**APEC COUNTER-TERRORISM WORKING GROUP**

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022**

**APEC Mission Statement**

APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum. Our primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are united in our drive to build a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment. Our initiatives turn policy goals into concrete results and agreements into tangible benefits.

1. **Background – Leaders’ and Ministers’ Statements of Intent Regarding Counter-Terrorism in APEC**

Guided by the two principal Statements namely the “2001 Leaders’ Statement on Counter-Terrorism” adopted in Shanghai, China and the “2002 Leaders’ Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth” adopted in Los Cabos, Mexico and subsequent annual leaders’ declarations, the group’s primary mission is to coordinate implementation of APEC members’ commitments related to counter-terrorism. A key aspect of its role is to help member economies identify, assess, and address capacity-building and technical assistance needs in this area.

Since 2001, APEC has played a valuable and constructive role in helping to protect the economic systems of the Asia-Pacific region from disruption as an important component for a safer business environment and a pretext to meet the Bogor goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific. This include risk-based efforts to mitigate risks and enhance the resilience of transportation, supply chains, infrastructure, and financial systems, while ensuring the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

The APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) was established in 2003 in response to the increased terrorist threats to the Asia-Pacific region’s people and its economic, trade, investment and financial systems.

As outlined in the APEC Growth Strategy endorsed by the Leaders in 2010, APEC member economies recognize that creating a secure environment for economic activity is a vital part of ensuring regional growth and prosperity. In November 2011, APEC Ministers welcomed the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, which focuses APEC’s work on secure supply chains, secure travel, secure finance and secure infrastructure, and it is structured around three fundamental pillars of security, efficiency and resilience.

In 2013, cognisant that the threat of terrorism, frequency and intensity of disruption continue to persist, the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) endorsed the CTTF’s upgrade to a Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG).

APEC Leaders have recognised the continuing threat of terrorism in the Asia-Pacific region and the importance of mitigating this threat as we seek to achieve APEC’s vision and objectives. In order to safeguard the region's infrastructure, travel, supply chains, and financial systems from terrorism and other illicit activities, APEC Leaders have committed their economies, through successive Leaders Declarations and Ministerial Statements, to continue to implement the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy by jointly taking action and sharing best practices in the Strategy’s four cross-cutting areas: secure supply chains, secure travel, secure finance, and secure infrastructure.

ISIL, Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, as well as foreign terrorist fighters, pose one of the major challenges to our region. Further consolidation of efforts to prevent, combat and ultimately defeat the terrorist threat in the APEC region is of paramount importance.

In 2016, and in light of these threats, Ministers encouraged Economies to focus on the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy’s call for immigration and border officials to manage the flow of bona-fide international travelers in and out of economies.

1. **Vision Statement**

*An Asia-Pacific region secure from terrorist activity, which supports open and free trade and investment to ensure regional growth and prosperity.*

1. **Mission Statement**

‘The CTWG will assist member economies build a robust capacity to protect their supply chains, travel and financial systems, and infrastructure against terrorist attack, disruption, and misuse, as well as to respond to, and recover rapidly from, such disruptions without compromising the flow of legitimate trade and travel.’

The CTWG will achieve its mission by:

* + helping build business resilience and fostering private-public partnership to protect business, trade and economic growth from disruption; and
	+ improving coordination and enhance intra-APEC cooperation and integration of best practices on counter-terrorism preparedness efforts in APEC; and
	+ continuing to enhance and develop cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations and relevant multilateral fora on counter-terrorism issues to ensure a synergy of counter-terrorism efforts between APEC and other international fora.
1. **Guidance on Proposed Counter-Terrorism Activities**

The 2013 *Independent Assessment of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force* made several observations and recommendations on areas to improve the work of the CTTF and as it looked to transition to a working group. This Strategic Plan has been informed by some of the observations made in the assessment.

The 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan will make the work of the CTWG more targeted and focussed on ensuring activities produce identifiable outcomes and recommendations for future work which are implemented and not forgotten. This includes outlining a series of CTWG Focus Areas (section V below) at least one of which should be identified as the rationale for holding a particular activity. In addition, activities must point to at least one objective and relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure the activities are outcomes-focussed. Activities should capture recommendations in post-activity reports, and also identify how those recommendations could be implemented in the future work of the CTWG. To ensure that recommendations are implemented, recommendations will be tracked centrally to monitor compliance and where additional support might need to be provided to economies.

To assist this process, the structure of the Strategic Plan and annual Work Plans have been updated to ensure the former details the long-term, broad direction of the CTWG and APEC’s counter-terrorism related activities, and the latter focuses on concrete activities aligned to the CTWG’s focus areas and objectives.

1. **Focus Areas 2018-2022**

The focus areas have been developed to ensure activities align with the broad, long-term objectives of the CTWG. Annual work plans can identify one or several focus areas as the primary thrust of activities for that year, as agreed by economies. The decision on which of the following focus areas to use for a given year could be guided by previous years’ Leaders Statements, the APEC theme for that year, or those issues which are of intense interest to economies as a significant or emerging CT threat.

