

Non-paper on Proposed Principles for Achieving Food Security and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region

This non-paper outlines key elements for initiating a discussion on a proposed Principles for Achieving Food Security and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region Document (Principles Document). This non-paper also provides a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for consideration by the APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to guide plenary discussion of the proposed Principles Document. (Attachment 1)

Purpose:

We, as members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), have agreed that an open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable, and resilient APEC food system can be instituted to ensure access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food, as described in the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (Roadmap). The Roadmap and associated Implementation Plan identify important sustainability targets and specific actions necessary to build climate-resilient agri-food systems, which will collectively move the region towards strengthening regional food security by 2030. Thinking into and beyond 2030, APEC economies are committed to central principles that support sustainable, resilient agriculture and food systems.

In keeping with the U.S. host theme of *Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All* and, more specifically, the agricultural sub-theme of *Together Achieving Sustainable, Equitable, and Resilient Agri-Food Systems*, the United States proposes the development of a high-level deliverable in the form of a Principles Document. The proposed document would represent the APEC community's commitment to a common set of principles that can aid member economies in developing resilient agri-food systems and guide regional cooperation. The Principles Document would support and help drive regional conversations about sustainable development, economic security, environmental commitments, and trade through the agricultural and food lens as APEC collectively moves towards enhancing regional food security.

The proposed Principles Document would be separate but complementary to the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, undergirding the associated actions and guiding future activities. Building off the momentum generated throughout 2021 and 2022—and shifting into a “year of action” regarding our commitments—it is important to acknowledge and solidify our understanding of the principles that facilitate and promote sustainable agriculture and food security.

These shared principles include, but are not limited to:

- context-specific solutions;
- risk- and science-based policies and decision-making;
- sustainable productivity along economic, social, and environmental dimensions;
- transparent, evidence-based claims about the sustainability of agri-food systems;
- collaborative approaches that enhance multilateralism; and
- supporting rules-based trading systems.

Background:

New Zealand, as the 2021 PPFS Chair, developed and achieved consensus on the Roadmap, which outlines six key action areas of development for achieving food security in the APEC region by 2030: Digitalization and Innovation, Productivity, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Public-Private Partnership, and Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time based goals (SMART) Goals. The Roadmap was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including APEC policymakers, private sector representatives, APEC sub fora and multilateral organizations, research and academic institutions, and NGOs. The Roadmap was endorsed at the Food Security Ministerial Meeting in August 2021. (Attachment 2)

Thailand, as the 2022 PPFS Chair, developed the Implementation Plan to the Roadmap as a strategic plan for APEC Member Economies to achieve the Roadmap goals. Member economies assumed leadership for identifying and developing different activities under each Roadmap action area alongside targeted timelines for undertaking and completing them. (Attachment 3)

Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for discussion and development of the proposed Principles for Achieving Food Security and Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region Document.

Background:

The Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was established in 2011 as a public-private sector dialogue charged with considering Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) matters related to food security. In 2014, the PPFS endorsed a 10-year guidance document titled APEC's Food Security Roadmap Towards 2022. In 2021 as APEC host and PPFS Chair, New Zealand developed the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (Roadmap), which was endorsed by APEC Ministers responsible for food security.

In the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC Leaders committed to building “an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040”. Specifically in relation to food security, the Putrajaya Vision set “Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth” as one of the three drivers and under the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA), it states, inter alia, economies will “ensure lasting food security, food safety and improved nutrition for all, as well as reducing food waste and loss in the region by promoting agricultural and food trade, agricultural sustainability and innovation, and implementing the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030” as one of the collective actions.

Through the Roadmap, APEC economies have agreed that an open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable, and resilient APEC food system can be instituted to ensure access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food.

The Roadmap outlines 6 key action areas: Digitalization and Innovation, Productivity, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Public Private Partnerships, and SMART Goals and the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 implementation Plan.

The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) was developed by Thailand and endorsed by APEC Ministers responsible for food security in 2022. The Implementation Plan outlines concrete action areas led by member economies in each key action area of the Roadmap. The actions can be undertaken at both individual economy and collective regional levels.

The Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, adopted at the 2022 APEC Leaders' meeting, further commits the APEC community to advancing its sustainability objectives in a bold, responsive, and comprehensive manner to address the heightened economic and environmental challenges and disruptions facing the region, and to building on our commitments in the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the actions set out in the APA. The BCG calls on the APEC community to harness existing APEC targets and workstreams to further support global efforts to comprehensively address environmental challenges, including promoting sustainable, resilient, productive, and inclusive food systems and agricultural practices. Achieving food security and nutrition, reducing food loss and waste, including through encouraging environmentally-friendly policies and

minimizing environmentally-harmful ones, conserving agrobiodiversity, and enhancing the use of agricultural biotechnology, digitalization, and other innovative approaches are key components identified in the BCG.

Purpose:

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In keeping with the U.S. host theme of *Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All* and, more specifically, the agricultural sub-theme of *Together Achieving Sustainable, Equitable, and Resilient Agri-Food Systems*, the United States proposes the development of a high-level deliverable in the form of a Principles Document. The proposed document would represent the APEC community's commitment to a common set of principles that can aid member economies in developing resilient agri-food systems and guide regional cooperation. The Principles Document would support and help drive regional conversations about sustainable development, economic security, environmental commitments, and trade through the agricultural and food lens as APEC collectively moves towards enhancing regional food security.

The proposed deliverable would be separate but complementary to the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, undergirding the associated actions and guiding future activities. Building off the momentum generated throughout 2021 and 2022—and shifting into a “year of action” regarding our commitments—it is important to acknowledge and solidify our understanding of principles to facilitating and promoting sustainable agriculture and food security.

Objectives:

The proposed Principles Document will identify and articulate shared APEC views that underlie our approach to sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security.

These shared views include but are not limited to:

- context-specific solutions
- risk- and science-based policies and decision making
- sustainable productivity along economic, social, and environmental dimensions
- transparent, evidence-based claims about the sustainability of agri-food systems
- collaborative approaches that enhance multilateralism
- supporting rules-based trading systems

Development:

The discussion on the development of the Principles Document will be led by PPFS and initiated during SOM1 on Day 2 of the PPFS plenary session. The economies will be asked to consider, comment on, and endorse the proposed terms of reference, with the United States moderating the discussion.

Following the discussions moderated at the PPFS plenary, the United States will use the input collected to develop a zero draft of a Principles Document for distribution and review by PPFS member economy representatives. This will be followed by the formation of a drafting working group that will undertake a series of virtual review cycles prior to SOM3.

The United States proposes a holistic development approach that would enable review and comment from members from interested APEC fora and sub-fora that are directly and tangentially related to agri-food systems that underpin food security. These include, but are not limited to, APEC's Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), Sub Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG), and the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). As these stakeholders were instrumental in the development of the Roadmap and Implementation Plan, their insight and contribution to the Principles Document is equally important.

PPFS will finalize the Principles Document at the SOM3 PPFS Plenary and then present the Principles Document at the PPFS SOM3 Joint Meeting with ATCWG, HLPDAB, SCSC, EGILAT, and OFWG. It will then be presented to the 2023 Food Security Ministerial during SOM3 for endorsement.

Terms:

The 2023 PPFS Membership

Chair: United States

Vice Chair: Thailand, Peru, and ABAC

Private Sector: Private sector representatives, including from ABAC, who will be invited to share their perspectives.

APEC Sub fora and International Organizations: The Chair of the PPFS, in consultation with the PPFS Vice Chairs and the PPFS members may invite the ATCWG, HLPDAB, OFWG, SCSC and other related APEC sub-fora, as well as other international organizations, to provide suggestions and recommendations on the development of the Principles Document.

Drafting group: Members of the drafting group will be comprised of up to two representatives per member economy for PPFS. In addition, the PPFS Chair will invite economies to nominate

one individual from the public and one individual from the private sector or ABAC to help compose the small working group. The PPFS delegates to the drafting group may invite representatives from related APEC sub-fora to participate in their respective member economy's delegation.

The zero draft of the Document will be distributed for consultation with PPFS member economies and ABAC in March of 2023 and the first draft by April of 2023. The timeline for development of the Principles Document is outlined below.

