.*
- Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI*

Seek CTI’s endorsement of the Convenor’s Report.

CHEMICAL DIALOGUE CONVENOR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- The CD's main objectives are to:
 - Continue advancing the CD's work on marine debris and sustainability, including encouraging APEC endorsement and participation in CD-led project proposals – including further exploration of chemical recycling.
 - Provide APEC economy updates on regulatory improvements and action plans and encourage APEC endorsement and participation in CD-led project proposals – including further exploration of the OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) system.
 - Publish the CD Risk Assessment Compendium as an APEC resource and tool for best practices.
 - Advance consistent implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the Labelling and Classification of Chemicals, including encouraging APEC participation in CD-led project proposals – including one related to convergence of GHS.
 - Encourage continued contribution to the G.R.E.A.T. system.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

- The CD's work supports collective actions under the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) to implement the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris and advance APEC's circular economy work.
- The CD's work also supports efforts under the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) to reduce unnecessary barriers to trade and foster regulatory reform.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

- The CD continues to discuss and take action on:
 - Preventing barriers to trade in chemicals through promoting regulatory cooperation and implementation of good regulatory practices;
 - Aligning government and industry implementation of the UN Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);

- Building capacity on risk assessment for chemical substances; and
- Supporting knowledge sharing of advanced recycling to contribute to a circular economy.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

The CD aims to reduce trade barriers that may impede market access.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

- 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.

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

- The CD will continue work to promote regulatory cooperation and convergence, including through continuing to encourage cross-fora collaboration with the OECD’s Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Program, to encourage more APEC economies to participate in such a program.
- 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 an UN-developed system that was designed to promote a globally harmonized approach for all chemical labeling. The CD has revised the GHS comparison report and convergence

recommendations to consider recent developments and will 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.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

- The CD continues to explore interest in data exchange, particularly for regulatory cooperation and convergence by focusing on data communication within the supply chain through the digitalization of hazardous information.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

- The CD continues to support the work of the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, created to tackle the challenge of marine debris in the Asia-Pacific and encourage cross-fora collaboration among different APEC workstreams.
- The CD continues to explore project proposals related to sustainability and capacity building programs, including projects that build off of Thailand’s priority of a Bio-Circular Green (BCG) economy.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- The CD is one of APEC’s two industry dialogues and, as such, the private sector is institutionally involved in every aspect of the CD’s work for 2023.

- Additionally, an industry representative serves as the Industry Co-Chair of the CD and Industry representatives serve as co-chairs of each of the CD's Virtual Working Groups – including the Virtual Working on Regulatory Cooperation and Convergence; Virtual Working Group on GHS; Virtual Working Group on Data Exchange, and Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris. Multiple working groups are preparing to implement projects for the upcoming year, including convergence on GHS.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- 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 recyclable materials policy, work with the SCSC on regulatory cooperation and Good Regulatory Practice, and work with the SCCP on customs practices for chemicals. At SOM 1, the CD chair participated in a GOS workshop on marine debris.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- The 31s Chemical Dialogue took place in-person on 3 August 2023.
- The CD welcomed proposed work from subgroups on regulatory cooperation, GHS, data exchange, marine debris and advanced recycling. This included:
 - Encouraging further exploration of OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Program through a potential in-person workshop
 - Encouraging endorsement of the Virtual Working Group on GHS Work Plan for 2023, including the implementation of the Capacity Building on GHS Implementation Convergence Project and completion of the 2023 GHS survey
 - Welcoming the publication of the risk assessment compendium
 - Encouraging cross-fora collaboration with the OFWG through the implementation of the marine debris blog series on the Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris website and participation in the OFWG project Good Practices for Traceability Mechanism of Marine Debris Recycled Products in the APEC Region

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Quorum was reached. 17 economies attended.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- The Forum is maintaining and increasing its relevance to APEC member economies through active virtual working groups (on regulatory cooperation and convergence, on GHS, on Data Exchange, and marine debris) that implement capacity building projects on a variety of regulatory cooperation and marine debris/sustainability issues.
- The CD will consider using audio-visual connections to allow remote participation.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

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

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

No decisions are requested from CTI.

**DIGITAL ECONOMY STEERING GROUP (DESG) CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023
ON E-COMMERCE AND TRADE-RELATED DIGITAL ECONOMY ISSUES**

In line with 2018 CSOM recommendations, the DESG preserves the functions of the former Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) and continues to report to the CTI on matters of the ECSG's work programme on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues.

NOTE: For matters related to the comprehensive implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER), the DESG reports to the SOM.

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- Issuing the proposed joint CTI-DESG statement in support of the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce
- Ongoing APEC projects:
 - *Comparative study on best practices to detect and avoid unintended biases in Artificial Intelligence systems – Chile*
- New project proposals:
 - *Information Sharing on Legal and Regulatory Interoperability for Privacy Protections in APEC – the United States*

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

- DESG work programme on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues broadly contributes to the APA Collective Actions:
- Promote e-commerce / digital trade, including by supporting the development and implementation of international and regional norms and standards for the digital economy, compatibility of standards, regulations and systems, and supporting discussion and sharing best practice on rules and regulations in e-commerce / digital trade
 - Cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

- Promote the interoperability and standardization of e-commerce/digital transactions
- Cooperate on facilitating the flow of information and data, and strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transaction

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *"...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members' effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments..."*

- *Survey on E-Commerce Regulations in APEC*, updated annually by Singapore. This database of information, which is available to the public on the APEC Trade Repository, facilitates the transparency of economies' domestic regulations and approaches on e-commerce.
- Issuing the proposed joint CTI-DESG statement in support of the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce.
- Policy Dialogue on the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce, held during the DESG2 Plenary meeting on 11 August 2023. Three JSI co-convenors – Australia, Japan and Singapore – delivered a presentation on the importance of the JSI, the current state of negotiations and its relevance to APEC, followed by a discussion with member economies and stakeholders.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *"...APEC's trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable..."*
- *"...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings..."*

- Ongoing work on the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) Systems which promote interoperability between different data privacy regulations to facilitate trade and build trust in e-commerce
 - Since DESG1 2023, the CBPR Joint Oversight Panel (JOP) has received 3 applications from Accountability Agents (AA) for continued recognition for issuing certifications for the CBPR and PRP Systems, which are currently under JOP review: from U.S. AA *NCC Group*, Korean AA *Korea Internet & Security Agency*, and Japanese AA *JIPDEC*.
 - In August 2022, the JOP submitted its report recommending continued recognition of Institute for Information Industry (III) as an AA in Chinese Taipei to the DESG Chair, and that report remains under consideration by the DESG for endorsement.
- Submitting and updating Data Privacy Individual Action Plans (IAP) which improve the transparency of data protection frameworks of member economies

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *"...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

Promoting regulatory cooperation through the APEC Cross Border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement (CPEA) and the CBPR System

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- Actively engage stakeholders from the private sector, including from ABAC, for discussions on e-commerce and data privacy issues
- At DESG2 a policy dialogue was held on the issue of digital fragmentation. Panelists from the ABAC Digital Innovation Working Group, World Economic Forum and St

Gallen’s Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade discussed the current state of digital fragmentation, its impact on businesses in the region, and possible ways it could be addressed.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- Actively engage relevant stakeholders and experts, including from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Economic Forum (WEF)
- DESG-TEL Public Private Dialog and Joint Meeting held at SOM3

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

Main outcomes of the DESG Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) 47th meeting on 8 August 2023:

The meeting was attended by 16 member economies: Australia; Canada; Chile; People’s Republic of China; Indonesia; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; the United States; and Vietnam.

Also in attendance were representatives of ABAC, PECC, and guest organizations: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), United States Council for International Business (USCIB), World Economic Forum (WEF).

Members noted:

- Report of CBPR Joint Oversight Panel (JOP) activities from the United States on behalf of JOP Chair
- Updates from existing CBPR economy participants: Japan; Korea; Singapore; and the United States
- Updates from the Administrator of APEC Cooperation Arrangement for Cross-border Privacy Enforcement informing Malaysia’s Department of Personal Data Protection’s new participation
- Update on the status of the project:
 - “Information Sharing on Legal and Regulatory Interoperability for Privacy Protections in APEC” – the United States
 - “Comparative Study on Best Practices to Detect and Avoid Harmful Biases in Artificial Intelligence Systems” – Chile.
- Updates on data privacy developments by interested member economies: Canada; Chile; People’s Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and the United States.
- A report on the 59th Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) Forum held in Mexico City delivered by the United States.

ABAC introduced their recommendations to the APEC Finance Ministers including potential of PETs, and their recommendations for enhancing the CBPR System based on their extensive consultations. ICC shared a report on their developments on data privacy issues.

Members noted that consensus is yet to be reached on the position of the 2nd DPS Vice Chair, to which China and the United States have expressed their interest. Members agreed to continue discussion of this issue intersessionally.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

The DESG 2 2023 meeting reached quorum with 20 economies in attendance.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- Open invitation to all member economies to participate in the work of the small voluntary working groups such as the Accountability and Administration Study Group (AASG) and the Study Group on data portability
- Further discussion about the development of the APEC CBPR system within the DPS
- Consideration of further areas of work in the Privacy Framework
- Submitting and updating Information Privacy IAPs, and consideration of possible ways to make IAPs more useful

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the Report.*

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

Seek CTI's endorsement of the DESG Chair's Report on E-Commerce and Trade-Related Digital Economy Issues.

