**FINAL REPORT**

**SOM1 2019 APEC HEALTH WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**SANTIAGO, CHILE**

*“Supporting Health across the Life Course”*

**INTRODUCTION (SUMMARY)**

Representatives from 15 of the 21 APEC member economies, including Australia, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, USA and Viet Nam, met in Santiago, Chile on February 28th and March 1st, 2019 for the first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting of 2019. As a government forum, HWG member economies discussed key health challenges with the purpose of improving the health and well-being of the people of the Asia-Pacific region as a means to strengthen trade, security, and development in the APEC region. The HWG meeting was jointly moderated by HWG Co-Chair, Ms. Tammy Bell (Canada) and HWG Vice-Chair, Dr. Paula Daza (Chile). HWG Co-Chair Mr. Ken Wai (Papua New Guinea) was unable to attend the meeting. Meeting participants included representatives from the Life Sciences and Innovation Forum (LSIF), Healthy Women, Healthy Economies (HWHE) forum, and the APEC Secretariat. Invited guests included representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The outcomes of the meetings resulted in the following key dates:

* **Revised APEC Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector** *(April 24, 2019)*
  + APEC member economies were invited to submitted comments on the Review of the Guidelines for engagement between the HWG and the private sector, as per the discussion at SOM1.
* **Revised Concept Note Operating Protocols** (*May 22, 2019*)
  + Revised concept note operating protocols to be circulated and approved following the continued intercessional work to review the revised protocols by the sub-working group.
* **APEC Mental Health Roadmap Way Forward** *(June 26-28, 2019)*
  + The APEC Digital Hub will convene a Round Table meeting with the goal of generating a Report summarizing progress under the current Roadmap in addition to a proposed way forward, to be considered by the HWG and LSIF.
* **Policy Dialogue on ‘Health Across the Life Course’ – Prevention Measures to support an ageing population within APEC economies** *(August 18, 2019)*
* **9th APEC High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy – Healthy Economies in an Ageing World** *(August 19-20, 2019)*
* **APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** (*September 23, 2019)*
  + APEC Statement on UHC presented to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC by Sub-Working Group.

**DAY ONE**

*Thursday, February 28th, 2019*

1. **OPENING SESSION**
   1. **Opening remarks by the Minister of Health, Chile, Dr. Emilio Santelices Cuevas**

The meeting began with opening remarks by Chilean Minister of Health, Dr. Emilio Santelices Cuevas. Minister Santelices emphasized the importance of health as an investment that promotes strong economic growth and noted in particular key health challenges, including demographic changes (ageing), obesity, mental health, immunization, climate change and infectious diseases and their impact on economic growth and development. His remarks highlighted health as an investment in human capital and in the overall strength of an economy.

* 1. **Introductory Remarks by HWG Co-Chair & Vice-Chair**

Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza welcomed delegates to the first 2019 HWG Meeting. In their opening remarks, Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza highlighted the APEC HWG as a unique venue to discuss and advance health-related issues that are inextricably linked to economic growth and noted the excellent efforts from 2018, which saw a greater policy focus in the HWG’s discussions and included the group’s first-ever policy discussion on tuberculosis (TB), resulting in an APEC regional statement on TB submitted to the United Nations (UN) at the UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB. Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza further emphasized the importance of building on the HWG’s work done in 2018, focusing on the opportunity to engage in a meaningful way on health to facilitate strong economic growth and development across the Asia-Pacific region.

* 1. **Adoption of 2019 HWG Agenda**

As is customary at HWG meetings, the HWG meeting agenda was adopted at the beginning of the meeting. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

1. **REVIEW APEC 2018 HEALTH DELIVERABLES**
   1. **APEC 2018 Chair’s Era Kone Statement**

Ms. Bell, presented highlights of the APEC 2018 Chair’s Era Kone Statement, noting that while the HWG proposed language on health to be added to the statement, it was not included. This was likely as PNG was looking to develop a very tight, concise document. She further noted that while there was no explicit reference to health in the Chair’s Era Kone statement, paragraph 18 referenced APEC’s commitment to sustainable development, as well as individual economy efforts to support initiatives like the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Ms. Bell noted that the APEC HWG’s work is reflective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**2.2** **APEC 2018 Ministerial Chair’s Statement (related to health)**