Timeline:

Date	Event	Action
15 February 2023	SOM1 PPFS Plenary Meeting Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the proposed PPFS 2023 Work Plan.
19 February 2023	SOM1 PPFS Plenary Meeting Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and discussion of a possible Principles Document and its Terms of Reference. • Seek endorsement of the Work Plan and the Terms of Reference for the Principles Document.
March 2023	1 st Virtual Principles Document Drafting Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. will draft and distribute Zero Draft of a possible Principles Document and related APEC fora and sub-fora, and ABAC. • Form Drafting Group experts nominated by APEC economies. • Hold virtual Drafting Group discussion of Zero Draft.
April 2023	Circulation of 1 st Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 1st Draft to PPFS and related APEC fora, sub-fora, and ABAC. • Comments due.
May 2023	2 nd Virtual Principles Document Drafting Group Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 2nd Draft to PPFS and related APEC fora, sub-fora, and ABAC. • Hold virtual Drafting Group discussion of 2nd Draft by.

June 2023	Circulation of 3 rd Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 3rd Draft to PPFS and related APEC fora, sub-fora, and ABAC. • Comments due. • If necessary, Drafting Group virtual discussion of 3rd Draft.
July 2023	Circulation of 4 th Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute 4th Draft to PPFS and related APEC fora, sub-fora, and ABAC.
August 2023	SOM3 PPFS Plenary Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of 4th Draft. • PPFS consensus on final draft text.
August 2023	Joint Meeting of PPFS, OFWG, ATCWG, and HLPDAB, SCSC, and EGILAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present final version of Document.
August 2023	Food Security Ministerial Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the final version at Ministerial.

Attachment 2 - The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030

New Zealand, 2021

An open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient APEC food system that ensures people always have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

Introduction

1. As APEC economies, we recognise a well-functioning food system is critical to our people's health and wellbeing and to the success of our economies.
2. As a group, we are committed to helping each other achieve food security; growing our productivity and levels of economic development; reducing our impact on the environment and including all our people regardless of gender, ethnicity or age.
3. In 2020, APEC economic leaders endorsed the Putrajaya Vision 2040, committing to delivering an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (Roadmap 2030) will align with the Putrajaya Vision and promote cooperation among member economies to create a sustained and resilient recovery from the pandemic.

The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030

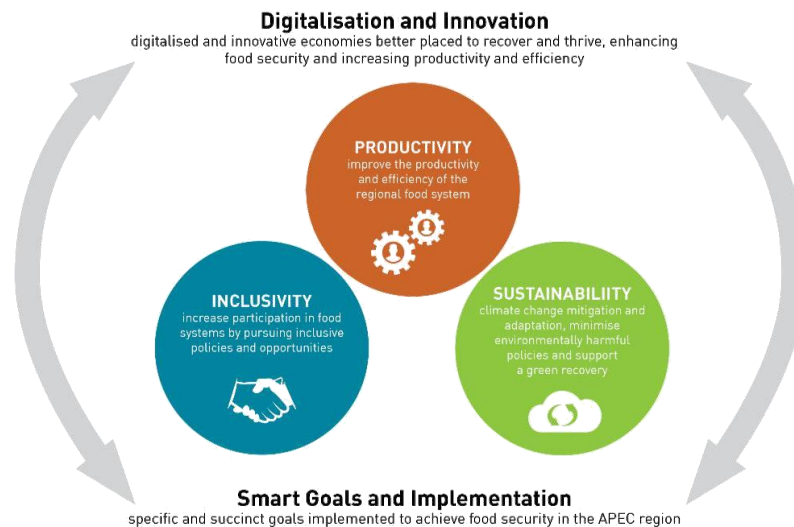
4. The principles of Roadmap 2030 build on APEC food security work to date, including the original 2010 Niigata Declaration made by Ministers responsible for Food Security and the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020. The Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), in partnership with ABAC, lead APEC's work on food security in collaboration with APEC fora and sub fora. APEC recognises the need for a whole of systems approach along the agri-food value chain, and that all areas are interdependent and need to be enabled to work together to deliver food security under the Roadmap 2030 framework and in the key action areas.

5. To this end, PPFS will continue to strengthen coordination with and work with all relevant APEC sub-fora in addressing the goals of APEC's work on food security in the region, consistent with APEC's guidelines for cross-fora collaboration.

6. Roadmap 2030 does not purport to represent all the actions necessary for the APEC region to achieve food security by 2030. All of us are active in many different organisations, domestic and international, that concern the food system. Roadmap 2030 represents the actions we believe APEC is uniquely placed to take to contribute to our individual economies' goals and our collective regional success.

