

APEC Policy Partnership and Food Security

Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) Incorporating Public-Private Sector Recommendations and Alternative Formatting Suggestions

Key:

Yellow highlighted text = New text based on recommendations (as indicated), formatting clarification, or consistency.

Blue highlighted text = Original text that was moved from its original place in the current TOR to a new place for formatting clarification.

Plain text (no highlight) = Original text from current TOR.

1. Background

- 1.1. In 2009, ABAC issued a strategic framework for food security which, among its recommendations, called for the establishment of a high-level food dialogue among governments, the private sector and research/academic sector. This would serve as a mechanism to ensure the policy and technical cooperation necessary to achieve the holistic approach needed to realise the ABAC proposal which had been endorsed by APEC leaders in 1999 for a unified APEC food system.
- 1.2. In 2010, APEC Food Security Ministers declared consultation with relevant stakeholders to be critical to making sustained progress towards food security goals and instructed Senior Officials to integrate ABAC into APEC's food security efforts in a more substantive manner.
- 1.3. Also in 2010 agricultural ministers issued the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security, the first comprehensive APEC plan for promoting regional food security, at the then Food Security Ministerial Meeting.
- 1.4. In 2011, APEC Senior Officials agreed to create a Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) to strengthen public-private cooperation.
- 1.5. In 2012 agricultural ministers issued the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security at the then Food Security Ministerial Meeting.
- 1.6. In 2014, agricultural ministers issued the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security and the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020 at the then Food Security Ministerial Meeting.
- 1.7. In 2020, APEC economic leaders endorsed the Putrajaya Vision 2040, committing to delivering an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.
- 1.8. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 (endorsed in 2021) aligns with the Putrajaya Vision and promotes cooperation among member economies to create a sustained and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.9. In 2022, APEC economic leaders endorsed the Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030.

2. Objectives. [Moved existing language]

- 2.1. APEC's approach to food security reflects member economies' commitment to facilitation of investment, trade and markets and sustainable development of the agricultural sector as outlined in the Niigata Declaration of 2010, the 2012 Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security, the 2014 Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security and the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020, and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.
- 2.2. The principles of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 build on APEC food security work to date recognizing the need for a whole of systems approach along the agri-food value chain. The Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 recognizes the importance of digitalization and innovation, productivity, inclusivity, sustainability, and public-private partnerships in achieving food security in the APEC region in the following respects:
- 2.2.1. Digitalization and Innovation. Digitalization and other innovative technologies have the potential to transform the food systems and enhance food security by increasing productivity and efficiency; reducing food loss and waste; mitigating and adapting to climate change; and reducing costs and facilitating food trade.
- 2.2.2. Productivity. To create inclusive and sustainable growth in the APEC region, member economies recognize the productivity and efficiency of the regional food system must be improved. Work which addresses supply chain impediments and distortions and improves access to domestic and international markets; promoting an open, fair, transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system; particularly where this work boosts the productivity and incomes of small-scale producers in the agri-food and fisheries sectors and alleviates poverty, hunger and malnutrition, is a key productivity objective for PPFS.
- 2.2.3. Inclusivity. PPFS is committed to diversity and inclusivity and recognizes a well-functioning, food system, inclusive of MMSMEs, women, youth, indigenous communities and the elderly are integral to maximizing our resources, improving rural, remote and coastal livelihoods and unlocking the full potential of the APEC region.
- 2.2.4. Sustainability. PPFS has committed to working together to minimize the food system's harmful impact on the environment, acknowledging sustainability is at the heart of the collaborative and holistic approach to the food system and this collaboration will lead to an improvement in APEC's food system environmental performance.
- 2.2.5. Public-private partnerships [New based on 2024 recommendations]. APEC member economies are committed to working in partnership with the private sector, led by ABAC, to shape and enhance the functioning of the APEC food system, recognising the central role of the private sector throughout the food value chain in food production and processing, distribution, trade and investment and have committed to:

- Promote regular dialogue between public and private sectors within each economy to advise PPFS on how to enhance the business environment for the food sector.
- Review the functioning and terms of reference of the PPFS to ensure a meaningful partnership with ABAC and the broader private sector, which better reflects the priorities and interests of the private sector and seeks to optimize their involvement.

2.3. The long-term goal of PPFS shall, as always, be the attainment and maintenance of food systems structure sufficient to provide lasting food security to APEC member economies.

2.4. PPFS will look to further define the elements of food systems structure as part of its objectives and ensure: “An open, fair, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient APEC food system that ensures people always have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

3. Scope. [Moved existing language]

3.1. **Addressing Food Security Policymaking Concerns.** PPFS is the primary mechanism APEC uses to address food security policy concerns and oversees all issues related to, and affecting, food security. These would include the overall objectives of PPFS and the complementary capacity building work occurring in APEC working groups such as the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group and the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group, as well as the work undertaken by the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance’s Food Safety Cooperation Forum so that efforts are complementary and not duplicative. PPFS will seek to maximize the use of existing institutions - regional, international and economy – specific, as appropriate.

