



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/CSOM/015

**Policy Partnership on Food Security Terms of
Reference (Intersessionally Endorsed, 5 November
2021)**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: PPFS Chair



**Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting
5 November 2021**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)

Background

In 2009, ABAC issued a strategic framework for food security which, among its recommendations, called for the establishment of a high-level food dialogue among governments, the private sector and research/academic sector. This would serve as a mechanism to ensure the policy and technical cooperation necessary to achieve the holistic approach needed to realise the ABAC proposal which had been endorsed by APEC leaders in 1999 for a unified APEC food system.

In 2010, APEC Food Security Ministers declared consultation with relevant stakeholders to be critical to making sustained progress towards food security goals and instructed Senior Officials to integrate ABAC into APEC's food security efforts in a more substantive manner.

In 2011, APEC Senior Officials agreed to create a Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to strengthen public-private cooperation.

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 (endorsed in 2021) aligns with the Putrajaya Vision and promotes cooperation among member economies to create a sustained and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Membership

Government

Given the complexity and cross-cutting nature of food security, each APEC member government is encouraged to make available high-level representatives to PPFS who can represent a consensus from multiple agencies/ministries. Economies are encouraged to promote continuity to the extent possible among their government-level representatives to foster coherence in PPFS workstreams.

Private Sector

Recognising that active participation by both the private sector and APEC member economies is necessary to fully realise an effective partnership, each APEC member government may nominate private sector representatives to become members of PPFS and will encourage their private sector to participate.

ABAC may also nominate private sector representatives. These representatives shall be endorsed by PPFS in consultation with ABAC. Private sector participants may represent agri-food-related industry bodies, farmers' groups or individual companies and should strive to see that their views represent consensus within the industry. Economies are encouraged to promote the active engagement of the private sector in PPFS, and continuity of private-sector representation to the extent possible, in order to foster coherence in work undertaken towards agreed PPFS objectives.

APEC Sub fora and Multilateral Organizations

The Chair of PPFS, in consultation with the PPFS members, may invite the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) and other relevant APEC sub fora, as well as

the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Trade Organization and other groups to send observers/advisers to PPFS.

Research and Academic Institutions, NGOs

The Chair of PPFS, in consultation with PPFS members, may invite institutions to nominate observers/advisers to the PPFS when they believe said institutions will add value to the PPFS process.

Leadership

PPFS will be Chaired by a government representative of the current host economy. Government representatives of previous and future host economies will serve as Vice-Chairs in a troika arrangement.

The private sector representatives to PPFS will nominate a principal advisor to serve as a Vice-Chair along with the government representatives. The selection process for the principal advisor will be an open and transparent process, conducted by ABAC and approved by APEC Senior Officials.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs, including the private sector principal advisor/Vice-Chair will constitute the PPFS management council. The management council will convene planning meetings for all interested APEC economies, ABAC and other private sector representatives to develop the agenda for the PPFS plenary meeting. The management council may invite multilateral organisations and academic representatives to participate.

Objectives

APEC's approach to food security reflects member economies' commitment to facilitation of investment, trade and markets and sustainable development of the agricultural sector as outlined in the Niigata Declaration of 2010, the 2012 Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security, the 2014 Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security and the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020, and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

The principles of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 build on APEC food security work to date recognising the need for a whole of systems approach along the agri-food value chain. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 recognises the importance of digitalisation and innovation, productivity, inclusivity, and sustainability in achieving food security in the APEC region in the following respects:

- Digitalisation and other innovative technologies have the potential to transform the food systems and enhance food security by increasing productivity and efficiency; reducing food loss and waste; mitigating and adapting to climate change; reducing costs and facilitating food trade.
- To create inclusive and sustainable growth in the APEC region, member economies recognise the productivity and efficiency of the regional food system must be improved. Work which addresses supply chain impediments and distortions and improves access to domestic and international markets: promoting an open, fair, transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system; 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, is a key productivity objective for PPFS.
- PPFS is committed to diversity and inclusivity and recognises a well-functioning, food system, inclusive of MSMEs, women, youth, indigenous communities and the elderly are integral to maximising our resources, improving rural, remote and coastal livelihoods and unlocking the full potential of the APEC region.

- PPFS has also committed to working together to minimise the food system's harmful impact on the environment, acknowledging sustainability is at the heart of a collaborative and holistic approach to the food system and this collaboration will lead to an improvement in APEC's food system environmental performance.

The long-term goal of PPFS shall, as always, be the attainment and maintenance of food systems structure sufficient to provide lasting food security to APEC member economies. PPFS will look to further define the elements of food systems structure as part of its objectives and ensure:

“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”¹

Scope

PPFS is the primary mechanism APEC uses to address food security policy concerns and oversees all issues related to, and affecting, food security.

These would include the overall objectives of PPFS and the complementary capacity building work occurring in APEC working groups such as the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group and Ocean and Fisheries Working Group, as well as the work undertaken by the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance, Food Safety Cooperation Forum so that efforts are complementary and not duplicative. PPFS will seek to maximize the use of existing institutions - regional, international and economy - specific as appropriate.

To increase cooperation between APEC working groups it is recommended PPFS be represented at the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. The PPFS may also recommend to SOM which gaps in capacity APEC may be able to help address. PPFS will report directly to APEC Senior Officials and its recommendations will be forwarded as appropriate to Ministers and Leaders.

PPFS will establish both short-term and long-term goals each year. As part of these goals, the Chair of PPFS, with assistance from PPFS members, will consider progress on the implementation of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, the APEC Food Security Action Plan and the Action Plan to Enhance Connectivity of APEC Food Standards and Safety Assurance. PPFS goals may also entail suggested recommendations to relevant APEC fora, APEC governments, International Finance Institutions or other relevant international institutions, the private sector, and civil society institutions. PPFS will monitor and report on their implementation.

PPFS will review the functioning of the forum 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.

Meetings & Venue

PPFS will meet at least once a year in plenary. The duration of the meeting shall be determined by the agenda. Other plenary meetings or PPFS planning meetings may be scheduled as necessary, especially in conjunction with SOM meetings. PPFS plenary meetings are designed to be held at high level to ensure commitment from both government and private sector stakeholders. The Chair, in consultation with the management council and in consultation with the host and Secretariat, will

¹ Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030

decide whether the plenary meeting should be held at the level of Ministers/CEOs/Vice Ministers/Group Presidents etc.

Support

The APEC Secretariat will serve as the primary support for PPFS. Virtual links to other existing institutions shall be used to increase resources. The program director at the APEC Secretariat will help to organize meetings, provide guidance regarding APEC guidelines and protocols and serve as a focal point for the distribution of information regarding PPFS.

The APEC Secretariat will ensure that information regarding PPFS is appropriately distributed to ABAC and the broader private sector participants. The ABAC Secretariat may provide support to the PPFS management council in drafting an annual report from PPFS to SOM, Ministers and Leaders on progress made and issues needing attention.

Quorum

Quorum for PPFS's Meetings constitutes attendees from 14 economies. Decisions can be made if quorum and consensus are reached. If a quorum is not reached, the meeting may continue, but decisions must be put to the full membership for consideration. Should the PPFS fail to meet quorum for one meeting, it must notify the SOM Chair. Should PPFS fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it shall be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist.

Sunset Clause

PPFS's term is 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025. PPFS must be explicitly renewed by Senior officials in order to continue, after the expiration of this Term of Reference.

ENDS