Health language was included in the APEC 2018 Ministerial Chair’s Statement. The Ministerial Chair’s Statement commended the HWG’s initiatives and projects to implement the Healthy Asia Pacific 2020 Roadmap, and encouraged the HWG to promote innovation and partnerships to address health-related issues. The statement further encouraged economies to share best practices and explore innovative sustainable health financing tools, to improve health systems. In addition, the statement recognized the growing burden of non-communicable diseases in the region, and emphasised the importance of an integrated approach for prevention and treatment. It also acknowledged and supported that ongoing work on mental health, cervical cancer, and rare diseases. Furthermore, the statement recognized that the HWG’s goal to promote Universal Health Coverage is important in building healthy populations which in turn support economic growth.

Ms. Bell, thanked all economies who worked hard to include health language in the 2018 Ministerial Chair’s Statement.

**2.3 APEC HWG Statement to the UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Tuberculosis (TB)**

Ms. Bell commended the HWG for hosting the group’s first-ever policy discussion on the subject of TB in the Asia-Pacific Region. She congratulated HWG member economies for their decision to develop an APEC Statement on TB for the UN HLM on TB. Thanks to inter-sessional work led by PNG, with support from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Philippines, Russia, USA and the LSIF, a regional statement was presented by the Honourable Puka Temu (Papua New Guinea) on September 26, 2018 in New York on behalf of the APEC HWG.

1. **APEC 2019 THEMES**

**3.1 APEC Chile 2019 Theme and Priorities**

*Chile 2019 Priorities*:

Mr. Vittoria Frazzoni, a representative from the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke about Chile’s APEC 2019 priorities under Chile’s theme for 2019 “*Connecting people, building the future*” which include 1) Digital Society, 2) Integration 4.0, 3) Women, SMEs and Inclusive Growth, and 4) Sustainable Growth. Mr. Frazzoni further highlighted APEC’s strengths as a collaborative, non-binding incubator for ideas.

*Chile 2019 Health Priorities*:

In addition to Chile’s broader priorities for 2019, Chile, represented by Dr. Daza, presented on the priority areas during their host year that relate to health including: 1) Obesity, 2) Healthy Ageing and 3) E-Commerce of Medicines. Dr. Daza highlighted the importance of addressing and supporting health across the life course, noting that work on childhood obesity has linkages with healthy ageing, as an example.

**3.2 HWG 2019 Theme**

Ms. Bell, noted that, continuing on the important work accomplished by the HWG in 2018, the 2019 work plan reflects the HWG’s focus on implementing substantive policy-oriented discussions at the HWG and ensuring that the HWG remains a strategic forum to advance global health priorities. The HWG’s 2019 theme of “*Supporting Health across the Life Course”*, was chosen to reflect the importance of continued investments in health from birth to end of life in order to support a healthy economy. The theme is in alignment with: Chile’s health priorities, particularly healthy economies in an ageing world, prevention policies of childhood obesity, and the 2019 host year priority of ‘Women and Inclusive Growth’; the HWG’s objectives and strategic plan; and the 2019 APEC theme of ‘Connecting people, building the future’.

Ms. Bell further noted that the theme will be actualized through activities focused on:

* Health promotion and disease prevention;
* Enhanced access to care and services; and,
* Strengthening health systems for universal health coverage and sustainable development.

1. **2019 HWG WORK PLAN**

The 2019 Work Plan is a tool that outlines the HWG’s key deliverables and outcomes for 2019 and requires endorsement from all HWG member economies.

**4.1. Review HWG 2019 Work Plan**

Ms. Bell, gave a presentation on the draft HWG 2019 Work Plan, highlighting the HWG’s theme of “*Supporting Health across the Life Course*” noting that building on this theme and leveraging the HWG’s unique perspective as a regional health forum dedicated to demonstrating the value of health to economic growth and development the HWG will be able to build awareness of the return on investment on health in 2019.

Ms. Bell further highlighted that the draft 2019 Work Plan recognizes the importance of gender analysis in strengthening health systems, as women can be positive agents of change in efforts to advance health for all, including in their roles as decision-makers, leaders, innovators and care givers and noted that the HWG will apply a gender lens in the implementation of its 2019 activities.