1. Continue to implement, review and assess the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy as recognized in successive Leaders Declarations, Ministerial Joint Statements, and Ministers Responsible for Trade Statements;
2. Increase cooperation with other APEC sub-fora on cross-cutting, counter-terrorism related issues;
3. Increase cooperation among APEC member economies to understand and take appropriate actions to address: (i) the impact of evolving terrorist threats including by ISIL, Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, as well as foreign terrorist fighters; and (ii) the impact of radicalization to violence and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism on their economies, including increasing risk to soft targets, in order to promote the security and resilience of businesses and communities;
4. Increase member economy capacity to disrupt the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) within the region without interrupting the movement of bona-fide international travelers between economies, and promote exchange of information between special and law enforcement agencies of APEC Economies regarding actions/movements of terrorist organizations and individuals;
5. Increase cooperation and technical assistance among APEC member economies in their efforts to implement the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) programs to secure and facilitate legitimate travel within the region;
6. Improve member economy capacity to prevent and counter terrorist financing, including by ISIL and foreign terrorist fighters, without impacting on the free flow of legitimate trade in accordance with international law and standards;
7. Improve member economy capacity to ensure the resilience, and security against misuse, attack, and disruption, of critical infrastructure, which supports and enables economic activity across the APEC region;
8. Strengthen counter-terrorism related cooperation with the private sector and with relevant multilateral organizations; and
9. Foster whole-of-government approaches within APEC economies, as well as enhance cooperation and coordination among economies and relevant APEC sub-fora.

1. **Cross-cutting issues and how they will be coordinated across sub-fora**

The CTWG recognizes that elements of APEC’s work on counter-terrorism and secure trade and travel are spread out across a number of APEC sub-fora. As set forth in the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, the CTWG will consult and cooperate among relevant APEC sub-fora on issues related to counter-terrorism and secure trade and travel, and work to improve effectiveness in this regard. This could include holding regular briefings by the chairs of the CTWG and other relevant APEC sub-fora at each other’s meetings; convening joint meetings and/or scheduling of joint discussions during CTWG meetings; collaborative planning and coordination of capacity-building initiatives; and regular exchanges of sub fora reports on meeting outcomes and key initiatives.

Consultation, collaboration and coordination between the CTWG and other relevant lead APEC sub-fora will be done in four cross-cutting activity areas of the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy**:**

Secure Supply Chains

* + The CTWG will work with the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (CTI/SCCP), Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) and other relevant sub-fora to identify and close vulnerabilities in the regional supply chains and to enhance supply chain resilience; in particular to restore trade after major disaster and disruptions;
	+ The CTWG will consult with and support the CTI/SCCP in its efforts to strengthen supply chain security as well as continue to engage on initiatives such as the APEC Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programs and also consult on other opportunities for cooperation to enhance supply chain security, including inviting the CTI/SCCP Chair to participate in a joint dialogue on supply chain security;
	+ The CTWG will continue to work to increase regional awareness of food defense, taking particular aim at threats caused by terrorism, small scale sabotage and food fraud. Interest generated from past efforts will promote new networking and outreach, specifically in regard to vulnerability assessments, mitigation strategies, and food defense plans. The CTWG will continue to engage food sector stakeholders through electronic collaboration and the sharing of updated guidance materials; and
	+ Efforts should complement existing work being done in other international fora such as the World Customs Organization (WCO);

Secure Travel

* + The CTWG will work with TPT-WG, the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment Business Mobility Group (CTI/BMG), and CTI/SCCP to implement the APEC Consolidated Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy and support deeper cooperation and capacity-building across the Strategy's priority areas of secure trade and travel;
	+ The CTWG will continue to work with the SCE, CTI/BMG, CTI SCCP, TPT-WG, Tourism Working Group (TWG) on implementing the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative to make travel in the region faster, easier and more secure;
	+ The CTWG will work with the BMG, as the lead expert group on business mobility, to explore potential opportunities for cooperation to improve the secure flow of travellers throughout the region. Efforts should complement existing work being done in other international fora such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
	+ The CTWG will work with the TWG, as the lead sub-fora on tourism, to explore potential opportunities to improve protections for tourists as well as to share experiences and best practices in securing tourist destinations and tourist products;
	+ The CTWG will work with the following TPT-WG sub-groups:
		- the Maritime Experts Group (MEG), as the lead maritime security expert group working on maritime security within APEC, to support the Group in its ongoing efforts to enhance port and maritime security;
		- the Aviation Experts Group (AEG), as the lead aviation security expert group working on aviation security within APEC, to support the Expert Group in its efforts to enhance aviation and transportation security; and
	+ The CTWG will endeavor to work with the relevant APEC sub fora particularly SCCP and other international organizations in the effort to implement the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) programs to secure and facilitate legitimate travel within the region.