GROUP ON SERVICES (GOS) CONVENOR'S

SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- GOS Core Services Issues (Formerly 'Final Push on Services')
 1. Domestic Regulations on Services – championed by the United States.
 2. Developing an APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade – championed by Canada.
 3. Mutual Recognition of Qualification and Licensing – championed by Australia.
 4. Environmental Services – championed by New Zealand.
 5. Manufacturing-related services (MRS) – championed by Malaysia.
- CTI Tasking; Environmental related services-championed by New Zealand
CTI tasking to take forward discussions on how to increase trade in environmental and environmentally related services, including by supporting liberalization, facilitation, and cooperation, as agreed in the 2021 APEC Ministerial Statement. GOS has endorsed a Model Schedule of Environmental and Environmentally-Related Services. GOS completed the first review of the 2021 Reference List on Environmental and Environmentally-Related Services.
- CTI Tasking; Services to support the movement of essential goods-led by Australia
In support of emphasis by Ministers (MRT 2020,2021,2023,2023, AMM 2021), CTI has tasked GOS with taking forward the assignment of these Ministers Statements on Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision , including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

"GOS Core Services Issues (formerly Final Push on Services)": GOS continues to implement "GOS Core Services Issues" to address unfinished business of the Bogor Goals, focusing on five priority areas: domestic regulations, development of an APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment in Services Trade, mutual recognition of qualifications and licensing, environmental services and manufacturing-related services. Work on each priority area is led by a champion economy GOS members focusing on ways GOS can contribute to the effective implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action or "APA".

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

- APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR): GOS is responsible for monitoring progress under the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap endorsed by APEC Leaders in 2015 and is tasked to provide updates to Senior Officials regarding the 19 APEC-wide.

- Environmental related services: In 2021, GOS developed a non-binding and non-exhaustive Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services, and the Reference List was subsequently endorsed by Ministers at AMM 2021. CTI has tasked GOS to take forward discussions on how to increase trade in environmental and environmentally-related services. In 2023 GOS has endorsed a Model Schedule of Environmental and Environmentally-Related Services, and has completed the first review of the 2021 Reference List.
- Services to support the movement of essential goods: APEC Ministers have repeatedly emphasized the importance of services that support the movement of essential goods. CTI has tasked GOS to take forward the assignment of these Ministers Statements. Although GOS has been diligently working to develop guidelines in this area, consensus has not yet been reached.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

The GOS2 2023 plenary meeting included presentations from WEF relating to support for implement the WTO’s Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation (SDR).

The GOS actively engages in activities in this area with the United States serving as champion economy of domestic regulation of services in the GOS Core Services Issues. The United States briefed the outcome of the Workshop Services Domestic Regulation Workshop: Envisioning Next Generation Technical Standards Principles, held on 8 August.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

- GOS is undertaking work on “GOS Core Services Issues (Formerly Final Push on Services)” to address issues in support of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR), focusing on five priority areas (further detailed below).
- GOS is accountable for the implementation and monitoring of APEC-wide actions under the ASCR to develop services sectors in the APEC region as enablers of economic growth and inclusion.
- GOS continues to implement activities to support the following two tasks, as requested by the CTI: environmental related services and services to support the movement of essential goods (further detailed below).

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

- Canada, as Chair of the Technical Group, as champion economy for the issue, updated GOS on the developments of APEC Index on Measure the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade of APEC, with a view to expand the coverage to all APEC economies and all 22 services sectors covered in APEC Index (further detailed below).
- GOS continues to implement activities to support the mutual recognition of qualifications and skills under the leadership of Australia, contributing to people-to-people connectivity, as indicated in the APEC Connectivity Blueprint 2015-2025. (Further detailed below).
- GOS has endorsed a Model Schedule of Environmental and Environmentally-Related Services that economies may draw from in negotiating trade agreements pertaining to this sector.
- GOS supports the implementation of the Ministers statement on Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods. Australia updated on developments relating to the Guidelines on Logistics-related Services that Support the Movement of Essential Goods in Periods of Future Crisis (further detailed below).

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

The APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade provides a helpful tool for policymakers in the region to support decision making processes on services trade policy, including by enabling policymakers to review and address barriers to digitally enabled services.

The United States conducted a workshop on “Services Domestic Regulation: Envisioning Next Generation Technical Standards Principles” with a focus on the impact of technical standards on digitally-enabled services.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

• New Zealand leads the work stream on Environmental Services, as part of the GOS Core Services Issues. Led by New Zealand, GOS members conducted the first review of The Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services, endorsed in 2021. GOS members are engaged in final consultations with their environmental

experts on two proposed additions to the reference list (services related to recycling and forest products) and have agreed to conduct another review in two years in order to keep the list up-to-date.

- Australia updated economies on the implementation of the guidelines for Services that support the clean-up of marine debris”.
- Australia presented and GOS endorsed a policy brief discussing the work done to date in GOS on expanding inclusion of women in the services economy, including a review of the studies of the issue. Australia anticipated further work on this issue in the coming year.
- Chile updated on the project “Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS) and barriers faced by women in international trade in services” indicating that it anticipated releasing a study and holding a parallel workshop on the issue in the Spring of 2024.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

The GOS Plenary Meeting at SOM3 included the following presentation by private sectors/stakeholders.

- ABAC provided an update on the outcomes of ABAC 2023, including areas of priority for the GOS. ABACX anticipated releasing more details of their priorities later this year.
- Asia-Pacific Services Coalition (APSC) provided on the outcomes of “Asia-Pacific Services Coalition Public Private Dialogue” held on 9 August. The PPD had numerous participants from private sectors in many APEC economies. The PPD presented panels of industry representatives focused on digitally-enabled services, logistics, and inclusion in services among other priorities.
- WEF shared an update on support for implementing the WTO’s Services Domestic Regulation (SDR).

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

GOS-ASCR cross-fora event: The GOS is accountable for the implementation and monitoring of APEC-wide actions under the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) in 17 APEC sub-fora. A cross-fora collaborative event to be organized in the margin of every SOM2 until 2025 to support efforts in monitoring its implementation.

GOS-EC: “Joint EC and GOS Project: Services and Structural Reform” is ongoing. Australia updated developments of this project during the GOS plenary meeting at SOM3.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- GOS noted updates from champion economies on their respective workstreams under the “GOS Core Services Issues”:
 - o Domestic Regulation of Services (United States): Members took note of the updates of the United States self-project “Services Domestic Regulation: Envisioning Next Generation Technical Standards Principles” and its workshop held on 8 August. Members discussed the relative weakness of principles on domestic regulation as they relate to technical standards. Speakers highlighted the importance of technical

standards for digitally-enabled services, and the need for GOS to focus work in this area, and improve cooperation with APEC sub-for a working in this area, in particular the SCSC.

- o Developing an APEC Index to Measure the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade of APEC (Canada): Canada, as a champion economy for this issue, provided the developments of APEC Index and updated the details of the upcoming Technical Group Meeting which will be held in September virtually. Members welcomed the updates of the United States self-funded project “Practical Application of the APEC Index on the Regulatory Environment of Services Trade in Research and Policy” including the outcomes of its workshop held on 7 August and the Papua New Guinea’s report on the workshop of “Advancing the Services Agenda in APEC: Expansion and Application of the APEC Services Index” held on June 2023 in Papua New Guinea. With several announcements by APEC economies, all APEC economies are now participating in the Index endeavor, including gathering and verifying data pertaining to their domestic services regulatory environment, and expanding their current coverage to additional sectors. One APEC economy noted that its domestic authorities are continuing their review, recalled that there was no timetable for the Index, and called for further work on the issue since the economy still had technical concerns on the Index.

- o Mutual Recognition of Qualifications and Licensing (Australia): Australia briefed on developments relating to the project “APEC Professional Services and Mutual Recognition Agreement Project (Multi-Year).” Australia foreshadowed that additional work to provide guidance to economies in developing mutual recognition agreements would take place in the coming months.

- o Manufacturing–related services (Malaysia): Malaysia, the champion economy for Manufacturing-related Services, summarized outcomes from its Public-Private Dialogue on Manufacturing Related Services on 6 August which discussed the rapid development of manufacturing-related services (MRS) across the APEC region and its implications for trade agreements and policies. Malaysia highlighted that services form a significant input to manufacturing and that removing services barriers could help economies lower their costs of manufacturing and increase exports. There was widespread support among GOS delegations for further work in this area.

- CTI Tasking:

- o Environmental Services (New Zealand): New Zealand, the champion economy for Environmental Services, recalled that the Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services endorsed by APEC Ministers in 2021 states itself that the first review should be within two years. GOS members have focused on two possible sectors for addition to the list; consultation on these two sectors is ongoing with conclusion of this final aspect of the review anticipated in the next month. In order to keep the reference list up-to-date and relevant for policymakers, GOS has agreed to conduct its next review of the list in two years. In addition, during 2023 GOS endorsed a Model Schedule of Environmental and Environmentally-Related Services.

Australia, updated on the implementation of the Guideline “APEC Non-binding Guidelines on Services that Support the Clean-up of Marine Debris” welcomed and endorsed by Ministers at MRT 2023.

- CTI Tasking: Services to Support the Movement of Essential Goods

Australia briefed GOS on developments relating to the Guidelines on Logistics-related Services that Support the Movement of Essential Goods in Periods of Future Crisis. After reviewing the background work that had been undertaken to date in GOS, Australia recalled for economies the development of the current draft Nonbinding Guidelines at

SOM2, resulting in supported by twenty APEC economies. One APEC economy stated that it had presented Australia with revisions to the draft Nonbinding Guidelines; Australia indicated that these revisions went well beyond the one outstanding issue that was under consideration from SOM2 and requested that they be withdrawn. The proposing economy stated that it would not withdraw its comments, but is open to have discussions on the issue. There was widespread support expressed by GOS economies to Australia for its efforts to finish work on the Nonbinding Guidelines. At present, there does not appear to be a clear path forward, and the Convenor indicated that he would seek further guidance from CTI.

- Inclusive Services Trade

- o Australia presented policy brief on services trade and women. GOS endorsed the policy brief.

- o Chile updated Members on the project “Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS) and barriers faced by women in international trade in services” and its workshop plan to hold this event at SOM1 in 2024.

