

JOINT ACTIVITIES OF THE HWG AND LSIF THAT SUPPORT HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE

- A. The HWG and LSIF welcomed the exploratory dialogues held in Japan and Thailand and encouraged expressions of interest from additional economies as well as utilization of the *APEC Checklist of Enablers for Alternative Health Financing* to help promote multi-sectoral engagement and partnership in the health financing sector. In parallel, the HWG recognized the important role (UHC) plays in promoting human health and well-being, sustainable economic growth, inclusive social development, and poverty reduction.
- B. The HWG and LSIF noted key areas of work such as promoting trade, health security, and inclusive growth and sustainable development, that support the goals of preparing for the impacts of an aging population, promoting the health and well-being of people in the Asia-Pacific region, and consequentially, creating healthy economies.

Critical Regional Health Challenges

- C. **Childhood Obesity:** The HWG recognized the importance of addressing childhood obesity in APEC economies as overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and develop non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, at a younger age.
- D. **Mental Health:** The HWG and LSIF recognized the importance of promoting positive mental health and well-being, increasing access to comprehensive mental health services, and implementing upstream interventions for the prevention and early detection of mental disorders at all stages of the life course.
- E. **Tuberculosis:** The HWG and LSIF recognized tuberculosis (TB) – especially multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB including extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB – as a major public health concern and a serious threat to global health and economic security. HLM9 encouraged APEC economies to prioritize multi-sectoral actions for rapid methods of diagnostics and treatment of TB, including latent TB, MDR-TB, and XDR-TB, especially in immuno-compromised individuals and in “last mile” settings. APEC economies were also encouraged to prioritize increasing domestic capacity for multidisciplinary TB research, including the development of new tools for surveillance, diagnosis and treatment of TB (particularly drug-resistant TB). HLM9 welcomed the continued implementation of the APEC End Tuberculosis Collaboration Framework and recommitted to end the TB epidemic in the Asia-Pacific by 2030.

Critical Systems and Innovation Challenges

- F. **Enabling Life Sciences Innovation:** The LSIF called for greater cross-ministerial and multi-sectoral collaboration to advance medical life sciences innovation. APEC economies recognize that participation in the global medical life sciences ecosystem can reap

significant benefits in terms of enhanced economic and health outcomes and that it can be leveraged as a springboard to drive broader innovation and investment across the economy.

- G. **Digital Health:** The HWG and LSIF recognized the potential for technology to positively change all aspects of the healthcare sector and create a new era of digital health, where data analytics, mobile applications, telemedicine, and other technologies can prevent disease, help patients monitor and manage NCDs, lower the cost of healthcare delivery, and make therapies more tailored to individual needs. The HWG and LSIF welcomed work in APEC to support policy and regulatory environment development, as well as industry standards, that can enable digital health innovation while protecting patient privacy and ensuring product security.
- H. **Antimicrobial Resistance:** The HWG and LSIF recognized that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a global problem, which, if left unchecked, will pose a significant public health challenge and burden to healthcare systems and economies. The HWG and LSIF support a multi-sectoral “one-health” approach to addressing AMR that consists of infection prevention and control, including vaccination across the life course, surveillance, effective stewardship, manufacturing, multi-stakeholder partnerships, enhanced regulatory frameworks and incentives and new business models to support R&D and a sustainable marketplace. HLM9 welcomes the work of the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG), and report of the Secretary General of the United Nations following up on the political declaration of the UN General Assembly on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- I. **Rare diseases:** The LSIF recognized that the goals of the Healthy Asia Pacific (*HAP*) 2020 *Initiative* cannot be achieved unless APEC economies meet the needs of people living with rare diseases and their caregivers. The LSIF encouraged continued implementation of the *APEC Action Plan on Rare Diseases*, taking into account local context and public healthcare policies of individual member economies, through activities led by the LSIF Rare Disease Network.
- J. **Blood and Blood Products:** APEC economies reaffirmed the importance of ensuring availability and timely access to quality, safe, and effective blood and blood components. The LSIF welcomed the white paper on raising and converging standards for blood through screening and processing centers of excellence, and efforts to address barriers to the provision of plasma-derived medicinal products.
- K. **Quality Medicines:** The LSIF welcomed continued work to disseminate solutions, standards, and best practices to reduce risk in the medical product upstream ingredient quality supply chain, and the downstream supply chain through better oversight practices on Internet sales.

- L. **Regulatory convergence:** The LSIF recognized the critical role that strong, efficient, and harmonized regulatory systems play in improving health; and congratulated the LSIF and its Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) on marking a decade of work promoting regulatory convergence of pharmaceuticals and medical devices in the region. The LSIF is now working on the next iteration of a regional vision for regulatory convergence of medical products in APEC.