

ANNEX 7

APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

APEC member economies recognize that creating a secure environment for economic activity is an important part of any strategy for regional growth and prosperity. APEC plays a valuable and constructive role in helping to: protect the economic systems of the Asia-Pacific region from attack, disruption, and misuse; protect the flow of legitimate trade and travel from compromise; and promote human security and a safe business environment.

In October 2001, following the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, APEC Leaders in Shanghai issued a Leaders Statement on Counter-Terrorism. They underlined that terrorism was a direct challenge to APEC's vision of free, open and prosperous economies, and to the fundamental values that APEC members hold. Leaders built on their commitments and instructions in a further Statement on Fighting Terrorism and Promoting Growth in 2002 in Los Cabos, as well as in every subsequent Leaders Statement. Leaders agreed to take appropriate individual and joint actions to follow up on the commitments in line with their respective circumstances and in accordance with APEC principles. APEC Ministers, including sectoral Ministers, have also supported Leaders' commitments and instructions on countering terrorism in their ministerial statements and activities.

Bearing in mind Leaders' instructions to monitor progress and build capacity in counter-terrorism, APEC Senior Officials established an APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) in May 2003.

2. Mission

The mission of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force is to:

- Coordinate, monitor, and review the implementation of the Leaders' and Ministers' commitments and instructions on countering terrorism and securing trade, using the APEC Counter-Terrorism Action Plans as the foundation for this work;
- Assist APEC member economies to identify, assess, and address counter-terrorism and secure trade needs, including by developing, sponsoring, and coordinating targeted capacity building and technical assistance programs;
- Facilitate close coordination and collaboration among relevant APEC fora on counter-terrorism and secure trade issues;
- Advise APEC Senior Officials, as appropriate, on current and emerging trends in counter-terrorism and secure trade efforts and report on proposals and projects as necessary;
- Build partnerships with relevant multilateral organizations, including multilateral financial institutions, and the private sector to advance Leaders' and Ministers' instructions and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

3. Structure and Administration

CTTF membership will be open to all interested APEC member economies. Where appropriate, invitations to relevant APEC fora, multilateral organizations, private sector representatives, etc. to participate in CTTF meetings, can be extended by the Chair in consultation with CTTF members. Invitations will be issued in accordance with the “APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members.”

The Task Force will be managed by a Chair and Vice Chair, with support from the APEC Secretariat, in accordance with the APEC “Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces”. The Task Force will be supported at the working level by the “Friends of the Chair (FOTC)” who will provide recommendations, advice, and input and develop work programs as required.

The Task Force’s current priorities and projected outputs will be outlined in its annual Workplan, which will be reported to Senior Officials through the SCE Fora Report. The activities and deliverables of the CTTF will be included in the SCE Fora Report.

The Task Force will meet on the margins of the Senior Officials’ meetings and conduct business via email intersessionally. The Task Force will report to SOM and have a two year term from 2011-2012. Towards the end of its mandate, the CTTF will review its achievements and outputs and invite SOM to consider its future.