- Supporting the Implementation of the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR)

- o Australia updated economies on the Joint EC and GOS Project: Services and Structural Reform and indicated that it was planning work in 2024 to move this issue forward.

- GOS CONVENOR’S STATEMENT ON MONITORING PANDEMIC RECOVERY UNDER THE ASCR

- o the PSU presented on ‘Monitoring Pandemic Recovery Under the ASCR’ Report. The key findings and messages of this report are:

- o --APEC commercial services trade in 2022 had recovered from the low of 2020 but was still lower than the projected value had there been no pandemic.

- o --in 2022 trade in transport services and trade in other business services have recovered to levels projected pre-pandemic; however trade in travel services remained 48 percent below pre-pandemic projected levels.

- o -- APEC economies have started to roll back temporary measures put in place due to COVID-19; however, APEC economies have introduced new trade restrictions that are not related to COVID-19.

- o -- Economies should strengthen efforts to bring the level of restrictions back to the pre-pandemic 2019 level and look at overcoming restrictions beyond that, with particular focus on sectors where barriers have become more restrictive than the average of 2020 and 2021 APEC Index scores.

- o --Even as APEC economies continue with efforts to overcome restrictions affecting services trade, they need to redouble their work to improve the quality of services data and statistics.

GOS economies took note of these findings and recommendations.

- ASCR PROGRESS REPORT

- o The GOS Convenor updated the progress on the ASCR, including the GOS-ASCR cross-fora event held at SOM2.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Quorum was reached with 19 economies present.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- Clustering workshops and/or technical meetings in the margins of the GOS meeting to attract attendance by services experts.
- Potential inclusion of policy discussion or information sharing topics in the GOS agenda.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.*

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

- Seek CTI's endorsement of the GOS Convenor's Report, including the Convenor's statement on monitoring pandemic recovery under the ASCR'.

INVESTMENT EXPERTS' GROUP (IEG) CONVENOR'S

SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- An IEG experience-sharing workshop on the topic “Experience in Implementing Inclusive and Responsible Business and Investment (IRBI) and Climate FDI Facilitation” on 4 August 2023.
- An IEG capacity building workshop covering “International Investment Agreements and Climate Change: What is the role that international investment agreements play in the transition to a green economy?” on 5 August 2023.
- An IEG workshop for the Project “Realizing IRBI in APEC” scheduled on 12 September 2023.
- An IEG capacity building workshop on “How Investment Facilitation Policies can enhance Sustainable Investment” scheduled on 25 - 26 September 2023.
- Noting the fluid international investment landscape, the IEG is also exploring the relevance of indicators in the Work Plan of the Next Generation Trade and Investment Issues, and reviewing the APEC Secretariat (Policy Support Unit) report of members’ Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) actions and implementation in 2021-2022, which are based on 8 principles.
- IEG members remain actively informed on updates and state-of-play on investment-related developments in the international stage. This includes the significant textual conclusion of the WTO joint initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, application of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Qualities Policy Toolkit, World Economic Forum’s Climate FDI, and investor-state dispute settlement reform discussions.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

On innovation, sustainable and inclusive growth policies, the IEG continues promoting increased investment flows throughout the APEC region through: analytical studies on investment practices; follow-ups on the 8 principles of the IFAP; dialogue on investment; capacity building exercises; and, cooperation with other stakeholders and international organizations.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

“...4. APEC will marshal existing targets and workstreams in conjunction with the following goals, key areas and aspirational targets:

a. Supporting global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet, particularly in terms of climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience by ...

ix. Supporting finance and investments in sustainability and climate action, including disaster risk finance insurance, and, if appropriate, carbon pricing and non-pricing mechanisms and international carbon credit markets, as well as exploring options to support the alignment of financial flows towards a greener and cleaner global economy, for example taxonomies and other alignment approaches...

b. Progressing sustainable and inclusive trade and investment and ensuring that they are mutually supportive with our environmental policies...”

Aligned with items 4(a)(ix) and 4(b) of the 2022 Bangkok Goals, the IEG continues to explore work towards supporting investments in sustainability and climate action, and progressing sustainable and inclusive trade and investment including through evaluating linkages between international investment agreements and climate change.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

The IEG reaffirmed its support of the multilateral trading system, with the WTO as its core. Members professed holistic interest and congratulated the textual conclusion of the WTO joint initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development, and looked forward to its integration in the WTO architecture.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

Among its objectives, the IEG enhances investment-related capacity building through economic and technical cooperation among member economies and enhance the liberalization and facilitation of investment in the APEC region. Importantly, the IEG scrutinizes the international investment regime and serves as a platform for industry actors, academia and policy makers to share and coordinate the latest developments in promoting fair and transparent regional economic integration.

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity”*

The IEG continues to reform a pillar of its work related to investment promotion, facilitation and retention. As a key feature, members continue work on: the IFAP; policy dialogues sharing best practice discussions on cross-cutting issues such as global value chains, sustainable investment, and structural change.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

The IEG remains informed on investment-related emerging workstreams, including on digital FDI initiatives, as well as trade and investment in the metaverse.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

Members proactively explore avenues to align international investment regimes with sustainability and inclusivity goals, and develop strategies for sustainable and climate-friendly investment.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- On 4 August 2023, a workshop on Experience in Implementing Inclusive and Responsible Business and Investment (IRBI) and Climate FDI Facilitation included stakeholder participation from among others, the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, WEF, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN

and East Asia (ERIA), Microsoft, Boston Consulting Group, OECD, Clean Energy Ventures, and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment.

- On 5 August 2023, a workshop on “International Investment Agreements and Climate Change: What is the role that international investment agreements play in the transition to a green economy?” The workshop promoted knowledge exchange among experts, government officials, and stakeholders, addressing challenges and opportunities at the intersection of FDI and climate change. Key stakeholders involved include among others, Universidad de Valparaiso, Boston University, University College London, and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- On 25-26 September 2023, a hybrid capacity building workshop on “How Investment Facilitation Policies can enhance Sustainable Investment.”

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- On 12 September 2023, a workshop for the Project “Realizing IRBI in APEC” is planned to further discuss the inter-related topics of experience in implementing principles relating to IRBI by companies and businesses operating in APEC economies, and Climate FDI facilitation. This event offers potential exchange and collaboration with other sub-fora within and beyond CTI, as well as engagement with non-members working in this niche.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

The Second IEG plenary meeting was held on 3 - 4 August 2023, covering a wide range of topics, including:

- next generation trade and investment issues such as sustainable investment, trends in biodiversity conservation, digital FDI, circular economy, and empowering small and medium enterprises;
- international investment regime principles and practices, such as the APEC Investment Commitment Handbook Project, FDI Qualities Review, green transformation, and key issues and challenges from the perspective of international instruments such as International Investment Agreements; and
- investment promotion, facilitation and retention issues, e.g. best practices aimed at attracting quality FDI, members’ voluntary IFAP implementation in 2021-2022, and the recent progress in the negotiation of WTO joint initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

No; the most recent plenary meeting recorded participation from 12 economies.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

To increase participation from members, the IEG may wish to:

- expand cross-fora collaboration to garner additional support from other CTI sub-foras and other related forums;
- conduct outreach to strengthen economies' support and participation from other related sub-foras; and
- consider a hybrid attendance option.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.*

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

Nil.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS EXPERTS' GROUP (IPEG) CONVENOR'S
SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023**

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

<p><u>Overall Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deepening engagement of economies in IPEG to contribute collectively and individually to implementing the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision for an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040. <p><u>Specific Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sustaining active stakeholder engagement in IPEG with WIPO and gaining and maintaining engagement with INTA and ABAC (specifically to discuss and address private sector IP issues).- Conducting specific activities in line with Host Year priorities and sharing individual initiatives to contribute toward APA implementation.- Supporting the work and priorities of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) as well as the work of relevant APEC bodies. <p><u>Expected Deliverables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Three Concept Notes (CNs) contributing to APA implementation:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (PH) Feasibility study of an APEC-wide sharing on IP enforcement2. (PE) Guidebook on Digital Enforcement to Improve Fight Trademark Counterfeiting3. (PE) Best Practices of APEC Economies Regarding the Collection and Analysis of Samples for Determining Plant Variety Rights Infringement- Report from information exchange on how economies are contributing to the La Serena Roadmap and the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy and promoting sustainable technology
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2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision , including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- IPEG-57 discussed and identified IPEG's collective and individual contributions to implement the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision (APV)- IPEG-57 focused on APA Collective Actions to: "Promote adequate and effective protection and enforcement of <i>intellectual property, including by providing capacity building, particularly to spur economic development and innovation</i>" through workshops, site visits and information exchanges, as described below.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

- Chile outlined initiatives that its Industrial Property Office (INAPI) is organizing to promote Green Technologies for MSMEs. The Green Patent Program was implemented by Chile to support innovators, mostly MSMEs, with preferential treatment of applications for invention patents and utility models for positive environmental impact.
- Japan outlined initiatives for Green Transformation such the Green Transformation Technologies Inventory (GXTI), an inventory published by the JPO in June 2022 that gives a bird’s-eye view of technologies related to Green Transformation (GX).
- Korea highlighted the benefit of priority examination it provides for applications on green technologies. KIPO initiated an IP financing project so that MSMEs with green technology patents can secure funds to commercialize their technologies. KIPO also plans to incorporate green tech classification codes into the Korean Patent Classification (KPC).
- The United States organized a Green Technology one day program bringing together policymakers and individuals involved in the research, development and commercialization of green technologies. With IPEG delegates, they discussed the importance of IP protection and enforcement as essential tools for their work and outlined issues associated with fostering a green economy.
- The United States also underscored that certification marks can certify that goods and services meet certain standards and are frequently used in green technology or sustainability focused industries, as consumers are becoming more conscientious of the impact goods and services they desire may have on the environment.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

IPEG shared views on the FTAAP and other FTAs

- Malaysia and the Philippines outlined the importance of further pursuing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) initiative highlighting the importance of IPEG's involvement in the discussions particularly on the progress and the scope of the proposed free trade agreement (FTA). China added its experience from RCEP, signed in 2022. Within it, the IPR Chapter constitutes the longest of all 20 chapters and China noted the IPR Chapter is the most comprehensive content of all previously signed FTAs signed by China. Singapore shared that it values IP chapters in FTAs, as they help to create a business-facilitative environment, and the network of FTAs helps to enhance businesses’ IP protection in the territories of Singapore’s FTA partners. When Singapore businesses expand abroad, they are assured of familiar IP regimes, enforcement standards and rules, and can make use of one-stop filing systems like the Madrid Protocol and Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to reduce costs and administrative burdens of protecting their brands, inventions, and products overseas.

