

**STATEMENT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)
TOURISM WORKING GROUP ON THE OUTCOME OF
THE SPECIAL ONLINE MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2020**

The Tourism Working Group (TWG) is strongly encouraged to:

1. Strengthen collaboration among travel and tourism and other relevant sectors, within APEC economies on timely, accurate and transparent information-sharing on health updates, infection status and travel advisories, including best practices, recovery success stories, and other related measures undertaken to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 in travel and tourism-related industries;
2. Increase the cooperation among travel and tourism stakeholders, including, the public and private sectors, academia, civil society, policy and research institutions, relevant international organizations and other APEC fora to formulate and implement coordinated actions and measures to manage and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 and future crises;
3. Strengthen the resiliency of tourism by supporting the development and implementation of emergency and disaster management measures and mechanisms in the field of travel and tourism, as well as recovery plans for the APEC economies;
4. Explore the use of smart technologies and digital tools to facilitate the recovery of the travel and tourism sector to support economies more efficiently in several areas, including but not limited to crowd and visitor management, contact tracing and implementation of physical-distancing measures to regain visitors and destination stakeholders' confidence in tourism activities;
5. Develop guidelines, and policies to support the adoption of the "Next Normal" protocols for the travel and tourism industry, which may include, but not limited to, health, security, and sustainability for the protection of the entire visitors and workers, as well as communities in tourism-related industries; and
6. Revisit the APEC Tourism Strategic Plan (APEC TSP) 2020-2024 to ensure the inclusion of programs, projects and activities that aim to assist in a faster recovery of the travel and tourism sector from the devastating impact of the pandemic, including:
 - 6.1. Planning relevant guidance amidst the health emergency in a coherent manner together with the efforts of the health sector to rebuild the

confidence of visitors, as well as to support the economic viability of the micro-, small-, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the travel and tourism sector;

6.2. Exploring and supporting opportunities related to smart technologies and digital tools to boost safe and seamless borders and a more a resilient, sustainable and innovative travel and tourism industry;

6.3. Exploring investment in human resources development and helping vulnerable segments or groups such as women, local community and MSMEs to build digital literacy; and

6.4. Incorporating health safety, resilience, and advanced emergency preparedness concepts into regional tourism policies in order to prepare for future pandemic and disasters.