

Updated Guidelines for Pathfinder Initiatives¹

In order to ensure that pathfinder initiatives serve their meaningful role and purpose and continue to advance the work of the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI), the following updated guidelines are adopted.

- 1) Before an initiative could be considered for Pathfinder status, it should be tabled in the CTI or appropriate working group as an 'interim Pathfinder' for the purposes of discussion and exploration of likely participation.
 - a) In order to table an initiative as an 'interim Pathfinder', an economy would need to have at least two other economies ready to participate in the initiative.
 - b) Implementation of 'interim Pathfinders' can proceed, but should not be proposed to SOM at this stage.
 - c) 'Interim Pathfinders' would be reviewed on an annual basis by the CTI or appropriate working group to determine whether they should remain on the agenda.

- 2) In order for an 'interim Pathfinder' to become a Pathfinder:
 - a) the initiative must retain the status of 'interim Pathfinder' for one year to allow thorough discussion;
 - b) more than 25 percent of APEC member economies would need to be ready to participate in the initiative from the beginning, and the remaining economies would need to support the launch of the initiative, including by considering participation in capacity building activities that might facilitate their eventual participation; and
 - c) the lead economy would need to develop a detailed proposal document, elaborating the objectives, implementation and proposed outcomes of the initiative, including:
 - i. how the initiative supports the achievement of the Bogor goals or other Ministerial or Leaders' goals;
 - ii. how it intends to meet the ultimate objective of Pathfinder initiatives, which is to achieve full participation by APEC members and thus, become a regular APEC initiative;
 - iii. how business will benefit from the initiative and how participating economies and APEC generally can promote benefits of the initiative to the business community;
 - iv. how it will ensure it does not duplicate work being conducted by other Pathfinders or any other APEC initiative;
 - v. a detailed plan for capacity building, aimed at securing wide participation;
 - vi. a preliminary work program stating activities for fulfilling the aims of the Pathfinder;

and

¹ Revised and adopted at CTI 3, 2007 [2007/SOM3/030/Anx3]

vi. a plan for evaluation on its fourth year, aimed at identifying the way forward for the Pathfinder.

Or, if at least 50 percent of members agree to participate in the initiative at any time, an 'interim Pathfinder' can be fast-tracked into becoming a Pathfinder immediately. Notwithstanding, the lead economy/ies must submit the aforementioned document to the relevant working group or to CTI.

3) Where an 'interim Pathfinder' meets the criteria in 2), CTI or sub-fora could propose to SOM that the initiative be granted Pathfinder status. Based on CTI's recommendations, SOM would decide whether to agree to Pathfinder status.

4) Pathfinders would be reviewed on an annual basis using as main reference the document stated in 2.c above. Lead economies would prepare brief annual progress reports for the CTI or relevant working group on membership, implementation, business views and describing progress made by non-participants to join the Pathfinder. The report will be annexed to the CTI Annual Report and made available online.

- a) In some cases, it might be appropriate to terminate a Pathfinder:
 - If after four (4) consecutive years of Pathfinder status, less than 50 per cent of member economies were participating in the initiative;
 - where there appears little prospect of membership increasing in the short-term; or
 - where there appears to be little prospect for achieving concrete progress by continuing the pathfinder.
- b) On the basis of recommendations from CTI referred to in a) above, SOM would decide whether to continue a Pathfinder in its current form, or invite the lead economy to revise it to better fit members' views.