IPEG delegates shared experience on Geographical Indication and GRTKF issues.

- Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia outlined recent developments on control mechanisms for registered GIs. The Philippines reported on the beGI initiative, a forum that gathered various stakeholders from different government agencies and representatives from the potential GI holders across the Philippines. Furthermore, the United States shared experience from a workshop on how SMEs rely on common names. The workshop fostered a dialogue on the problems SMEs encounter when common names are not preserved. China shared the latest development and measures in the protection of GIs.
- Indonesia outlined challenges and legal innovations it developed dealing with IP and GRTKF and the Philippines highlighted global perspectives and how collaboration between member economies and development partners is crucial.

IPEG shared views on how IP rights could be used to meet the needs of MSMEs.

- Chile described its initiatives to promote green technologies for MSMEs; Indonesia noted its strategies to Meet IP Needs of MSMEs; and the Philippines highlighted its “Science and Tech Superhighway” initiative and programs to incentivize women-led enterprises.
- Indonesia explained that it provides programs to escalate their business and bring IP services and information closer to the public. With statistics, Indonesia reflects on the results the programs have brought.
- Peru highlighted recent legislation, which aims to promote the registration of distinctive signs by reducing the value of the application fee for MSMEs.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

- Singapore shared that with IP filings in Singapore reaching unprecedented levels in 2021, this signifies that innovation is resilient, even in challenging times and that IP is critical for that. To remain innovative, agile and resilient, Singapore adapted its services to better support stakeholders in the IP and innovation ecosystem to thrive through intangible assets and intellectual property management transformation.

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity”*

- Japan presented its Anti-Counterfeiting Campaign to raise awareness especially among young people. Japan also introduced counterfeit goods identification seminars, which aim to inform enforcement officers in overseas economies.
- Korea presented an initiative whereby administrative officials can be granted the status and the investigative authority of a judicial police officer, called the Special Judicial Police (SJP). SJP has specific expertise in technology and IP law. Korea explained that this contributes to trade facilitation, as it facilitates measures to combat counterfeiting through joint crackdowns, support operations, domestic and border investigations, and cooperation with international agencies.
- The United States summarized STOPfakes, an U.S. interagency program offering online resources and in-person outreach to help U.S. businesses protect their intellectual property in foreign markets. Resources include tutorials, economy and industry toolkits, and economy snapshots, as well as outreach events, such as trade shows and STOPfakes roadshows.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

- Indonesia outlined findings from an APEC-funded project DESG 06 2021A, which shared knowledge and best practices on implementing AI in IP Examination, particularly trademark examination, to enhance efficiency and reduce compliance costs. Experts presented on various AI topics, and representatives from different economies shared their experiences in AI implementation in their respective organizations.
- Japan outlined a co-developed WIPO workshop on future innovation and the role of intellectual property. Japan explained that IP can play a critical role in a Digital Age Wave and a Deep Science Wave. Japan also shared its IP Acceleration program where a team of business experts and IP experts visit startups in early business phases to help develop IP strategies.
- Korea updated IPEG on innovating its IP services to provide continuous, uninterrupted digitalized public education during and since the pandemic (<https://www.keris.or.kr/eng/main.do>). The Copyright Law of Korea provides for fair copyright exceptions and limitations for educational purposes as well as fair use defenses. Making the most of these provisions, Korea also strengthened interagency cooperation to develop innovative copyright policy measures.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

- Chile, through INAPI, is committed to promoting gender equality and inclusion in intellectual property, and has implemented a Gender Policy to guide its efforts. INAPI believes that a more progressive and inclusive society can be achieved by encouraging women's active involvement in the innovation ecosystem, which will help realize the potential of all individuals.
- Hong Kong, China provided the results of a survey on domestic public awareness of IP rights protection conducted at the end of 2022. The results show an increase of awareness of the existence of IP legislation and positive public perception about the development of Hong Kong, China as a regional IP trading centre.
- Korea provided findings from IPEG 03 2021T, its Study on the Harmonization of the IP Financial System. It found that business demand is shifting from tangible assets to intangible assets, such as IP rights. Consequently, this strengthens the importance of finance for IP rights. MSMEs across APEC experience challenges obtaining finance for corporate growth, due to a lack of tangible assets, high risk of failure, information asymmetry, and imperfections in the capital market. The project offered recommendations for the harmonious development of IP finance, such as establishing a legal basis for IP Finance; government IP Finance support through policy and implementation; classification of IP rights with mortgage value; and establishing collaboration between the government, financial institutions and evaluation institutions, among others. Relatedly, Singapore shared that intangible assets (IA)/IP, valuation and financing have been identified as important areas to progress under its 10-year roadmap, known as Singapore IP Strategy (SIPS 2030). To build a credible and trusted IA/IP valuation ecosystem, Singapore is spearheading the development of IA/IP valuation guidelines, based on international valuation standards where enterprises could better articulate the value of their IA/IP in a consistent manner to stakeholders. To achieve that, Singapore is working closely with industry stakeholders to develop an Intangibles Disclosure Framework, to be launched in Q3 2023. In this regard, Singapore looks forward to continuing collaborations with members in the space of IP commercialisation, valuation and financing to support enterprise growth through IA/IP.
- Singapore conducted studies to understand the involvement of women in the IP system and found that there had been a steady rise in the number of women brand owners and inventors. Specifically, between 2016 and 2022, the proportion of women among brand owners that registered trademarks increased from 17.7% to 23.4%. The share of patents with at least one women inventor increased from 21.6% to 34.0% between 2020 and 2021. Hence, understanding trends in gender and IP can help IP offices better structure support to encourage women participation and inclusivity.

- Chinese Taipei highlighted initiatives to enhance gender equality, such as interviewing remarkable women in IP, underscoring relevant legislative amendments, and promoting cross-gender participation in IP.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- WIPO participated virtually, offering updates on Green WIPO, Women in WIPO and suggesting concrete ways to further enhance engagement with IPEG, such as actively participating in the different WIPO fora including Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), and the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).
- ABAC outlined the 2022 recommendations to APEC on IP and offered suggestions for continuous engagement with IPEG, especially with regard to IP Financing on which the sub-forum expressed deep interest. It is also important to note that IP Financing is one of the three identified priorities of the IPEG Work Plan for 2023 to 2024.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- If (PH) Feasibility study for APEC-wide sharing on IP enforcement receives APEC approval, its work will involve the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)
- If the (PE) Guidebook on Digital Enforcement to Improve the Fight against Trademark Counterfeiting receives APEC approval, its work will involve the participation of the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) for comments and input
- IP Financing initiatives can involve the Finance Ministers' Process (FMP)

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- Three Concept Notes (CNs) for projects aimed at contributing to implementing the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA) in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision:
 1. (PH) Feasibility study for APEC-wide sharing on IP enforcement
 2. (PE) Guidebook on Digital Enforcement to Improve the Fight against Trademark Counterfeiting
 3. (PE) Best Practices of APEC Economies Regarding Collecting and Analyzing Samples for Determining Plant Variety Rights Infringement
- Reporting on how economies are contributing to the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy and promoting sustainable technology

- Reporting on how collective action and economies individually contribute to La Serena Roadmap

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Yes, Quorum was ultimately met in IPEG-57 through a combination of individual outreach in advance of the meeting and virtual participation. In total, **18** member economies participated (Australia - *virtually*, Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico - *virtually*; Peru; the Philippines; Russia - *virtually*; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States, and Viet Nam - *virtually*). The strong participation both in number and in verbal interventions illustrates the engagement of members.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- During the outreach process to reach quorum, economies were invited to outline their IP priorities for APEC. IPEG hopes that future agendas, projects and workshops can further develop and enhance members' priorities.
- IPEG aims to provide members with the platform for candid discussions, to share best practices and explore policy levers to implement effective IP innovations to ensure a more resilient and inclusive economic growth.
- Inviting key stakeholders regularly to participate, such as WIPO, WTO, INTA, and members of the private sector to find ways to regularly collaborate with the group.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

- Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.
- Seek to be involved in PSU project on FTAAP (*Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific*)

MARKET ACCESS GROUP (MAG) CONVENOR'S

SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- To advance Ministers' tasking to develop recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list of environmental goods, update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS 2022 and further discuss the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods.
- To continue our support for the Multilateral Trading System through implementation of the WTO Agreements.
- To strengthen the awareness and utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository as an information portal for businesses.
- To facilitate trade and enhance connectivity through efforts on Supply Chain Framework Action Plan Phase III (SCFAP III) and APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2).

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision , including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

- Japan shared about its individual actions under the Aotearoa Plan of Action, which included several projects across multiple fora, including: a study on the impact of the WTO ITA and future of ICT trade under MAG, promoting paperless trade platforms under CTI, and capacity-building workshops under SCCP.
- New Zealand indicated that it would be showcasing its individual actions at the CTI meetings on 13 – 14 August 2023.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

Recalling Ministers' instructions, MAG has been undertaking efforts under the endorsed Environmental Goods Work Plan to:

- Develop a Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in accordance with the agreed recommendations.
- Update the APEC List of Environmental Goods to HS 2022 for reference purposes.