Public-Private Partnership for Food Security

leveraging the public – private sector partnership to achieve food security in the APEC region



Key Action Areas

Digitalisation and Innovation

7. The Covid-19 Pandemic accelerated digital transformation, highlighting the ability of an innovative digitally enabled economy to better recover and thrive. In addition, digitalisation and other innovative technologies have the potential to transform the food system and enhance food security by:

- increasing productivity and efficiency;
- minimising food loss and waste;
- mitigating and adapting to climate change; and
- reducing costs and facilitating food trade.

8. To further progress work in digitalisation and innovation, economies have committed to making the APEC region a world leader for adoption of innovation and interoperability in the food system, including through building a Food Security Digital Plan which will *inter alia* incorporate the following actions:

a) By the end of 2022, appraise existing work by other APEC fora and sub fora which promotes wider adoption of Global Data Standards for food and agriculture products and other interoperable digital technologies to enhance production-related technologies, supply chain traceability, accessible innovative financial technologies and interoperable digital documentation, including for trade; and identify areas which should be prioritised for further work to achieve region-wide interoperability through the food value chain, with a review of progress by 2025.

- b) Identify and actively encourage government schemes which provide access to and promote introduction of innovative products and technologies, including support for the research and development of emerging technologies, for example smart agriculture, and share experiences of successful approaches taken in other economies and international bodies.
- c) Promote and encourage increased levels of access to broadband digital infrastructure in underserved areas through necessary investment and structural reforms.
- d) Economies to make available and deliver training sessions and/or workshops to improve food system related digital literacy and capability for underserved communities, leveraging existing programmes where possible.
- e) From 2022, via the APIP database¹, voluntarily share information and best practice on digitalisation and innovation in the food supply chain.
- f) Promote public-private investment to facilitate the use of innovative technologies for the whole food value chain, including those which improve efficiency and sustainability, and increase investment in micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs), including start-ups, and small scale producers in the agri-food and fisheries sectors.
- g) Modernise food storage facilities and logistics capacity, through increased exchange and cooperation among government agencies, businesses and institutes focusing on post-harvest management and technologies.

Productivity

- 9. To create inclusive and sustainable growth in the APEC region, the productivity and efficiency of the regional food system must be improved.
- 10. PPFS acknowledges the work of other international fora (including other APEC fora) whose work addresses supply chain impediments and distortions, and improves access to domestic and international markets; particularly where this work boosts the productivity and incomes of small scale producers in the agri-food and fisheries sectors and alleviates poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
- 11. We recognise that international trade in food and agriculture is critical in achieving global food security and ensuring adequate nutrition. We also recognise that avoiding disruption of food supply chains is critical to ensure stable access to food. We highlight the importance of an open, fair, transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system underpinned by World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, to enhance market predictability, increase business confidence and allow trade to flow so as to contribute to food security and nutrition.
- 12. However, there are actions PPFS and other relevant APEC fora and sub-fora will take to address productivity, including, but not limited to the following actions:

- a) Member economies to explore the implementation of best examples of systems which see perishable goods released through international borders in a timely manner, where this will reduce food loss and waste and remove extra costs for business.
- b) Acknowledging the positive impact on food security of consistency in food trade standards, in appropriate fora member economies will assess best practice case

¹ Asia Pacific Information Platform on Food Security

studies of increasing food security through implementation of agreed science-based international standards, guidelines and recommendations.

- c) Member economies to have due regard for the APEC Cross Cutting Principles on Non-Tariff Measures, agreed by APEC Ministers in 2018, in designing and implementing non-tariff measures relating to food.
- d) Commission a review of progress in the food system against the Bogor Goals, and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including in goods, services and investment.
- e) Identify strategies for boosting productivity in MSMEs and small-scale producers in the agri-food and fisheries sectors and share experiences and lessons learned.
- f) Work closely with private sector actors in the food system to identify policy barriers which impede progress on hunger and malnutrition, with particular focus on:
- Ending all forms of malnutrition, and especially reducing stunting and wasting among children under five years;
 - Increasing productivity and improving the livelihoods of small-scale food producers, especially where APEC has a comparative advantage in systems that maintain ecosystems and improve land and soil quality;
 - Increasing access to markets both domestic and international; and
 - Reducing food loss and waste.

