**Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Accessing the Mining Sub-Fund**

This paper sets out the overall governance arrangements for the Mining Sub-Fund including the eligibility criteria.

**Background**

In November 2014, APEC Senior Officials at its Concluding Meeting endorsed the establishment of a mining sub-fund under the APEC Support Fund (ASF) with Australia making an initial contribution of AUD$1.2 million. The initiative was also noted by the APEC Leaders in Beijing[[1]](#footnote-1). A non-paper proposing the establishment of a mining sub‑fund was endorsed at the Concluding Senior Official Meeting (2014/CSOM/039).

The Budget & Management Committee (BMC) also noted the establishment of the Mining Sub-Fund at its meeting on 3 February 2015 where Australia, as the initial donor, presented an information paper (2015/BMC/011) outlining the overall governance arrangements of this Sub‑Fund.

**Administration of the Mining Sub-Fund**

The APEC Secretariat will be responsible for the administration of the Mining Sub-Fund. Projects that have been assessed and endorsed by the MTF, according to the MTF agreed eligibility criteria, will be allocated to the list of applications for the Mining Sub-Fund. Following Concept Note scoring by MTF, the Secretariat will calculate how many of the projects can be funded from the available Sub-Fund balance. It will then make recommendations to the Budget Management Committee (BMC) for approval as per the usual APEC project approvals. For more information on the Concept Note selection process, please refer to Chapter 5 of the Guidebook on APEC Projects, or refer to http://www.apec.org/Projects/Forms-and-Resources.aspx.

The full operation of the Mining Sub-Fund is expected to take place from the second half of 2015 after the draft guidelines and eligibility criteria have been endorsed by the MTF. Submission of concept notes and full proposals are expected to follow the timelines of the APEC funding sessions. Refer to <http://www.apec.org/Projects/Applying-for-Funds.aspx>

**Guidelines for Accessing the Mining Sub-Fund**

Any interested economy, within any APEC fora, may submit Concept Notes which fall within the scope of the sub-fund and the ambit of APEC funding criteria.

To access the Mining Sub-fund, Concept Notes must meet the Mining Sub-Fund Eligibility Criteria described below. MTF will assess the eligibility of those Concept Notes seeking access to the Mining Sub-fund during the time allotted to eligibility assessment within the APEC project selection cycle.

See Chapter 4 of the Guidebook on APEC Projects for more information, or refer to: <https://www.apec.org/Projects/Applying-for-Funds>

All Concept Notes seeking access to the Mining Sub-fund must first be endorsed by the proposing forum.

Non-MTF groups will first seek endorsement and two or more co-sponsors of their Concept Note from their own forum. Once the originating forum’s endorsement and co‑sponsorship has been secured, the Project Overseer, through the APEC Secretariat Program Director for the originating forum, will submit the Concept Note to the MTF Program Director no later than the Final Submission Deadline. Any externally-generated Project Concept Notes submitted to MTF without the endorsement of the originating forum and required co‑sponsorship will not be considered.

Concept Notes generated within MTF which seek MTF endorsment will need to be submitted to the MTF Program Director by the Internal Submission Deadline. All Concept Notes will require two or more co-sponsors from within MTF. Endorsement of Concept Notes generated within MTF is expected to occur inter-sessionally. If Concept Notes generated within the MTF are not endorsed by the MTF (whether because they are not in line with the Sub-Fund eligibility criteria or for another reason) then they cannot be submitted to the Secretariat for APEC funding.

Following the Final Submission Deadline, MTF members (or an agreed sub-group) will assess Concept Notes generated from within and outside of the MTF to ensure that the agreed Eligibility Criteria are met. All non-MTF Concept Notes which are found to meet the eligibility criteria will be considered co-endorsed by MTF.

Following the rules that apply to all APEC Concept Notes, if a Concept Note is found to be ineligible, the Concept Note cannot proceed any further in the APEC Project Session in question, either under the Mining Sub-Fund, or any other APEC project fund (including the ASF General Fund). An explanation will be provided to the Project Overseer as to how the criteria have not been met.

All eligible Concept Notes will then be scored, using the APEC Scoring Template. The Secretariat will then calculate which Concept Notes can be funded based on the order of scores (highest to lowest), and in consideration of the total amount available for the Mining Sub-Fund in that Project Session.

MTF will be given the opportunity to input to Project Proposals for projects funded under the Mining Sub-Fund which originate in other APEC fora. The draft Project Proposal will be submitted to MTF through the MTF Program Director and comments sought prior to its submission to the APEC Secretariat. The Project Proposal should incorporate collaboration with MTF during project implementation and sharing of project outcomes, as appropriate.

**Mining Sub-Fund Eligibility Criteria**

Drawing on the direction set in the non-paper endorsed at the CSOM (2014/CSOM/039), the proposed guidelines/criteria are intended to involve private sector organisations; integrate the 10 APEC Mining Principles and APEC gender objectives; and promote corporate social responsibility in the development of projects and activities.

Therefore, to be considered for the Mining Sub-Fund, the projects as proposed in Concept Notes must:

1. Involve the private sector, either through partnership and/or participation, by providing clear evidence that relevant private stakeholders are included in the project planning and implementation, such as through funding and/or in-kind contributions and expertise.
2. Deliver capacity building activities in APEC developing economies[[2]](#footnote-2) that improve the enabling environment for trade and investment in mining and the capacity of local businesses, its mining industry and/or regulators in one or more of the following areas:
	1. Sustainability aimed to promote economic and social development and inclusion, such as education, workforce training, and innovation and technology cooperation.
	2. Corporate social responsibility, including promoting the social license to operate and leading practice in mining and life cycle management such as rehabilitation and post mine closure.
	3. Transparent and efficient regulation and governance to facilitate trade and investment in mining.

While proposed projects are not expected to address all of these above areas, they must however be consistent with all of them and the overall intention of the sub fund.

1. Progress APEC’s gender objectives, demonstrating how they will benefit women, and in particular will not disadvantage women. Proposals must include women and women’s perspectives in their design, implementation and evaluation.[[3]](#footnote-3)
1. The relevant part (item 12) of the *APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth,* Annex C to the 2014 Leaders’ Statement is at <http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/2014/2014_aelm/2014_aelm_annexc.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Projects for funding under the ASF (including its sub-funds and in this case the Mining Sub Fund) will, in principle, be open for participation by all APEC members, but funding will be available only for capacity building projects that primarily benefit developing economy members. If it furthers the interests of APEC, one or more non-APEC developing economies may be additional beneficiaries of an ASF proposal. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with normal procedures on non-member participation in APEC activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Please refer to Appendix I of the *Guidebook on APEC Projects* for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)