Through the 2019 Work Plan, the HWG’s mandate will be actualized through a variety of activities within three thematic areas: Health promotion and disease prevention, Enhanced access to care and services and Strengthening health systems for universal health coverage and sustainable development. Within these thematic areas, the HWG’s work will span a variety of governance, policy and technical deliverables.

The 2019 Work Plan also includes approved and on-going HWG projects. Ms. Bell, opened the floor for questions or comments on the draft 2019 Work Plan after her presentation, of which there were none.

**4.2. Discussion of Proposed Sub-Working Groups based on HWG 2019 Work Plan Priorities**

The establishment of sub-working groups allows for member economies to work together on policy and technical deliverables outlined in the Work Plan on an inter-sessional basis, ensuring that the important work of the HWG continues between the SOM1 and SOM3 set of meetings.

Ms. Bell, proposed two potential sub-working groups be created:

1. High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy with the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum and Joint Statement
2. Statement for the United Nations (UN) High Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Economies had the opportunity to indicate their interest in participating in a sub-working group at this time, but were also advised that the item would be deferred until day 2 for further discussion.

**4.3. Adoption of the Work Plan**

As there were no questions or comments on the proposed 2019 Work Plan, it was adopted unanimously. Ms. Bell, thanked all economies who contributed to the development of the 2019 Work Plan for their efforts.

1. **BRIEFING ON HWG CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019**

This agenda item provided an opportunity for Chile to discuss the calendar of events for the 2019 APEC health-related meetings.

* 1. **HWG Meetings (SOM1 & SOM3)**

As the HWG typically meets during the SOM3 cluster of meetings, Dr. Daza, presented on the proposed dates for the SOM3 set of meetings. Although a set of dates had been proposed in advance, Dr. Daza acknowledged that there was a conflict with the ASEAN Health Minister’s Meeting taking place in Cambodia on August 26th-20th, conflicting with the 9th High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy, which was scheduled at the same time.

Several economies raised concerns with the SOM3 set of meetings happening too close to the ASEAN Health Minister’s Meeting, particularly because many of the economies had the same representatives for both APEC and ASEAN, which could potentially impact quorum. Dr. Daza, noted the concerns and HWG member economies agreed to consider a new proposal from Chile on Day Two.

* 1. **9th High Level Meeting (HLM) on Health and the Economy**

On August 20-21st 2019, Chile will host the 9th High Level Meeting (HLM) on Health and the Economy. The theme of the 9th HLM will be ‘*Healthy Economies in an Ageing World*’.

APEC economies are among those with the most rapidly ageing populations in the world. Noting the importance of adapting not only health care systems, but entire economies to the needs of an ageing population, the HLM will aim to demonstrate how economies can invest in the needs of their population through a variety of innovative partnerships as a means of ensuring the stable economic growth and development of an ageing population. The HLM will highlight the importance of considering the social determinants of health, particularly with regards to healthy ageing.

* 1. **2019 Health Policy Dialogues**

Policy dialogues are a key aspect of the HWG’s engagement in discussing relevant policy issues impacting HWG member economies, and typically take place on the margins of the HLM during SOM3. Dr. Daza presented on the upcoming 2019 policy dialogue ‘*Health across the Life Course: Prevention measures to support an ageing population within APEC economies*’, which will focus on the importance of addressing the needs of an ageing population to ensure strong economic growth.

**6. BRIEFING ON WORKSHOP ON PREVENTION AND PROMOTION POLICIES FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

**6.1. Overview of Workshop, Outcomes, and Next Steps**

Dr. Daniela Godoy, a representative from the Chilean Ministry of Health, presented on the previous days ‘Workshop on Prevention and Promotion Policies for Child Obesity’. Dr. Godoy noted that malnutrition due to excessive consumption incurs significant costs for health systems in APEC economies, largely due to the increased burden of associated diseases, treatment costs and years of life lost due to premature death and disability. Chile is addressing childhood obesity using a life course perspective, highlighting that by prioritizing interventions towards children, better health outcomes can be generated in the long-term that ensure the development of a healthy, productive population and economy. The goal of the workshop was to strengthen and implement cost-effective policies across economies to avoid an increase of childhood obesity, with a proposal to develop a sub-working group within the APEC HWG to continue working on childhood obesity in the APEC forum.

