



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2022/SOM1/SCE/IS01

Agenda Item: -

**Emergency Preparedness Working Group Terms of
Reference 2022 – 2025 (Endorsed Intersessionally,
11 November 2021)**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: EPWG Chair



**First SOM Steering Committee on
Economic and Technical Cooperation
Meeting
23 February 2022**

APEC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKING GROUP (EPWG) TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Background

An APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) was established by Senior Officials in 2005 to coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness within APEC. In February 2010, recognising the continued importance of TFEP's work, the Senior Officials Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) elevated the TFEP to a permanent Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG).

Goal

The goal of EPWG is to promote and enhance disaster risk reduction, preparedness for response and recovery, and resilience of the economies and societies in the Asia Pacific region in view of the increasing frequency, scope, and intensity of disasters. Understanding that the effects of hazards are dependent on human activity, EPWG will foster cooperation among APEC economies and strengthen capacity building for a proactive approach on disaster risk reduction and resilience-building.

By enhancing resilience, EPWG will help achieve the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 particularly in *"promoting economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and disasters for a sustainable planet"* (Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth pillar).

EPWG will support and contribute to the effective implementation and appropriation of APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and work to achieve the specific collaborations and outcomes stated in its Annexes.

EPWG will support the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to create resilience.

Objectives

In accordance with its goals and consistent with the overall APEC missions, the EPWG will actively pursue the following objectives:

- To develop capacity and capability in the region through APEC projects and other cooperative means so that APEC member economies can better mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.
- To improve intra-APEC communication, coordination, collaboration, and cooperation on integrating best practices in emergency management, disaster risk reduction, and on how to reduce the economic and social costs of disasters by fostering synergies and avoiding redundancies.

- To implement the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework with greater collaboration as stated in Annex D - “Areas for Collaboration.”
- To engage APEC economies in a more integrated partnership by strengthening joint actions that enhance resilience to disasters and climate change to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals particularly Goal 11 - “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”
- To engage actively in support of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 including Global Target (c) – “Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.”

Structure and Administration

- The Group will be guided by Leaders’ and Ministers’ directives and the objectives set out above.
- The Group’s membership shall comprise representatives from all member economies. These representatives shall include officials responsible for disaster management.
- The Group will meet once a year, either in physical or virtual format, unless it decides otherwise. Meetings will be arranged so as to minimize costs and maximize member participation. The group will conduct inter-sessional work through electronic means.
- The Group will select two Co-Chairs for a two-year term, on a rotation basis in accordance with the *Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Taskforces*. A member economy should not serve more than one term as EPWG Co-Chair unless otherwise agreed by EPWG members. If a second term is agreed then no member economy should serve more than two consecutive two-year terms.
- The Group may invite non-members, including representatives of non-member economies, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to participate in EPWG meetings in accordance with *the APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members*.

Review and Reporting Requirements

- The Group will periodically review its activities and operations. In addition, the group will be assessed every four years by the SCE.
- The Group will report annually through the SCE Fora Report or as requested by SOM.

Quorum:

- Quorum for EPWG meetings constitutes attendees from 14 member economies, by virtual or physical attendance. Decisions can be made if quorum and consensus are reached. If the quorum is not reached, the meeting may continue, but decisions must be put to the full membership for consideration.
- Should the EPWG fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it will be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist.

Sunset clause

- The EPWG's current term is 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025. At the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of EPWG and its TOR shall be reviewed by EPWG and SCE, and a recommendation on renewal shall be put to Senior Officials for approval. The EPWG will cease to exist upon the expiration of this Terms of Reference unless renewal is explicitly approved by Senior Officials.