- Encourage further discussions on the impact of non-tariff measures on trade in environmental goods.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

- China proposed that member economies exchange best practices on trade facilitation, in order to improve the quality of the TFA’s implementation in APEC economies.

WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Expansion

- Japan shared its launch of an APEC project on the importance and significance of the ITA. Under this project, 2 initiatives were implemented: (1) a survey and analysis of trends related to trade in ICT products. On this, a report would be compiled; and (2) a workshop in November 2023 involving stakeholders presenting on the promotion of the ITA and its future initiatives. Further details of the workshop would be provided by Japan when available.
- Thailand updated that it has committed to reducing 524 tariff lines to 0% by 2023. Since 1 July 2023, Thailand has reduced the remaining 6 tariff lines. With that, Thailand has fully implemented the ITA expansion.
- Malaysia has completed all domestic processes on the reduction and elimination of tariffs on a total of 201 high technology ICT products.
- China had implemented its eighth package of tariff rates reduction on 62 IT products since 1 July 2023. With this, China has fully delivered all tariff cut commitments in line with its ITA expansion.
- Canada and Chinese Taipei shared views on the benefits of joining the ITA Expansion and encouraged member economies who were not yet part of the ITA expansion to consider joining.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

APEC Trade Repository

- The Philippines provided an update on the usage of the APEC Trade Repository (APECTR) for the period covering 16 February 2023 – 31 July 2023. All 21 APEC economies utilised the APECTR, with 9 out of the top 10 users originating from APEC member economies. Germany is the only non-APEC member economy to be recorded within the top 10 users.

- There was a slight decrease in the total number of users (3,980), sessions (4,533) and page views (7,252) recorded for this period as compared to the last report.
- Amongst the top referral sites, there is a new entrant in the form of Indonesia's information portal on import and export mechanism (EXIM).

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *"...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

Supply Chain Framework Action Plan Phase III (SCFAP III)

- Singapore updated that the Third Phase of the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan received positive support at the CTI2 in May 2023, welcoming 8 economies onboard as champion economies. Under Chokepoint 1 – Peru, US and Singapore; Chokepoint 2 – Japan; Chokepoint 3 – Korea and China; Chokepoint 4 – the US; and Chokepoint 5 – Philippines and Chile.
- Singapore had also been working with the APEC Policy Support Unit on the development of quantitative indicators to measure the progress in addressing the SCFAP III chokepoints, in the form of a draft report wherein PSU had identified 71 relevant indicators based on databases from the OECD, UN, World Bank, etc.

14th APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2)

- The United States updated on the 14th A2C2 meeting held on 1 August 2023, stating that there was a robust discussion on the SCFAP III and its 5 chokepoints. The United States added that the A2C2 was up for renewal at the CTI, and encouraged APEC economies to support its continuity.

Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN)

- China shared that 24 ports from 14 APEC economies have taken part in APMEN cooperation. China added that it was also working with CTI to approve the APMEN ToR (2023 – 2025) and the 2023 Workplan.

Enhancing Regional Connectivity and Promoting Trade Facilitation

- The United States shared that it had published a study and organized a workshop on refurbished medical devices during New Zealand's APEC host year. The United States recapped that the workshop, which was held in October 2021, highlighted the importance of remanufactured goods, and how regional trade agreements supported market access for these goods.
- The United States updated that it circulated 2 self-funded project proposals: (1) Volunteer Economy-Level Capacity Building in Trade of Refurbished Medical Devices; and (2) Trade of Remanufactured Consumer Electronic Products in APEC, in line with advancing APEC's circular economy objectives. Further discussions on these proposals took place between member economies. The Convenor encouraged member economies to send any further comments to the United States so that these could be taken into account.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

NIL

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

Implementation of the APEC EG List

- The Convenor updated that most APEC economies have fully implemented the commitment to reduce the applied tariff rates on the EG List of goods to 5% or less.

Updating the APEC EG List from HS 2017 to HS 2022 Nomenclature

- The Convenor provided an update on the latest state-of-play of the HS transposition of the EG list, including the latest comments and suggestions received from member economies. It was agreed that member economies will submit their comments on the EG list by 25 August 2023. Thereafter, the Convenor will initiate an intersessional virtual Meeting among interested member economies in September 2023, with a view to making progress on the outstanding tariff lines.

Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods

- Economies discussed the Ministerial instruction to begin work to develop a Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in support of developing a new, voluntary, non-binding APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods in accordance with the agreed recommendations. Australia shared that they would be able to prepare a first draft of the framework to guide further discussions towards producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list.

Environmental Goods Workplan

- Economies reviewed the Environmental Goods Workplan. There was consensus to renew the Workplan. The Convenor requested member economies to provide any further comments and suggestions on the Workplan by 25 August 2023, so that the Workplan can be finalised and endorsed by September 2023.

ABAC Update on Engagements on Environmental Goods and Services and Final Recommendations to APEC

- Economies took note of ABAC's recommendations on environmental goods and services, including a request to expand the APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods with sufficient private sector consultation, and to possibly include circular products, as well as products that could generate renewable or clearer energy technologies. The Convenor proposed that appropriate recommendations from ABAC be taken on board as part of the draft framework on producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

NIL

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

NIL

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- Adoption of 64th MAG Meeting Summary Report
- Progress in APEC economies' implementation of the WTO TFA – i.e., China.
- Enhanced APEC economies' implementation of the WTO ITA expansion – i.e., Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, and China, and encouraged participation in the WTO ITA expansion
- Updated utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository, which showed consistent utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository
- Continue intersessional work on the HS transposition of the APEC Environmental Goods List from HS 2017 to HS 2022
- Progress on the Framework of Discussions for Producing an APEC Reference List of Environmental Goods, with Australia volunteering to lead the first draft.
- Review of the Environmental Goods Work Plan, with renewal of the Work Plan for another 12 months.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

The quorum was met with 18 member economies participating in MAG2 2023.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

As the primary forum for discussing market access issues, MAG has been overseeing the implementation of several major initiatives towards supporting the multilateral trading system, trade liberalisation for regional economic integration and more recently on sustainability issues. Economies are encouraged to make use of MAG to initiate high-quality projects contributing to areas of tariffs, non-tariff measures, rules of origin, transparency, and trade facilitation. For instance, the MAG has recently endorsed the Environmental Goods Work Plan, to identify areas for member economies to contribute and participated in.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.

**SUB-COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURES (SCCP) CONVENOR'S
SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023**

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- To support cross-fora collaboration to mainstream Inclusiveness and Women in all APEC sub fora groups.
- For this year, beyond two plenary meetings and the APEC Customs Business Dialogue at the APEC SOM3 which will be focused on Women and Trade, the SCCP will implement several initiatives and projects in important areas of the SCCP's Strategic Plan.
- There are two APEC Funded Projects are underway: one lead by New Zealand focused on Gender Mainstreaming in Customs Administrations (SCCP 01 2022) and the other, led by Japan, related to enhancing members capacity building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs (SCCP 02 2022T).
- There are also five Self-Funded Projects will be carried out in 2023 – 2024 by three member economies: Australia (SCCP 01 2019S; SCCP 01 2022S), the U.S (SCCP 04 2022S; SCCP 06 2022S) and China (SCCP 05 2022S).
- In addition, member economies have proposed four initiatives for this year, which will seek input on best practices and lessons learned from members to be compiled into compendiums:
 - Initiative titled: "SCCP Trade and Pandemic Recovery Compendium or Stocktake" which is being proposed by the United States
 - Initiative titled: "Good Practices Sharing on Smart Customs in APEC Region" which is being proposed by China
 - Initiative titled: The United States: "Update the SCCP IPR Compendium of Practices" which is being proposed by the United States
 - Initiative proposed on Green Customs Best Practices from the United States that will be circulated for members review and consideration.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision , including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

- Many of the SCCP's current and planned projects and initiatives support the APA and Bangkok Goals.
- During SCCP1, members discussed revising the SCCP's Work Plan Template to reflect the addition of the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and a column for other APEC commitments, which would include highlighting where there is alignment with the APA and Bangkok Goals.
- An updated SCCP Work Plan Template to incorporate alignment with APEC priorities was shared with members for their endorsement after SOM1.

- After the Work Plan Template was endorsed by the SCCP, the Secretariat worked with economies during intersessional to update the Work Plan.
- At SCCP2, the Chair presented the new Work Plan and noted that all SCCP projects and initiatives have now incorporated the new columns to show how they align with APEC priorities.
- It is noteworthy to highlight that contributing to economies' response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is the top priority in the SCCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025. This priority also supports:
 - The Putrajaya Vision 2040's goal of achieving strong, balanced, sustainable, and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific Region; and
 - The Aotearoa Plan of Action's goal of enabling quality and equitable health access and outcomes for all, such as by responding to and recovering from pandemics and supporting the safe, secure, and efficient operation of health-related supply chains.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

The SCCP contributes to the implementation of the 2022 Bangkok goals through:

- The SCCP's work on green customs, digitalization, and supply chain security and facilitation respond to the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green Economy call upon APEC economies to enhance the sustainability and connectivity of supply chains; share best practices on green public procurement; facilitate trade in environmental goods and services; strengthen efforts to combat illicit logging; and increase cooperation on advancing toward a circular economy.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *"...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members' effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments..."*

The SCCP supports the Multilateral Trading System by:

- Encouraging the sharing of experiences and best practices by member economies on their efforts to support WTO-TFA implementation.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

The SCCP supports regional economic cooperation by:

- Contributing to collaborative, frank and open discussions among customs administrations in the APEC region.
- Committing to collaborative efforts to share experiences and best practices on customs procedures and facilitation.