1. **NEW CONCEPT NOTE OPERATING PROTOCOLS**

In October 2017, the 12th Edition of the Guidebook on APEC Projects was released by the APEC Secretariat. The Guidebook describes a new process for determining funding of APEC projects, in alignment with a decision by APEC Senior Officials in August 2017. In particular, the Guidebook outlines new roles and responsibilities for the Responsible APEC fora of proposed projects. Under the new process implemented in October 2017, scoring is only done at the Committee level and only at the Committee that has been designated for each type of sub-fund. As a result of these changes, the HWG decided to re-examine how it reviews and endorses its concept notes.

Ms. Erika Elvander, of the USA, led the sub-working group on developing the new concept note operating protocols and presented the proposed approach to member economies. The proposed approach included three new steps:

* Agreement in principle to establish/increase thresholds to at least **three** co-sponsors of any concept note requesting funding;
* The establishment of an internal vetting process; and,
* Provision to review the concept notes electronically.

After the presentation, Ms. Bell, opened the floor for discussion. Canada noted that they were pleased to be a part of the sub-working group and stressed the importance of reviewing concept note’s electronically in order to leave time during HWG meetings to discuss substantial policy issues. China noted that they were happy to be involved in the revision process and requested the addition of the HAP2020 initiative to point two of the proposed endorsement checklist, as well as requesting further transparency regarding the review process by making the results of the review (i.e.: How many Yes and Re-Submits the concept note received) available to the proposing economy. Australia noted their support for the proposed changes and requested clarification on whether every economy was required to submit an endorsement checklist for each concept note. Chinese Taipei noted their support for the new operating protocols. USA suggested the addition of quorum regarding the completion of the checklist, which was echoed by Japan. The protocols were not adopted, and the sub-working group who developed the concept note proposal was requested to reconvene outside of the meeting and present a revised proposal to the HWG to be considered by the group during the second day.

1. **REVIEW OF APEC GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

As the HWG is comprised of representatives from member economies who set domestic health and regulatory policy and are involved in significant procurement of goods and services in the health sector, it is important that any engagement with the private sector is conducted in a transparent and competitively neutral manner that manages risks (real or perceived) of conflict of interest. The HWG’s Guidelines for engagement between the HWG and the private sector guide this engagement and build on APEC’s broader collaboration with the private sector to enhance cooperation in the field of human health. The Guidelines facilitate greater engagement with the private sector and, importantly, provide a mechanism to actively manage real (or perceived) conflicts of interest, guarantee competitive neutrality and assure that all engagement with the private sector is managed in an open and transparent manner.

Australia, who led the initial working group for the development of the guidelines in 2015 and 2016, led a new working group for a review of the guidelines between SOM3 2018 and SOM1 2019. The sub-working group presented the proposed updates which included minor changes, issues for discussion, and management procedures.

Economies were invited to submit their comments on the updated guidelines to Australia by April 15th, 2019, with the aim to have the revised guidelines finalized by SOM3 2019.

1. **APEC MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Johnny Lin, APEC HWG Program Director, gave a general information and update for 2019. Mr. Lin noted that there is an independent fora assessment happening in 2019 where project participants of APEC funded projects may be contacted to complete a survey to evaluate a specific project event. The results of the survey will be tabled to the SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) at SOM3 and the SCE will table the results which will have an impact on the HWG post 2021. Mr. Lin also provided a management update where he highlighted the new executive director of the APEC Secretariat, Dr. Rebecca Santa Maria, whose term will run from January 2019-2021. Mr. Lin noted her background in trade and her encouragement that all fora focus projects on the ‘core values’ of APEC. Mr. Lin further provided member economies with information related to the APEC Collaboration System as well as noted that, of the 114 concept notes submitted in the last cycle, 48 were approved. Of the HWG’s 18 endorsed concept notes, 8 were approved by the BMC.

