

APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group Proposed Work Plan for 2020

Introduction

The APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) 2020 Work Plan has been developed in the context of the CTWG 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan responds to APEC Leaders' guidance, direction, and intent on the importance of countering terrorism in the APEC region. All proposals for activities under this Work Plan should be developed with reference to the objectives and to at least one of the Focus Areas set out in the Strategic Plan.

In the absence of 2019 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, the CTWG will base its work in 2020 on the 2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, adopted in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, which reads:

“We welcome the updated APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy for 2018 – 2022, and commit to continue implementing the Strategy by taking collective and individual actions to promote the security and resilience of regional supply chains, travel, finance, and critical infrastructure, as well as soft targets from terrorism to achieve secure growth.”

In implementing this Work Plan, APEC economies should also be guided by APEC's theme for 2020: “Optimising Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity”, and its priority areas: (i) improving the narrative of trade and investment; (ii) inclusive economic participation through the digital economy and technology; and (iii) driving innovative sustainability. Where possible, APEC economies should reference this theme when developing proposals and arranging activities.

CTWG Proposed Focus Areas in 2020

The CTWG will work towards achieving objectives encapsulated in the focus areas of its Strategic Plan. For 2020, some of the key focus areas of the strategic plan which align with APEC's 2020 theme, include:

Focus Area 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.

Focus Area 2: Increase cooperation with other APEC sub-fora on cross-cutting, counter-terrorism related issues.

Focus Area 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;

Focus Area 7: Improve member economy capacity to ensure the resilience, and security against misuse, attack, and disruption, of critical infrastructure, which supports and enables activity across the APEC region;

Focus Area 8: Strengthen counter-terrorism related cooperation with the private sector and with relevant regional and multilateral organizations.

Expected CTWG Outcomes/ Deliverables for 2020

- 1.1 Hold the 15th Counter Terrorism Working Group Meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 10-11 February 2020;
- 1.2 Hold the 16th Counter Terrorism Working Group Meeting in Pulau Pinang, Malaysia, in August 2020;
- 1.3 Review and update the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy that was endorsed by Ministers in 2011 and welcomed by Leaders in 2012;
- 1.4 Encourage APEC economies to commence preparations for updating their Counter Terrorism Action Plans - CTAPs (mid-term updates of CTAPs are due in 2020);
- 1.5 Report to the APEC Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation on the work of the CTWG in 2020;
- 1.6 Hold the 11th Secure Trade in APEC Region Conference (STAR Conference XI);
- 1.7 Hold a workshop on Soft Target Protection in an Aviation Security Context; and
- 1.8 Report on the Promotion of Strategic Trade Management in the APEC region.

1. Itemized Work Plan for 2020

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SC E Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
1.1 Hold the 15 th Counter Terrorism Working Group in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 10-11 February 2020	<p>The first meeting of the CTWG in 2020 is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Chart the activities for 2020; (ii) Discuss the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy across Member Economies as a result of CTWG capacity building projects; (iii) Discuss and share information on new terrorist challenges in the APEC Region, including the evolving terrorist threat related to ISIL and its affiliates, cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters and growing risk of terrorist financing; 	<p>2018 APEC Ministerial Chair’s Statement, Port Moresby, PNG</p> <p>“We welcome the updated APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy for 2018 – 2022, and commit to continue implementing the Strategy by taking collective and individual actions to promote the security and resilience of regional supply chains, travel, finance, and critical infrastructure, as well as soft targets from terrorism to achieve secure growth”</p>	Human Security	UNOCT, UNODC
1.2 Hold the 16 th Counter Terrorism Working Group Meeting in Pulau Pinang, Malaysia in August 2020	<p>The second meeting of the CTWG in 2020 is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review and discuss CTWG activities in 2020 for CTWG Report to APEC 	2018 APEC Ministerial Chair’s Statement, Port Moresby, PNG	Human Security	n/a

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	<p>Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation;</p> <p>(ii) Discuss CTWG Projects and its outcomes;</p> <p>(iii) Discuss the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy across Member Economies as a result of CTWG capacity building projects;</p>			
<p>1.3 Review and update the APEC Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy;</p>	<p>The current document endorsed by Ministers in 2011 is an umbrella document for APEC work to address counter-terrorism and secure trade. The work is dispersed across a number of APEC sub-fora, which include, but are not limited to, the Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG), the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), the Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), the Business Mobility Group (BMG), and the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL).</p> <p>At 14th CTWG Meeting held in August 2019, economies agreed to work inter-sessionally to review the changes proposed by the Chair and update the Strategy.</p>	<p>2011 APEC Ministers' Statement adopted in Honolulu, Hawaii</p>	<p>Human Security</p>	<p>TPT, SCCP, BMG, Tel WG, EPWG, TWG, PPWE</p>

