



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2018/SOM1/010

Agenda Item: 8

Terms of Reference of the Policy Partnership on Food Security

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: PPFS Chair's Office



**First Senior Officials' Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
8-9 March 2018**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS)

Background

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has been engaged in food security efforts since 1999 when APEC Leaders endorsed a plan for a unified APEC Food System. In 2009, ABAC issued a strategic framework for food security which among its recommendations called for the establishment of an ongoing mechanism at a high level to ensure the policy and technical cooperation necessary to achieve an integrated food system. This mechanism should include direct input and participation from the private and research sectors, as well as the public sector in the form of a formal, institutionalized “Food Dialogue.”

In 2010, APEC Ministers Responsible for Food Security declared that consultation with relevant stakeholders is 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).

Membership

Government: Given the complexity and cross-cutting nature of food security, each APEC member government is encouraged to create a high-level interagency “Food Security Task Force” where there is no such existing equivalent body or policy part of a member government. The government representatives to the PPFS should be able to represent the consensus from multiple agencies/ministries.

Private Sector: Each APEC member government may nominate private sector representatives to sit on the PPFS. ABAC may also nominate private sector representatives. They shall be endorsed by SOM in consultation with ABAC. Private sector participants may represent agrifood-related industry bodies, farmers’ groups or individual companies and should strive to see that their views represent consensus within the industry.

APEC Sub fora and Multilateral Organizations: The chair of the PPFS, in consultation with the PPFS members, may request the ATCWG, HLPDAB and other related APEC sub fora, as well as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Trade Organization, and other groups to send observers/advisers to the PPFS.

Research and Academic Institutions, NGOs: The chair of the PPFS, in consultation with PPFS members may nominate such institutions they believe will add value to the PPFS process and the PPFS chair will request those institutions to send observers/advisers to the PPFS.

Leadership

The 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 the 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, government vice chairs and private sector principal advisor will constitute the PPFS management council. The Management Council will convene planning meetings for all interested APEC economies to develop the agenda for the PPFS plenary meeting and may invite private sector representatives, multilateral organizations and academic representatives to participate.

Objectives

APEC's approach to food security must reflect member economies' commitment to facilitation of investment, trade and markets and sustainable development of the agricultural sector as outlined in the Niigata Declaration on Food Security.

Among other things, we will look to:

- Promote adequate, reliable and sustainable supplies of crop and livestock products, through developing rural communities, increased agricultural productivity and more efficient regional and global markets linking demand and supply.
- Promote an open and rules-based trading system that allows reliable movement of agricultural and food products. Support efficient distribution systems throughout the supply chain.
- Encourage agricultural research, extension and educational systems.
- Facilitate the development and dissemination of new and existing technologies.
- Accelerate inclusive agriculture sector growth, including recognition that women should have equal access to affordable inputs and improved techniques and technology.
- Recognize that both public and private sectors have appropriate roles to play and can achieve more if they work together.
- Promote an inclusive and transparent process for the development of Responsible Agricultural Investment principles.
- Confront challenges related to climate change and natural resource management with a focus on agricultural and food production issues.
- Foster conditions that spur development and utilization of technological advances and best practices that will help the region address short and long-term food security challenges.
- Create multi-sector partnerships and networks including government; private sector (including local farmers); agriculture-related industry organizations; non-profit organizations; and academia and researchers to address food security issues.
- Raise awareness about food system issues and facilitate effective sharing of information among APEC economies.
- Identify gaps in areas that support food security.
- Consider issues that are of concern to economies that are experiencing food insecurity.
- Develop and maintain an annual work plan and adopt measures to monitor progress of activities.

The long term goal of the PPFS shall be the attainment of a food system structure by 2020 sufficient to provide lasting food security to APEC member economies. The PPFS should look to further define the elements of a food system structure as part of its objectives.

Scope

Establishing a comprehensive food system-based food security environment in APEC is a complex, long term effort. The current Niigata Action Plan for Food Security established at the 2010 ministerial on food security sets forth an excellent starting point to build from. The PPFS should be the primary mechanism APEC uses to address food security policy concerns and should oversee all issues related to, and affecting, food security. These would include (but are not limited to): trade, productivity, rural development, technology dissemination, fisheries, post-harvest loss, balanced use of land and water resources for human, animal and energy use, transparency of markets, and the impact of financial instruments on food prices. The PPFS will primarily examine policy issues as they relate to food security, but will remain cognizant of the 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. In order to increase cooperation between APEC working groups it is recommended that the PPFS be represented at the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. The PPFS may also recommend to SOM gaps in capacity that APEC may be able to help address.

The PPFS will report directly to APEC Senior Officials and its recommendations will be forwarded as appropriate to Ministers and Leaders.

The PPFS will establish both short-term and long-term goals each year and the chair of the PPFS with assistance from PPFS members will report on implementation of the APEC Food Security Action Plan as outlined in the 2010 APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security Declaration.

PPFS goals may entail suggested recommendations to 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.

The PPFS will refrain from recommending the creation of new institutions wherever possible, and will seek to maximize the use of existing institutions -- regional, international and economy-specific -- to create the nexus of new relationships necessary to create an efficient food system for greater food security.

Meetings & Venue

The PPFS will meet at least once yearly in plenary. The duration of the meeting shall be determined by the agenda. Other plenary meetings, or subgroup meetings, or PPFS planning meetings may be scheduled as necessary, especially in conjunction with SOM meetings. The 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, will 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 the PPFS. The PPFS will also receive support from the ABAC Secretariat. 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 the PPFS. The ABAC Secretariat will be responsible for ensuring that information regarding the PPFS is appropriately distributed to private sector participants and will assist in collecting feedback from relevant stakeholders. The ABAC Secretariat may also 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. Should the 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

The PPFS has a term of four years starting from 2018. At the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of PPFS and its Terms of Reference shall be reviewed by PPFS and a recommendation on renewal put to Senior Officials for approval