**10. STATUS UPDATE & NEXT STEPS: MENTAL HEALTH**

**10.1. Presentation**

Canada, represented by Ms. Allison DesRosiers-Rodriguez, provided a presentation ‘Status Update & Next Steps: Mental Health’ to HWG member economies. Given that the APEC Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific (2014-2020) will be drawing to a conclusion in 2020, Canada wanted to have a discussion to determine what to do next with regards to Mental Health within the HWG. Team Canada presented the possibility of having the APEC Digital Hub do a stock taking exercise of what worked and what didn’t within the APEC mental health roadmap as well as recommendations for post-2020, and then present this to the HWG member economies at SOM3 where the HWG could discuss and decide on what economies would like to see in 2020 and beyond. This proposal was endorsed by HWG member economies and Canada agreed to follow up with HWG member economies with a one-page proposal.

1. **PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED AND ONGOING HWG PROJECTS**

Ms. Bell moderated the session on Progress Reports on Approved and Ongoing HWG Projects. Ten projects were presented by the respective member economies, including:

1. Workshop on Nutrition Care for Ageing Population to Prevent Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases (*Viet Nam*)
2. Improving Networks of Community Mental Health Services in the Asia-Pacific Economies *(Peru)*
3. Regional Workshop on Lung Cancer Prevention and Control *(China)*
4. International Conference “Promoting Human Security in APEC. Capacity-Building of APEC Economies Through Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases by Implementing Innovative Healthcare Technologies” *(Russia)*
5. APEC Conference of medical information sharing for enhancing medical and disease management *(Chinese Taipei)*
6. APEC Conference on smart healthcare for Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and its risk factors prevention and control *(Chinese Taipei)*
7. Workshop on the healthcare accreditation in the APEC region *(China)*
8. Workshop on building the new-leadership of infectious disease prevention and control among APEC economies (Phase II) *(China)*
9. Workshop on promoting UHC of international migration in the APEC region: Challenges and strategy *(China)*
10. TB workshop on tuberculosis molecular epidemiology: to face the challenge of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis transmission in the context of globalization *(China)*

**12. CLOSING REMARKS**

**12.1. Final items, housekeeping, and plan for tomorrow**

Ms. Bell, reminded HWG member economies of three housekeeping items, including:

1. Concept Note Operating Protocols: The Concept Note Operating Protocols sub-working group was requested to provide a new proposal to be reviewed on Day Two.
2. Chile was requested to propose new dates for the SOM3 cluster of meetings, taking into account the ASEAN Health Ministerial.
3. Member economies were reminded to think about if they would like to join one of the four proposed sub-working groups:
   1. HLM Joint Statement
   2. Statement on UHC to UNHLM on UHC
   3. Childhood Obesity Working Group
   4. Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector

**12.2. Closing Remarks**

Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza, briefly summarized the day’s proceedings before closing the meeting.Before closing the meeting,Dr. Daza, invited participants to a reception happening that evening at the W hotel.

**END OF DAY ONE**

**DAY TWO**

*Friday, March 1st, 2019*

1. **RECAP OF DAY ONE**
   1. **Summary Remarks by HWG Co-Chair & Vice-Chair**

Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza welcomed delegates to day two of the 2019 HWG Meeting. In their opening remarks, Ms. Bell and Dr. Daza noted that they were both looking forward to the morning’s policy discussion on immunization, underscoring the APEC HWG as a unique venue to discuss and advance health-related issues that are inextricably linked to economic growth.

1. **DEVELOPING QUALITY CONCEPT NOTES**

Day two of the APEC HWG meeting began with a presentation by Ms. Lin Jing-Yu from the APEC Project Management Unit (PMU), who provided economies with a brief training on concept notes and how to improve them. Key takeaways from the presentation included the importance of recognizing each individual fund’s priorities and ensuring that projects reflect a causal chain between outputs and outcomes and the overall objective.

1. **POLICY DISCUSSION: IMMUNIZATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – PART ONE** 
   1. Presentation and discussion by international experts

Efforts to eradicate vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) by improving immunization programs and vaccination rates can help avert millions of deaths, save billions in costs, and maximize economic benefits for economies. Immunization as a public health intervention remains one of the most cost-effective available. Further, the WHO identified vaccine hesitancy as one of the top ten threats to global health in 2019, a new addition to the annual list and unique in its emphasis on social dimensions of global health challenges. Investing in immunization in APEC economies presents an important opportunity to improve the global health landscape. The HWG used day two of the meeting to discuss best practices with immunization experts, the challenges and success encountered by member economies, and how to best add APEC’s voice and perspective regarding immunization to global discussions such as the UNHLM on UHC.