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

The SCCP supports trade facilitation and connectivity by:

- Supporting initiatives and innovations being implemented to enhance supply chain security and facilitation.
- Encouraging the sharing of experiences and best practices by member economies on their efforts to support WTO-TFA implementation.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

The SCCP supports innovation and digitalization by:

- Supporting initiatives and innovations being implemented to enhance customs procedures.
- Promoting efforts to support digital transformation in customs administrations in the APEC region.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*
- *“...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”*

The SCCP supports **inclusive** growth by:

- Promoting women in customs and trade, with a focus on cross-fora collaboration and supporting the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth.
- The SCCP has also made Inclusiveness and Women in Trade a standing agenda item at all future SCCP Plenary meetings to promote further discussions and actions on this topic. **We strongly encourage other APEC Sub-fora to consider do this as well.**

The SCCP supports **sustainable** growth by advancing:

- Supporting economies to enhance their green customs practices through experience sharing and strategic planning.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) attended the meeting as observers. Both actively participated during the SCCP1 meeting. The WCO provided an update on WCO priorities and served as speaker on a panel discussion on pandemic response and recover. The OCO served as a speaker on a panel discussion on green customs.
- During SCCP1, an economy suggested it would be helpful to invite International Organizations, to attend SCCP2 to speak on current capacity building initiatives to support individual economies with implementation of the WTO-TFA. At SCCP2, the WCO (as well as the United States and Japan) presented on the capacity building they provide to support implementation of the WTO-TFA.
- ABAC attended and provided updates on their priorities and discussed potential areas for collaboration at SCCP2.
- At SCCP2, the United States hosted the APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD), which included participation from the private sector that partner with APEC Customs in the Asia Pacific Region. The theme of this year’s ACBD is “Women in Trade.” Throughout the dialogue, the private sector was invited to share what they are doing to support inclusive trade for women. It also provided an excellent opportunity for the SCCP to hear directly from the private sector on how the public sector, especially customs administrations, can facilitate more inclusive trade and learn from private sector initiatives.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- BMG Convenor attended the SCCP Advancing Gender Equality in APEC Customs Administrations Workshop, on 16-17 February 2023, SOM1. The SCCP welcomes further collaboration with other sub fora, especially on women and inclusiveness.
- During SCCP1, a PPWE representative was invited to speak and discuss possible opportunity to for cross-fora collaboration. In addition, the SCCP Chair and the PPWE Chair held a bilateral meeting during SOM1 and agreed to further explore opportunities to mainstream the topic of Women and Inclusiveness through cross-fora collaboration.
- During SCCP 1, the CTI Chair was invited to speak on current gaps that the CTI needs to address regarding Women and Trade. The CTI Chair proposed hosting a workshop at SOM3 2023 on Inclusiveness and Women. The workshop would include participation from all CTI sub fora groups.
- At SCCP2, the SCCP Chair provided remarks through a video recording to be shared at CTI's Inclusiveness and Women forum. **The SCCP strongly supports CTI's efforts to further discuss and advance the topic of Inclusiveness and Women in Trade.**

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

Read Out of the Second Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP2) Plenary Meeting – Aug. 3-5

Day 1 of the SCCP2 covered SCCP priorities, green customs, IPR sustainability initiative, and digitalization. The SCCP members heard from the American Chemistry Council on current trade facilitation and environmental sustainability efforts. CBP presented an update to the SCCP on the green trade best practices compendium and provided an update on the IPR sustainability initiative. The United States presented on current initiatives to develop a green trade best practices compendium and on the Intellectual Property rights Enforcement Counterfeit Goods/Sustainability Operation 2023 final report.

The final agenda item for day 1 of the meetings was on digitalization. SCCP members received updates from Australia and China on their respective project and initiative. Australia provided an update on their economy project on Border Management Digital Dashboard while China provided an update on their initiative to Strengthen Customs Smart Control Services to improve development of FTPs/FZs. The SCCP Chair moderated a lively discussion on how economies can enhance their current efforts to support digital transformation in customs administration. The panel had representatives from the WCO, Singapore Customs, Chinese Taipei Customs, and Canada Border Services Agency.

Day 2 of the SCCP2 commenced with a presentation from the United States on the initiative Response and Recovery from the Pandemic. The U.S. presented the results of the pandemic recovery survey that was circulated to SCCP members after SOM 1. The survey requested information on economies infrastructure and availability to implement, Legal & Regulatory Framework, Disaster Management Planning , Technology and Procedures to Facilitate Crisis Response Shipments, Supply Chain Resiliency, and Workforce Protections. The draft compendium covers best practices for disaster preparedness and response.

The SCCP discussed Supply Chain Security and Facilitation. Japan and the United States gave readouts on the respective workshops they held earlier in the week. Japan held a workshop for Capacity Building in Self-Declaration of Origin for FTAs/RTAs, this workshop was hybrid and had both in person and online participation. USTR provided an overview of the workshop on Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2).

Following the readouts, Australia and China provided updates. Australia gave a presentation on the measures used to secure cargo containers from tampering. China provided an update on their initiative on collecting economies' good practices on smart customs, including the use of new technology and innovative solutions to improve efficiency of border management. China is currently collecting survey results from APEC economies and will circulate a draft compendium for member review.

SCCP Field Trip: CBP hosted the SCCP members to the Mercer Centralized Examination Station (CES). SCCP members were able to see a demonstration of a Non-Intrusive Inspection and K-9 Detection. CBP provided a joint agency overview and had representatives that answered questions about:

- CBP health and safety seizures
- CBP agriculture interceptions
- Consumer Product Safety Commission seizures
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration seizures
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seizures

The final day of the SCCP2 started with a readout from APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD) Women in Trade event. The United States gave an overview of the day and outcomes that will be tracked into Peru's 2024 host year. CBP's Executive Assistant Commissioner, Annmarie Highsmith of the Office of Trade gave the keynote speech and emphasized that the time for talking about gender and inequity is over, and that now is the time to act. The event had three panels and a group discussion that had representatives from both customs administrations and private industry. The panel discussion's focused on:

- Discussing themes of Trade, Technology, & International Cooperation and how women are leading.
- Exploring how we can support the next generation of women as we look at Women in the Trade Workforce in the 21st Century.
- Identifying how we can broaden the tent for inclusion and bring in more allies, especially men.

Throughout the SCCP agenda, Peru provided brief presentations on the various projects and initiatives they are proposing for the 2024 SCCP Work Plan. Importantly, Peru expressed support for continuing the SCCP's efforts on Inclusiveness and Women in Trade and Green Customs.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Eighteen of 21 APEC economies participated in the meeting (Indonesia, Mexico, and Papua New Guinea were absent). The World Customs Organization (WCO) joined the meeting as observers. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Kristie McKinney served as the Chair of the SCCP.

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- The meeting agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting to ensure all members could provide input to the agenda.
- Economies were invited to take active roles in the meeting, including to participate in two panel discussion.
- The meeting agenda required input from all economies for several agenda items, accompanied by a description of objectives and possible topics for discussion.
- In the agenda, some items included specific questions to economies to encourage them prepare discussion points prior to the start of the meeting.
- At the conclusion of every agenda item, economies were invited to ask questions and provide comments on the topic being discussed.
- Throughout the meeting, economies were strongly encouraged to ask questions of other economies, and the meeting was managed to ensure discussions.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.*
- Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI*

- **Seek CTI's endorsement of the Convenor's Report.**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE (SCSC) CONVENOR'S

SUMMARY REPORT TO CTI3 2023

1. Forum Main Objectives/Deliverables expected for 2023

Please provide a brief list of the forum's 2023 objectives and expected outcomes/deliverables.

- The SCSC's main objectives are to:
 - Reduce technical barriers to trade and enhance market access through standards and conformance
 - Align each economy's standards with international standards
 - Promote good regulatory practices in the preparation, adoption and application of standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures
 - Progress mutual recognition arrangements for conformity assessment within the region
 - Pursue regional cooperation in accordance with international agreements
 - Ensure greater transparency
 - Encourage participation in standards education and awareness programs to build capacity and capability to enhance the competitiveness of businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises.
- To achieve these goals, the SCSC is conducting its normal committee work and implementing several projects that focus on specific areas:
 - SOM 3: Workshop on greenhouse gas measurement issues
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Battery Energy Storage Systems
 - SOM 3: 16th Good Regulatory Practices Conference
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Cybersecurity
 - SOM 3: Workshop on the Circular Economy
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Artificial Intelligence Standards
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Trade Issues and Halal
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Lead in Plumbing
 - SOM 3: Workshop on Plastics Pollution
 - SOM 2: FSCF Workshop on Risk Communication and MRLs
 - SOM 2: FSCF Workshop on Whole Genome Sequencing
- SCSC plans to issue the Blueprint for Advancing GRPs in the APEC Region as one of the key deliverables during SOM3 this year.

2. How the forum's work contribute to APEC and CTI's objectives,

Please provide a brief list of the forum's work under each sub-heading.

a. Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

- The Aotearoa Plan of Action calls on economies to "progress liberalisation of trade in goods by reducing unnecessary barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, and

fostering regulatory reform;” The SCSC focuses on promoting good regulatory practice and the use of international standards go facilitate trade. At SOM 3, the SCSC organized side events related to good regulatory practices and the relationship of standards in certain product specific areas, such as plumbing, halal products, and artificial intelligence.