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	<p>The current version of the Strategy was endorsed by member economies on 21 September 2019.</p> <p>Even though the document has been endorsed, it was agreed for CTWG to continue to review and adjust it to reflect the new trends and emerging issues in the area of counter-terrorism and secure trade.</p>			
1.4 Encourage APEC economies to update their Counter Terrorism Action Plans - CTAPs (mid-term updates of CTAPs are due in 2020);	<p>In 2007, the Counter-Terrorism Task Force (since 2013 upgraded to Counter-Terrorism Working Group) tasked the APEC Secretariat to summarize the main counter terrorism capacity building needs expressed by economies in their individual Counter-Terrorism Action Plans (CTAPs). The CTF agreed that the consolidated document would be submitted for annual consideration and that the information in the report could be used by economies to assist in identifying suitable projects at the beginning of each APEC year.</p> <p>Starting in 2014, CTWG decided to submit the CTAP biannually. The summary report template has been adjusted to reflect better the results in terms of capacity gaps and opportunities.</p>	2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, Port Moresby, PNG	Human Security	n/a

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	Requirement for CTAP updates is listed under Objective 2 KPIs, where CTAPs need to be reviewed by mid-term (end of 2020) and updated at end of term (2022).			
1.5 Report to the APEC Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation on the work of the CTWG in 2020.	This annual report of CTWG to SCE lays out information on activities and deliverables of the Group throughout 2020.	2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, Port Moresby, PNG		n/a
1.6 Hold the 11 th Secure Trade in APEC Region Conference (STAR Conference XI).	<p>The 11th Secure Trade in APEC Region Conference (STAR XI) will be held on 4 August 2020 in Penang, Malaysia with the theme "Counter Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy: Balancing Trade Security and Trade Facilitation".</p> <p>This project supports APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group Strategic Plan 2018-2022 that is to provide a platform for APEC Economies to have a thematic discussion related to secure trade and the challenges in the region. The conference aims to discuss the risks in the region, reinforce the importance of establishing security trade controls and understanding the</p>	2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, Port Moresby, PNG	Human Security	Experts from APEC economies, international organisation from non-APEC economies, Sub Committee of Customs Procedure Working Group Meeting (SCCP), TPTWG, TWG, BMG, EPWG, Tel, private sectors

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	<p>role of trade facilitation in implementing strategic trade controls. A total of 100 participants including experts and stakeholders from the public and private sectors from different industry sectors, including cargo transport sectors will attend the conference.</p> <p>The programme is in line with APEC role in helping to protect the region's economic systems from disruption as well CTWG mission to assist member economies protect their supply chains as well as deliberate on cross cutting issues associated to counter-terrorism and secure trade.</p>			
1.7 Hold a Workshop on Soft Target Protection in an Aviation Security Context.	<p>The United States and co-sponsoring APEC member economies will hold a workshop based on the APEC Soft Target Protection Recommendations produced in April 2018. This workshop on soft target protection in an aviation security context will promote greater awareness and understanding of how to apply the recommendations in the aviation environment, and increase understanding of aviation security policies and practices among APEC member economies.</p> <p>This cross-for a workshop will result in a set of recommendations for developing, expanding,</p>	2018 APEC Ministerial Chair's Statement, Port Moresby, PNG	Human security	UN (UNOCT); GCTF; ICAO; OAS; IATA; APEC TPT, TWG, EPWG, Tel WG

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	and/or implementing aviation security policies that address soft targets/public spaces and critical infrastructure, tailored to the APEC region and community.			
1.8 Promotion of Strategic Trade Management in the APEC region.	At the 15 th CTWG Meeting, Chile will present a preliminary report of the findings of the survey circulated by the 2019 CTWG Chair. A final report will be presented at the 16 th CTWG Meeting. The overall aim is to make recommendations and propose lines of cooperation to implement and strengthen strategic trade controls in the APEC region.	Page 7 of the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy: “Strategic Trade Management: Efforts should be made to implement and strengthen strategic trade controls among APEC member economies to prevent the diversion of dual-use and defense goods to terrorist actors.”		SCCP