Inclusivity

13. A well-functioning food system and the inclusion of MSMEs, women, youth, indigenous communities, and the elderly in the sector is integral to maximising our resources, improving rural, remote and coastal livelihoods and unlocking the full potential of the APEC region.

14. We are committed to inclusivity and, in addition to the actions below, we also undertake to promote diversity by encouraging balanced participation in all PPFS meetings, workshops, concept notes and associated APEC documentation, and panel discussions and forums.

- a) Implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019-2030) in PPFS work.
- b) Economies to share knowledge and experiences and make recommendations to PPFS on how APEC can unlock the economic potential of diverse groups of people, including Indigenous peoples, within the APEC food system.
- c) Provide dialogue opportunities to improve economy knowledge of obstacles inhibiting youth participation in the food system and ability to facilitate the collective learnings of youth, experts and policy makers across the APEC region.
- d) Promote greater agri-food financial inclusion by sharing information and successes on lending schemes for business establishment and development, including investment and e-payments; and perform an assessment of existing barriers for financial inclusion by the end of 2022.

Sustainability

15. Sustainability must be at the heart of a collaborative and holistic approach to the food system. We commit to working together to minimise the food system's harmful impact on the environment.

16. While we are a diverse group of economies, we are committed collectively to improving the APEC food system's environmental performance, including by sharing research and practical strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; adapt to climate change; increase sustainable production (optimising resource use and protecting land and water), processing and consumption; and to reduce food loss and waste.

17. To assist economies in achieving their individual sustainability goals, economies have committed to the following actions:

- a) Facilitate information sharing and utilise developments/best practices on an ongoing voluntary basis, to address biodiversity and natural resources depletion, soil use, and water source/supply issues.
- b) Support each other to improve inventories of greenhouse gas emissions from the food system.
- c) Share best practice on encouraging responsible investment into environmentally friendly, nature positive and sustainable food production, processing and distribution.
- d) Acknowledging that economies use a range of different policy approaches in the food sector, we agree to identify and promote approaches that would support good environmental outcomes while also

avoiding and/or minimising market distortion, including by drawing on work from relevant international organisations.

e) Provide capacity building and best practice sharing workshops to support member economies' individual and collective efforts to align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 12.3 "by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses," with specific indicators based on each economy's respective situation such as measured by the UN/FAO Food Waste Index (FWI) or other appropriate index. And promote public-private investment in infrastructure and cold chain to reduce the current levels of food loss and waste and review progress in this area by 2025.

Public Private Partnerships

18. APEC member economies are committed to working in partnership with the private sector, led by ABAC, to shape and enhance the functioning of the APEC food system, recognising the central role of the private sector throughout the food value chain in food production and processing, distribution, trade and investment and have committed to the following actions:

- a) Promote regular dialogue between public and private sectors within each economy to advise PPFs on how to enhance the business environment for the food sector.
- b) Review the functioning and terms of reference of the PPFs to ensure a meaningful partnership with ABAC and the broader private sector, which better reflects the priorities and interests of the private sector and seeks to optimise their involvement.

SMART Goals and Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 Implementation

19. Roadmap 2030 offers a path towards providing accessible, available, nutritious and sufficient food for all in the APEC region and will be implemented with appropriate prioritisation and regard to the identified Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time based (SMART) goals. To achieve this, economies have undertaken to:

- a) Hold workshops by early 2022 to facilitate the transition from Roadmap 2030 to the implementation plan, including developing specific "next steps" on each of the identified actions
- b) For each action area, develop, in 2022, an implementation plan which identifies specific voluntary actions or initiatives member economies may enact to deliver on Roadmap 2030, reflecting also prioritisation that will achieve the most meaningful outcomes for producers and businesses in the food sector.

c)
2030.

Perform review of actions in 2025 (and progress) and a review of the roadmap in

Attachment 3 - The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (21 pages)

[https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/ppfs/2022/endorsed-implementation-plan-of-food-security-roadmap-2030---2-sep-2022-\(clean\).pdf?sfvrsn=9a096df2_2](https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/ppfs/2022/endorsed-implementation-plan-of-food-security-roadmap-2030---2-sep-2022-(clean).pdf?sfvrsn=9a096df2_2)