- The Aotearoa Plan of Action also calls on economies to “cooperate in relevant APEC fora to develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change...” At SOM 3, the SCSC organized workshops on plastic pollution, new battery technologies that can be used in electric vehicles, reducing lead in plumbing, greenhouse gas measurement, and the circular economy.

b. Implementing Leaders or Ministerial mandates from previous years, including the 2022 Bangkok goals

- The Putrajaya Vision “reaffirm[s] our support for agreed upon rules of the WTO.” At SOM 3, the SCSC organized a workshop to strengthen understanding of good regulatory practices, which have a direct relationship to the implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement. This agreement contains disciplines related to regulatory policies. The aim was to deepen understanding of the obligations of the TBT Agreement in order to ensure that regulations are developed in a transparent manner.

c. Support for the Multilateral Trading System

- *“...Growth of international trade flows in the region become more stable and predictable including with increased coverage of WTO rules, through APEC members’ effective and transparent implementation of existing and future commitments...”*

As noted above, the SCSC organized an event on Good Regulatory Practices.

d. Regional Economic Integration

- *“...APEC’s trade and investment environment is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable...”*
- *“...further advance the Bogor Goals and economic integration in the region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda which contributes to high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings...”*

- Although the SCSC does not deal with tariffs, it does have responsibility for standards and technical regulations related to goods. These have a direct connection to trade, since a good that does not meet an economy’s applicable requirements cannot be used in that economy.

- The SCSC works to promote measures that increase transparency of standards and regulatory policy, so that all relevant stakeholders have an opportunity to review measures in draft form and provide comments.
- The SCSC has played a leading role in exploring standards and regulatory policy for new and emerging technologies (e.g., battery energy storage systems, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence).

e. Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

- *“...promote seamless connectivity, resilient supply chains and responsible business conduct, APEC economies will improve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity*

- The SCSC’s projects frequently focus on trade, standards, or regulatory issues in a particular sector. For example, recent work has focused on emerging technologies (e.g., new battery technologies, halal standards, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity). By identifying the standards or regulatory issues that may negatively affect trade, economies can take steps to address them.
- Other projects address issues horizontally. For instance, the SCSC also focuses on good regulatory practices and implementation of the WTO TBT Agreement.

f. Innovation and Digitalisation

- *“...To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, we will foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation.”*
- *“...strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions.”*

- The SCSC works to promote an environment that encourages innovation through the transparent development of standards and technical regulations. Individual projects or workstreams have taken up specific issues related to the effects of digitalization. For example, the SCSC organized workshops at SOM 3 that covered artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.
- Other SCSC projects have covered the new issues raised by emerging technologies (e.g., battery storage systems). The idea is that economies must work together on international standards so that the same product can be sold in multiple economies.

g. Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- *“Advancing inclusive policies, including under the economic drivers of trade & investment, and innovation and digitalisation, to promote sustainable economic growth opportunities and improve quality of life...”*

- “...develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programmes, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth, such as through trade, including APEC’s work on facilitation of trade in environmental goods and services”

- Several APEC projects focus on issues that are directly related to public health, food safety, or environmental protection. The Food Safety Cooperation (FSCF), a sub-forum, works directly on food safety issues.
- SCSC projects on the circular economy, reducing plastics pollution, and lead in plumbing contribute to sustainable growth.
- SCSC works on standardization impacts on women and development of gender-responsive standards contribute to APEC’s inclusive growth agenda. One economy has already submitted a concept note related to the relationship between gender and standards.

3. Planned private sector / stakeholder engagement in 2023

Please provide a list of planned private sector engagement in 2023

- SCSC Meetings include representatives from international standards organizations (ISO, IEC, ASTM), as well as groups of bodies involved in standards development and conformity assessment.
- In addition, the private sector provides speakers and guidance on the development and implementation of individual projects.

4. Planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

Please provide a list of planned cross-fora collaboration in 2023

- The SCSC works with the Economic Committee to implement the workshop on good regulatory practices. SCSC and EC meetings are scheduled so attendees from both meetings can attend the GRP workshop. At SOM 3, the GRP workshop was held on the two days following the SCSC meeting and immediately before the Economic Committee meeting,
- The SCSC Chair is also speaking at a CTI-PPWE workshop on gender and trade to talk about the relationship between gender and standards.

5. Main outcomes from most recent plenary meeting

Please provide in list format

- The SCSC met in person on 8-9 August 2023. Quorum was reached.
- The SCSC also reviewed the individual projects that economies are conducting and shared ideas related to implementation.
- The SCSC also discussed emerging standards issues, such as standards related to new technologies, such as electric vehicles.

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

Please advise how many economies participated in the most recent plenary meeting and indicate efforts to increase participation from members

Quorum was reached (17 economies participated).

7. What is your Forum doing to increase participation from its members?

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

- We have been working to implement additional projects at SOM 3 to increase participation. We have tried to cover a wide range of issues in order to stimulate interest.

8. Decision points needed from CTI

- *Seek CTI's endorsement of the SCSC's Convenor's Report.*

Please add any additional decision points needed from CTI

None.

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Items for Noting – Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting (CTI3) 2023

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
1.	Fostering Greater SME Participation in Global Value Chains – Phase 2: Utilisation of Digital Technologies and Digitalisation CTI 01 2023S	Trade facilitation, connectivity, digitalization and innovation	Australia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This project was endorsed on 3 April 2023. Preparations have started for the upcoming online and in person events to be held later this year. Invitations to APEC economies to nominate participants in the project will be sent out in the coming weeks, together with additional information about the events. The first event is tentatively scheduled in late July to be hosted online. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We encourage APEC economies to nominate at least two SME participants.
2.	APEC Single Window Interoperability Action Plan	Supply Chain Connectivity	Chile, China & Peru	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2021 the technical group comprised of Chile, Peru and Singapore (as pilot participants) and Korea and New Zealand (as observers) met several times to start developing the technical parameters of the pilot. - The participants agreed, as first approach, that the document to exchange in the pilot would be the customs data declaration form. Subsequently they exchanged their own forms, as to familiarize with the design and particularities of the document in each Economy.

¹ For members' ease of reference, a document number from past CTI meetings will be provided

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participants continue to discuss on the best technology to use to interoperate and the standards that will define the pilot like, for example, applicable international regulations or treaties. - Once this analysis is concluded the group will work on a Harmonization Matrix and Service Contracts for the document to be exchanged. - A new set of technical meetings will soon be scheduled for 2022. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil
3.	Initiative “Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in Trade Agreements”	Economic Integration in the Region	Chile	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PO is currently working in the final report of the initiative that we expect to circulate to CTI members after SOM1. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To circulate to CTI members for comments and eventual endorsement the final report of the initiative <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil. CTI members should note that several Economies have expressed interest in a continuation of this discussion at CTI.
4.	Research on practices on building open, secure and resilient supply chain for business	Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation and Innovation	Japan	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan has been working on completing the draft report, gain feedbacks from various economies. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final version, revised based on comments and feedback from economies will be circulated and asked for endorsement intersessionally.

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N.A.
5.	<p>PSU Study "Non-Tariff Measures Affecting Trade in Goods Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions"</p>	Sustainability	Japan	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The final report was endorsed by the CTI on 22 May 2023. The link to the report can be found via this link https://www.apec.org/publications/2023/05/study-on-non-tariff-measures-affecting-trade-in-goods-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
6.	<p>APEC Trade Repository</p>	Updates from Sub-Fora Convenor/ Chair	Philippines	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines provided MAG members the latest APECTR usage report covering the period 1 August 2022 to 15 February 2023. The next usage report will cover the period 16 February to 31 July 2023. - In 2022, the APECTR was updated to reflect changes in the links and new information from respective member economies. The Philippines also uploaded the APECTR with the latest version of the APEC Survey on E-commerce Regulations (led by Singapore). <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nil. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
7.	<p>Study on Strategy to Promote the Utilization of the APEC Trade Repository</p> <p>MAG 01 2021T</p>	Updates from Sub-Fora Convenor/Chair	Indonesia	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the project outputs (draft of study report, infographics and video graphics) have been endorsed by MAG on 09 May 2023. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage Members to use the infographics and video graphics on the stakeholders with their respective platforms to increase the utilization of the APECTR
8.	<p>Exploring interoperability in APEC approaches on Green Finance and Sustainable Investing</p> <p>(endorsed 17 March 2023) 2023/SOM3/CTI3/IS/XX 2023/SOM2/CTI/028</p>	Sustainability	Russian Federation	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposal was endorsed by APEC economies on March 17, 2023. It aims to promote a better understanding of the existing and emerging alignment approaches in the APEC region - A questionnaire was developed and distributed among Members. - Responses were received from eight economies. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary report is to be prepared based on the received responses.
9.	<p>Blueprint 2.0.: Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs</p> <p>2020/SOM1/CTI/033</p>	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	China, Indonesia and United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China, Indonesia, and the United States Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs² for workstream 3 of Blueprint 2.0 was endorsed on 9 March 2020. The Work Plan seeks to help APEC economies to better utilize the TiVA database by undertaking a survey of economies' needs and challenges in developing and utilizing TiVA data; providing capacity building; and assisting APEC economies in developing

² 2020/SOM1/CTI/033

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	2020/CTI-E/IS02 2020/CTI3/IS02			<p>better underlying statistics that goes into TiVA compilation. Phase 1 of the five-year work plan calls for a survey to be conducted to identify the level of understanding TiVA statistics; assess capacity building needs; and identify the type of extended SUTs and supporting data that are needed by each economy. On 9 September 2020, the draft survey was circulated in CTI for comments and endorsement. On 2 December 2020, the survey was circulated to economies for completion and re-circulated on 22 January 2021. Responses were received from 14 economies.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual economies will have engaged with ministries, departments, and agencies that are interested in the use of statistics that are related to global value chains in their work, and will have submitted one (1) consolidated response that reflects the input from the various organizations that were consulted. China, Indonesia, and the United States will circulate a summary of results from the survey and a capacity building plan* will be developed that addresses various needs from APEC economies on how to access the database and how to effectively use and improve the quality the TiVA data for policy analysis. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We ask economies to participate in capacity building activities when scheduled.
10.	APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2), including its extension until the end of 2023	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States hosted the 15th Meeting of the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) on August 1, 2023. Panels included a focus on challenges faced by public and private sector stakeholders and effective strategies to address SCFAP III chokepoints. The event closed with a facilitated discussion, where