Part one of the policy discussion began with presentations from three international experts, including Dr. Kate O’Brien of WHO, Mr. Gaurav Garg of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and Mr. John Fitzsimmons of PAHO. Dr. O’Brien’s presentation focused on the economic case for investing in immunization, and highlighted the role of vaccines as a driver of wealth and development. Outside of traditional cost-effectiveness analyses, Dr. O’Brien noted that the impact of vaccines could be seen in broader domains such as poverty protection, educational attainment, fertility reduction, and labour productivity. In particular, immunization was noted as a pro-equity intervention, as the greatest health impacts of immunization are seen in the poorest communities. Dr. O’Brien also highlighted the role of language being used to frame vaccine hesitancy, noting that while it is often thought to be driven by beliefs or attitudes, hesitancy could also be catalyzed by equity issues such as lack of access to or availability of trusted healthcare services. In this way, Dr. O’Brien argued that vaccine hesitancy should be addressed within the larger framework of vaccine demand and supply issues.

Mr. Garg followed with a presentation on the need for and impact of immunization in APEC economies, particularly the role it plays in ensuring health security in an increasingly connected world and in helping to protect against disease outbreaks in the face of issues like climate change and increasing migration. Mr. Garg also highlighted immunization as a platform for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and noted how it can provide a gateway for accessing primary healthcare services, particularly for the remote poor, urban poor, and those in conflict zones.

Mr. Fitzsimmons presented a case study presentation on the PAHO Revolving Fund’s impact on vaccine access, highlighting how PAHO facilitates access to vaccines for member states while also noting the challenges and opportunities for improving vaccine access to national immunization programs. Mr. Fitzsimmons highlighted how the PAHO procurement model could be exported to other regions by expanding pooled vaccine procurement mechanisms with the goal of increasing access to affordable vaccines and essential medicines.

1. **POLICY DISUSSION: IMMUNIZATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – PART TWO**
   1. Roundtable discussion on challenges and opportunities with APEC economies

Part two of the policy discussion was a roundtable discussion on the challenges and opportunities within APEC economies and was framed by two discussion questions:

a) Discussion Question 1

* *How has your economy been successful in improving immunization rates and what best practices have you employed? What challenges does your economy face in improving immunization rates?* 
  + *Specifically, for accessibility and equity? Immunization promotion and education? Systems, supply, and programming?*

b) Discussion Question 2

* *What next steps do you see as necessary for your economy to progress towards improved vaccination coverage?*

Several economies, including China, Australia, Canada, Viet Nam, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia and the Philippines presented their experiences relating to immunization. Key themes that arose during the discussion included accessing the urban poor, rural and remote communities and vaccine hesitancy.

1. **POLICY DISCUSSION: IMMUNIZATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION – PART THREE** 
   1. Roundtable discussion on HWG collaboration on immunization

This portion of the discussion offered a space for HWG members to discuss how the HWG can use APEC as a mechanism to work together on immunization issues in the region. As a regional forum with a diverse membership and a focus on promoting the linkages between health and the economy, the HWG allows for a unique perspective on global health issues like immunization. 2019 presents an opportunity to discuss immunization as a central component of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), as Heads of State or Government and/or Ministers of Health will gather in New York in September at the United Nations General Assembly’s High-Level Meeting on UHC.

Economies highlighted that there is value in APEC economies coming together to reinforce pro-vaccination messages. Several tangible products were proposed, including technical support and capacity building through various means, and the HWG co-chairs office agreed to take stock of the proposed ideas and circulate them to the wider HWG to help support a suggested way forward at the August 2019 HWG meeting.

1. **JOINT SESSION WITH OTHER APEC FORA ON** **COLLABORATION** 
   1. **Update from Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF)**

The LSIF was represented by Mr, Michael Schmitz, who presented on ‘Enhancing Innovative Healthcare Financing in Pursuit of Sustainable Healthcare’.

