



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Session I

Report by Policy Partnership on Food Security Chair to Ministers

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: PPFS Chair



**Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security
27 October 2020**



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Economic Cooperation**



**APEC 2020
MALAYSIA**

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Summary

- PPFS members met virtually on 15th October 2020 for 16th Policy Partnership on Food Security.
- The economies noted the Policy Brief on Food Security Response Measures to COVID-19 by the APEC Policy Support Unit.
- The economies took note on the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 that caused major disruption to food production and distribution, resulting in severe bottlenecks along the entire food supply chain.
- The economies acknowledged the measures undertaken in addressing the challenges and the importance to remain vigilant and proactive in order to build greater resiliency in sustainable food systems.



Summary

- The economies welcomed a collaborative and concerted effort to pursue initiatives to keep food trade open, enhance connectivity and facilitate business by easing barriers to trade, and provide financial assistance for the affected groups and food producers.
- The economies acknowledged the critical role of the private sectors in improving food security and the importance of public-private partnerships.
- The economies took note that the food supply chain can be strengthened by adopting digital technology and through innovation.
- The economies encouraged to undertake necessary measures to assist affected actors of the food system and vulnerable groups for the continuity of the food supply chain.



Recommendation to Ministers

- Implementing temporary, proportionate and targeted measures, consistent with WTO rules, to assist actors along the food supply chain and emphasizing on food nutrition and food safety;
- Promoting public-private partnerships to improve food security towards food system resilience;
- Pursuing initiatives to keep food trade open, facilitate connectivity, and expedite customs clearance of food and agricultural products, investment in infrastructures and adoption of digital technologies; and
- Recognizing that food trade is an essential component of food security and avoiding protectionist measures that are not based on evidence and scientific risk assessment.