Secure Finance

* The CTWG will lead APEC efforts to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism, including ISIL, and foreign terrorist fighters.
	+ The CTWG will engage other APEC sub-fora, as well as relevant non-APEC entities, to ensure that secure finance efforts are fully and effectively coordinated and implemented.

Secure Infrastructure

* + The CTWG will collaborate with relevant lead APEC sub-fora to explore prospects for further cooperation on enhancing the security and resilience of critical infrastructure and soft targets, such as malls, hotels, and stadiums, across the region. This is with the intention of increasing their security and resilience in light of ongoing terrorist attacks.
	+ In line with building secure and resilient communities, and securing critical infrastructure, the CTWG will collaborate with the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) to explore possible initiatives to enhance capacity and minimize gaps in emergency preparedness for man-made events, including the use of IEDs, terrorist attacks, murder, kidnapping, and other terrorist activities which can damage infrastructure and disrupt business and commercial activities;
	+ The CTWG will consider the Key Observations and Recommended Future Activities from the June 2013 APEC Policy Dialogue on Critical Infrastructure Protection, to develop capacity-building proposals in the area of secure and resilient infrastructure;
	+ The CTWG will work to support the APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) and the Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG) in its efforts to increase awareness and to enhance cyber security as well as to review the APEC Cyber Security Strategy and the APEC TEL Strategy to ensure a Trusted, Secure and Sustainable Online Environment (TSSOE) as a basis for planning future APEC efforts in this area;
	+ The CTWG will continue to work on major event security capacity-building activities.
1. **Cross-cutting Issues and How They Will Be Coordinated With External Stakeholders**

The CTWG will seek to enhance dialogue and engagement with relevant international, multilateral, non-profit, and business organizations particularly on the four cross-cutting areas of the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy by inviting external stakeholders to participate in CTWG meetings and activities. This will allow and exchange of ideas on:

* + lessons learned by other international bodies and organizations;
	+ current and emerging challenges to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts of, but to supplement the work done by, other international organizations; and
	+ possible points of convergence, collaboration, and cooperation for future activities.

Cooperation with the private sector in particular helps to connect APEC’s security-related efforts to APEC’s core mission of promoting economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The CTWG will work with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and the broader regional business community to identify possible strategic partners from the business sector and to explore opportunities for collaborating on issues and activities of mutual interest, including the holding of the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Conference.

1. **Objectives and Key Performance Indicators**

**Objective 1:**

***Strengthen security, efficiency and resilience in the Asia Pacific region through activities in the four cross-cutting areas of the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy: secure supply chains, secure travel, secure finance, and secure infrastructure.***

**KPIs**

1. Member economies implement the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy;

**Objective 2**:

***Identify and assess key counter-terrorism and secure trade challenges facing APEC member economies, including through the CTWG’s Counter-Terrorism Action Plans (CTAPs).***

**KPIs**

1. All CTAPs reviewed by mid-term (end of 2020) and updated at end of term (end of 2022)
	1. reports on actions taken to address issues identified, such as gaps or risks, and their effectiveness submitted by member economies;

**Objective 3**:

***Enhance member economy capacity to provide secure regional commerce.***

**KPIs**

1. Hold workshops, training, and capacity-building activities;
	1. Identify and implement recommendations from these CTWG-led activities.

**Objective 4:**

***Enhance cooperation and coordination among APEC sub-fora on cross-cutting, counter-terrorism related issue.***

**KPIs**

1. Actively engage on counter-terrorism issues (including on joint activities and joint planning) with other APEC fora through to 2022;
2. Present CTWG Workplan, and activity reports to other APEC sub-fora;
3. Invite other APEC fora to present to the CTWG on their activities that are relevant to the work of the CTWG;
4. Coordinate/cooperate with other relevant APEC sub-for a to deliver capacity building projects.

**Objective 5:**

***Enhance whole-of-government cooperation and coordination across relevant agencies within APEC member economies.***

**KPIs**

1. Encourage economies to involve relevant counter-terrorism agencies in the work of the CTWG and other relevant APEC sub-fora;

**Objective 6**:

***Strengthen cooperation and information-sharing with the private sector and relevant multilateral organizations.***

**KPIs**

1. Hold two STAR Conferences by end of 2022;
2. Increase involvement of private-sector entities in CTWG activities;
3. Implement recommendations of STAR Conferences held under previous Strategic Plan period;
4. Identify and implement private-sector related, counter-terrorism recommendations from APEC activities;

**Objective 7**:

***Increase counter-terrorism cooperation and information-sharing among APEC member*** e***conomies.***

**KPIs**

1. Encourage APEC member economies to cooperate and share information on countering terrorism.

**Objective 8**:

***Improve member economy capacity to disrupt counter terrorist financing.***

**KPIs**

1. Increase efforts and cooperation on counter-terrorism financing.