* 1. **Update** **from Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE)**

The PPWE was represented by Ms. Carolina Cuevas, Chilean Undersecretary for Women and Gender Equity, who highlighted that when women are healthy they are able to fully participate in the workforce, leading to greater economic growth.

1. **CLOSING REMARKS AND FEEDBACK**
   1. Housekeeping items, including sub-working groups

Day two concluded with housekeeping, including a review of the proposed way forward on the concept note operating protocols. The new method was not adopted at the meeting, however the sub-working group agreed to further intercessional work. Other housekeeping items included endorsing the dates of the next set of health meetings (see below) and an opportunity for economies to volunteer to participate in sub-working groups (see below).

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| **Meeting** | **SOM3 (Puerto Varas)** |
| Life Sciences Innovation Forum Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (LSIF-RHSC) | 15 – 16 August |
| LSIF Planning Group Meeting | 17 August |
| Policy Dialogue on ‘Health Across the Life Course’ – Prevention Measures to support an ageing population within APEC economies | 18 August |
| LSIF High-Level Dialogue on regulatory Convergence (LSIF – HLD) | 18 August |
| LSIF Executive Board Meeting | 19 August |
| Health Working Group Meeting | 19 August (full day)  20 August (morning) |
| 9th APEC High Level Meeting on Health and the Economy – Healthy Economies in an Ageing World | 20 August (afternoon)  21 August (full day) |
| Cultural Event | 20 August (evening) |

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| **Sub-Working Groups** | |
| **High-level Meeting on Health and the Economy with the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum and Joint Statement** | Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Russia, USA, Viet Nam |
| **APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC** | Australia, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China (lead economy), Japan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam |
| **Childhood Obesity** | Canada, Chile (lead economy), Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, Chinese Taipei, USA |
| **APEC Guidelines for Engagement with the Private Sector** | Australia (lead economy), People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, USA |
| **Concept Note Operating Protocols** | Australia, Canada, People’s Republic of China, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA |

* 1. Closing Remarks

Ms. Bell, and Dr. Daza, concluded the meeting by thanking participants for their participation and reinforcing the important work that the HWG has already achieved in 2019 while also stressing the continued inter-sessional work that will be required by all member economies to ensure the success of the HWG over the course of 2019. After thanking participants, the HWG Co-Chair adjourned the meeting.

**END OF DAY TWO**

**2019 APEC STEERING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (SCE) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) MEETING**

*March 6th, 2019*

**INTRODUCTION**

The APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) coordinates and manages the APEC members' economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) agenda. The objectives of the SCE are to support the implementation of APEC's ECOTECH activities by prioritizing work based on the commitments made by Leaders and Ministers, and overseeing the work of APEC fora, providing policy guidance on ways to contribute to APEC's ECOTECH goals, and coordinating ECOTECH objectives and priorities between the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the APEC ministerial meetings.

**SCE-COW MEETING**

*March 6th, 2019*

During the SCE-COW meeting, each of the seventeen sub-fora under the SCE presented on their key 2019 deliverables as they align with the 2019 APEC priorities.

The HWG was represented by Mr. Francisco Adriazola Santibañez (Chile), on behalf of HWG Vice-Chair, Dr. Daza, who was unable to attend. Mr. Santibañez highlighted how economic growth is inter-sectoral in nature and is influenced by a complex network of social, political, and environmental factors, noting that there is an explicit link between successful economic growth and the health of an economy’s population. He further suggested that APEC's wide-ranging economic work program makes it uniquely positioned to address the multi-sectoral impact of today's health threats, and continuing on the important work accomplished by the HWG in 2018, the 2019 work plan reflects the HWG’s focus on implementing substantive policy-oriented discussions at the HWG and ensuring that the HWG remains a strategic forum to advance global health priorities.

Mr. Santibañez noted that the key forum deliverables expected for 2019 include:

1. Policy Discussion on Immunization in the Asia-Pacific Region
2. APEC Statement on Universal Health Coverage
3. Policy Dialogue on Health Across the Life Course – Prevention Measures to Support an Ageing Population within APEC economies

**END**