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	2020/CTI2/008			<p>there was robust dialogue involving panelist and participants from both government and the private sector. Participants highlighted the benefits of the A2C2 forum that allows APEC to discuss these supply chain issues, with an emphasis on the fact that all of these issues connect and small improvements in one area can greatly impact other aspects of the supply chain as well. We heard of additional initiatives that tie into the SCFAP chokepoints, including electronic certifications that are helping to speed-up agricultural trade, new training programs for MSMEs, and payment digitization for e-commerce shipments that make trade simpler.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on this 2022 meeting, The United States looks forward to hosting the first in person A2C2 meeting at SOM3 this year in Seattle, CA. this will be an opportunity for industry from around the region to continue engagement around themes related to SCFAP3 implementation. We encourage all economies to cast a wide net for industry participation and use the opportunity of the SOM3 meeting to bring in a robust and diverse set of stakeholders into the dialogue. - A meeting summary report will be circulated to the CTI for endorsement. - The United States has circulated a proposal to extend the Terms of Reference of the A2C2 for another four years to the CTI. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States welcomes ideas from economies on ways to support implementation of SCFAP3 utilizing the A2C2. - Economies are requested to endorse the proposed extension of the Terms of Reference of the A2C2.
11.	Study: Policies and Regulatory	Internet and Digital	United States	Current status and progress/update:

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	<p>Frameworks on Modern Digital Economy Issues – Open Government Data</p> <p>CTI 05 2021S</p>	Economy and E-Commerce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A self-funded proposal on open government data was endorsed by economies on May 12, 2021. A study was endorsed in April by the CTI to identify emerging practices across the APEC region on the subject of facilitating access to open government data (OGD). This study is part of a project led by the United States aimed at highlighting emerging practices in the region surrounding OGD. It is hoped that through this stock take and subsequent policy discussions, CTI regulators and other APEC economy officials can gain a better understanding of the various policies and regulatory frameworks on OGD measures to better facilitate ways for companies to make more effective use of data that is growing across the region. As this report shows, OGD mechanisms and initiatives are already well established in every APEC member economy, across all types of organizations, and through many key sectors. - The report was endorsed by the CTI on April 19, 2023. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following endorsement of the study, activities under this project have been completed. - As previewed in the project proposal and as recommended in the completed study, the United States has drafted a set of principles for facilitating access to open government data and plans to circulate this document to CTI economies for endorsement following CTI3. - <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTI members are requested to review and endorse the Principles for Facilitating Access to Open Government Data in the APEC Region when it is circulated.
12.	Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade	Internet and Digital	United States	Current status and progress/update:

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	CTI 04 2023S & CTI 01 2021S	Economy and E-Commerce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A proposal for Digital Trade Policy Dialogues (TPD) was endorsed on February 9, 2022, With TPDs held on April 6, 2022 and in February 2023. The focus of SOM1 discussions were on common approaches to digital trade, exploring emerging policy topics, and highlighting opportunities to increase participation in the digital economy. Sessions focused on building conducive regulatory environments that maximize the flow and impact of data. A summary report from the February 2023 trade policy dialogue was endorsed on August 2. - A subsequent proposal for a Digital TPD in 2023 was endorsed on June 16, 2023. Building off a successful TPD held on the margins of SOM1, the United States implemented an additional in-person digital TPD on the margins of the APEC Third Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM3) in Seattle to further advance these discussions and provide an opportunity for economies and companies to discuss innovations and approaches to emerging issues surrounding digital trade and e-commerce, with a focus on supporting MSMEs. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A summary report from the February 2023 trade policy dialogue was endorsed on August 2. - A summary report from the August 2023 trade policy dialogue will be circulated to CTI members for endorsement. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economies are requested to endorse the summary report. -
13.	<p>Promoting Compostable Bio-Plastics in the Asia Pacific Region</p> <p>CTI 04 2022S</p>	Sustainability	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The self-funded proposal on promoting compostable bio-plastics in the Asia Pacific region was endorsed by economies on April 29, 2022. Chile is a co-sponsor of this work. - This project seeks to strengthen the policy environment in APEC to guide the use of compostable bioplastics as well as provide more

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>clarity for labeling and composability standards, with the aim of reducing plastic pollution in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study was undertaken to provide a comprehensive assessment of the policy frameworks that govern the use and trade of compostable bioplastics. This study involved a survey distributed in September 2022 that gathered economy-level information on the issues related to compostable bioplastics. - During 2023 SOM1, the U.S. hosted a workshop to share and build upon the findings of the study and to showcase regional best practices in regulating compostable bioplastics with a focus on promoting greater compatibility of compostability standards and labeling requirements. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States will circulate a workshop summary report. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
14.	<p>FTAAP Work Program on APEC efforts to address inclusion in trade agreements and trade policy</p> <p>CTI 08 2022S</p>	Economic Integration in the Region	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A self-funded proposal on an FTAAP work program on APEC efforts to address inclusion in trade agreements was endorsed by APEC economies on May 15, 2022. This workstream consists of a primary workshop, a stock-take study, and a follow-on workshop. - Building upon a half-day workshop held on the margins of SOM1 and, the U.S. hosted a one-day workshop on the margins of SOM3, which aimed to promote dialogue and information sharing on experiences and lessons learned to incorporate inclusion aspects in trade agreements. Through these activities, participants learned best practices that help address and reduce trade barriers faced by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); women; indigenous people; and others with untapped economic potential,

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>while simultaneously learning how to apply these practices to enhance their trade agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The stock-take study is currently underway, with preliminary findings reported out during the SOM3 workshop. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work is also underway on the stock-take report, which will map the various efforts of APEC economies to incorporate inclusion aspects in trade agreements. Potential areas of consideration include evaluating the extent of gender (and/or inclusion) impact assessments as well as identifying indicators and processes to measure progress in achieving more inclusive trade agreements both in the context of specific groups as well as various intersections of these groups. - The United States is considering possible follow-on activities based on the outcomes of the SOM3 workshop and the stock take study. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economies are strongly encouraged to review the stock take study and provide feedback when circulated.
15.	<p>FTAAP Work Program on Multi-stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>CTI 06 2022S</p>	Economic Integration in the Region	United States	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This project was endorsed during SOM2 2022. On August 11, 2022, the U.S. circulated a survey to CTI members to stock-take current APEC economy approaches and procedures to undertake multistakeholder engagement in developing trade agreements. - In 2022, under APEC’s FTAAP agenda, the United States launched a work program on strengthening multistakeholder engagement approaches for the development of trade agreements. - The United States conducted an economy-level survey for a more in-depth understanding of the topic in mid-2022. Through this survey, CTI members and other trade stakeholders shared individual experiences and lessons-learned from administering and

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<p>participating in these approaches. The United States appreciates the robust responses to the survey, where 139 respondents from 11 economies responded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United States hosted a half day workshop at SOM1, where participants considered how multistakeholder engagement can help economies pursue trade objectives, how to identify and reach trade stakeholders, and how to mitigate potential obstacles or concerns. - The United States is developing an outcomes report to highlight the landscape of multistakeholder engagement approaches and procedures, along with their resulting outcomes and lessons learned, building from the information shared through the survey and workshop, as well as follow up engagement with APEC economies. Through a comprehensive examination of insights and experiences from both APEC members and non-government stakeholders, this report also suggests initial steps APEC economies could take as reference. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
16.	<p>“Indicators and Policy Practices for Measuring the Progress of Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAP III) 2022-2026” tabled and presented during CTI2 as Doc 2023/SOM2/CTI/017.</p>	Trade Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation and Innovation	Singapore	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <p>The updates made to the revised report consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of indicators from the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (UNTF) for chokepoint 1, among others. While the report specifies the use of OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFI), adding the UNTF indicators would allow for a more comprehensive analysis and provide additional options when beginning the SCFAP review next year.

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addition of an appendix containing a list of the quantitative indicators being used, as well as several boxes to briefly explain these indicators. - Addressing of feedback from a few member economies, including the mention of champion economies in the last chapter of the report based on the discussion from the last CTI meeting. - Editing for grammatical errors and ensuring style consistency. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalization of the report <p>Request to CTI members Members are requested to provide comments by 14 August 2023.</p>
17.	Priorities of cooperation for promoting an inclusive digital economy development in the APEC region	Inclusion and Sustainability	China	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was endorsed by CTI on July 9th, 2023, intersessionally. - The priorities of cooperation has been shared at DESG plenary meeting on Aug 11, 2023. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the priorities of cooperation will be reported through CTI annual report to Minister; <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage Members to prioritize cooperation in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote an inclusive and sustainable digital economy, to help ensure that the benefits of the digital economy growth are more widely shared; ● Use digital means to promote trade facilitation; ● Invest in digital infrastructure to enhance connectivity and bridge the digital divides; ● Conduct technical assistance and capacity building.

No.	Initiative or item ¹	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote participation and empowerment of all groups in the digital economy, and those from rural and remote communities, while also promoting the role of youth; ● Share experiences and best practices among economies, with respect to promoting inclusion in the digital economy; and ● Carry out capacity building initiatives.
18.	<p>Research on Key Areas and Implementation Paths for Deepening APEC</p> <p>Inclusive Trade and Investment Cooperation</p>	Inclusion and Sustainability	China	<p>Current status and progress/update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project was endorsed during SOM 2, 2022. - The research report has been drafted and circulated soon for the comments. - The research report is being modified now to seek for the consensus. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The workshop will be held in 2024. The preparation is in the process. - The revised research report will be circulated soon for the endorsement. <p>Request to CTI members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage Members to support the project as usual and provide comments and inputs to the research report. - Encourage members to actively participate in the workshop.

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