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PPSTI Statement on Building Resilience in STI

Building on the PPSTI Statement on COVID-19, APEC economies continue to recognize the importance of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in advancing sustainable and inclusive growth. Not only is STI vital to the APEC region's post-COVID recovery, but it is also instrumental in preparing economies for future shocks and crises. APEC economies recognize the need to continue to identify ways to strengthen resilience in STI systems; support inclusive participation; adopt new and emerging technologies; advance connectivity; stimulate digital transformation; and build on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To support resilience and recovery, PPSTI commits to: leveraging diverse knowledge systems for inclusive and sustainable growth; strengthening digital networks, infrastructure, tools, and data analysis and creating an open, fair, non-discriminatory environment to support capacity building, including through the free and secure flow of data and mobility of people; and building public trust through Open Science and communication.

APEC economies will continue to support and remove barriers so as to release untapped and under-utilized R&D potential (e.g., from Indigenous Peoples, women, early career researchers, etc.), address digital divides, and encourage participation in STI. Critical to the region's success will be its ability to bridge relationships, form partnerships, and strengthen trust and collaboration between governments, the private sector, and its diverse communities.

PPSTI recognizes the significant benefits of diverse knowledge systems, including those of Indigenous Peoples, within STI sectors and endeavors to leverage and respect these diverse sources. PPSTI will continue to explore how the region can better protect, identify, collect, and disseminate relevant data and research.

PPSTI supports the development and adoption of emerging technologies, including the role of digitalization in safeguarding people's health and protecting the region from global threats, while enhancing the resilience, scalability, and sustainability of STI systems. PPSTI will continue to advocate for and raise awareness about these opportunities as well as encourage collaboration in the region. Further, PPSTI will work to support and enhance digital skills and literacy to strengthen capacity building in STI areas.

As the APEC region continues to deal with the pandemic and prepare for future risks and global crises, including the impacts of climate change, building public trust remains critical to advancing STI. The rapid sharing of information through the pandemic highlighted the importance of quick and sustained international collaboration on STI. APEC economies will continue to assess and identify ways to work toward better managing communications about science, including its limitations, and developing strategies to help the public better understand and interpret this often complex information.

Moving forward, APEC economies will continue to promote the value of STI in building resilient economies. Similarly, PPSTI will continue to leverage its unique position to strategically assess cross-cutting STI issues to support resilience and recovery and to contribute to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 of achieving an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040. It is only through the collaboration between the public, private, and academic sectors, as well as our diverse communities, that we can build agile STI ecosystems that foster innovative, inclusive, balanced, secure, and sustainable growth.