

ANNEX 4

Framework to Discuss Cross-Cutting Issues in APEC: Creating Effective and Closer Coordination among SCE fora

Since its inception, APEC has been dealing with cross-cutting themes and issues that are affected by a myriad of factors and require action across a broad range of areas. APEC is well-positioned to play a constructive role as it has the institutional structures in place to address these cross-cutting issues.

Many of APEC cross-cutting issues impact the work of a number of SCE-fora. To achieve better coordination and a more efficient and effective allocation of resources, SCE sets this Framework to Discuss Cross-Cutting Issues in APEC.

The Framework describes the processes that are commonly practiced in APEC, as well as outline some ways forward. Thus this Framework is a living document and serves as guide to assist SCE fora when working on cross-cutting issues identified by Leaders, Ministers, and Senior Officials, to ensure alignment with APEC's overall goals and objectives.

SCE-COW	<p>Lead Shepherds and Chairs and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces duties include their attendance to the annual SCE Committee-of the Whole (COW) meeting.</p> <p>SCE-COW is held on the margins of the first SCE meeting of each year.</p> <p>During the SCE-COW, Lead Shepherds and Chairs and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update the SCE on its annual work plan and activities for the year and underline activities specific to a cross-cutting issue, - inform or report of past and upcoming joint meetings, joint activities or joint projects. - seek opportunities to increase coordination and interaction with other SCE-fora.
SCE-COW Policy Dialogue	<p>As required, SCE may hold a Policy Dialogue on a specific cross-cutting issue.</p> <p>Policy Dialogues enable SCE-COW to engage in a constructive and in-depth discussion on a cross-cutting issue, create better coordination among SCE fora and with international organization, and identify capacity building needs and future work.</p> <p>The SCE-COW Policy Dialogue is an integral part of the SCE-COW meeting and all SCE-COW members, Senior Officials, Lead Shepherds and Chairs and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces, are expected/encouraged to attend.</p> <p>SCE may invite speakers from international organizations while following the APEC Guidelines for Non-member participation, to add value, align, avoid duplication to ongoing work, and ensure coordination of efforts between APEC and other organizations that may have similar objectives.</p> <p>The results of the SCE-COW Policy Dialogue could be further reported to SCE fora members and translated into the annual work plans of the SCE fora.</p>
Joint Meetings of SCE fora	<p>SCE may suggest the holding of joint meetings between different SCE fora to ensure closer collaboration and to avoid duplication of mandates on cross-cutting issues.</p>

	<p>SCE fora may also want to explore holding joint meetings to identify and discuss cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>The joint meeting should be based on a clear agenda and objective so to maximize the outcome of the meeting.</p> <p>The result of a joint meeting could be joint projects and joint activities that have benefits broader than a single forum.</p> <p>Joint meetings should not be limited to SCE fora but can also include the fora under other APEC Committees.</p>
Joint Activities	<p>APEC Activities could be more effectively coordinated for better results and higher impact.</p> <p>APEC activities are events approved and conducted by APEC fora with participation from APEC members.</p> <p>APEC activities include fora meetings, workshops, seminars, symposiums, and training courses.</p> <p>SCE fora with activities that are cross-cutting in nature, may consider formally inviting related APEC fora to send a representative or member.</p> <p>Joint activities should not be limited to activities among fora under the SCE, but also with fora under other APEC Committees.</p>
Joint Projects	<p>APEC Projects could be more effectively coordinated for better results and higher impact.</p> <p>SCE fora should consult and coordinate with other related fora when developing projects of a cross-cutting nature.</p>
Intersessional Communication	<p>SCE fora should make use of intersessional communication as the main tool for closer coordination and interaction among members and across APEC fora.</p> <p>This tool will take into account the duties of all related officials as stated in the Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups.</p>