3.2. **Support APEC Cooperation.** To increase cooperation between APEC working groups it is recommended PPFS be represented at the SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting.

3.2.1. The PPFS may also recommend to SOM which gaps in capacity APEC may be able to help address.

3.2.2. PPFS will report directly to APEC Senior Officials and its recommendation will be forwarded as appropriate to Ministers and Leaders.

3.3. **Goal-oriented Performance.** PPFS will establish both short-term and long-term goals each year. As part of these goals, the Chair of PPFS, with assistance from PPFS members, will consider progress on the implementation of Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030, the APEC Food Security Action Plan and the Action Plan to Enhance Connectivity of APEC Food Standards and Safety Assurance.

3.4. **Support Public-Private Partnerships.** PPFS will review the functioning of the forum to ensure a meaningful partnership with ABAC and the broader private sector, which better reflects the priorities and interests of the private sector and seeks to optimise their involvement.

4. Membership

4.1. **Government.**

4.1.1. Given the complexity and cross-cutting nature of food security, each APEC member government is encouraged to make available high-level representatives to PPFS who can represent a consensus from multiple agencies/ministries.

4.1.2. Economies are encouraged to promote continuity to the extent possible among their government-level representatives to foster coherence in PPFS workstreams.

4.2. *Private Sector.*

4.2.1. **Member Economy Private Sector Representatives:** Recognizing that active participation by both the private sector and APEC member economies is necessary to fully realise and effective partnership, each APEC member government may nominate private sector representatives to become members of PPFS and will encourage their private sector to participate.

4.2.2. **APEC Business Advisory Committee (ABAC):** ABAC may also nominate private sector representatives. These representatives shall be endorsed by PPFS in consultation with ABAC.

4.2.3. **Qualifications:**

4.2.3.1. Private sector participants may represent stakeholders of food systems and agri-food related industries [based on 2024 recommendations], agri-food-related industry bodies, farmer's groups, or individual companies, include MSMEs [based on 2024 recommendations], and should strive to see that their views represent consensus within the industry.

4.2.3.2. Economies are encouraged to promote the active engagement of the private sector in PPFS, and continuity of private-sector representation to the extent possible, in order to foster coherence in work undertaken towards agreed PPFS objectives.

4.3. **APEC Sub fora and Multilateral Organizations:** The Chair of PPFS, in consultation with the PPFS members, may invite the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG), High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB), Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) and other APEC sub fora, as well as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization and other groups to send observers/advisers to PPFS.

4.4. **Research and Academic Institutions, NGOs:** The Chair of PPFS, in consultation with PPFS members, may invite institutions to nominate observers/advisors to the PPFS when they believe said institutions will add value to the PPFS process.

5. **Structure and Operation.** [New section using existing and recommended language.]

5.1. **PPFS Management Council.**

5.1.1. **Leadership.** The Chair and Vice-Chairs, including the private sector principal advisor/Vice-Chair will constitute the PPFS Management Council.

5.1.1.1. **Economy Chair and Vice Chairs:** PPFS will be chaired annually by a government representative of the current host economy. Government representatives of previous and future host economies will serve as Vice-Chairs in a troika arrangement.

5.1.1.2. **Private Sector Vice Chair:** The private sector representatives to PPFS will nominate a principal advisor to serve as a Vice-Chair along with the government representatives.

5.1.1.2.1. The selection process for the principal advisor will be an open and transparent process, conducted by ABAC and approved by APEC Senior Officials.

5.1.2. **Duties of the PPFS Management Council.**

5.1.2.1. The management council will convene planning meetings for all interested APEC economies, ABAC and other private sector representatives to develop the agenda for the PPFS plenary meeting. [Below from 2024 recommendations.]

- Create a platform to attract industry. Identify common issues across APEC economies within the context of food-security and invite those industry members to participate during the PPFS plenary meetings.
- Make a decision on the issue/topic that will be covered based on survey results from the APEC economies and consultation with the PPFS Working Groups.

5.1.2.2. The management council may invite multilateral organisations and academic representatives to participate.

5.1.2.3. **Public-Private Sector Coordination:** [Moved existing language] PPFS and ABAC shall coordinate and facilitate mutual commitments on an annual basis to engage in relevant PPFS and private sector dialogues and engagement.

5.2. **Private Sector Steering Committee** [New based on 2024 recommendations].

- Steering Committee would operate independently and parallel to the public sector representatives.
- Steering Committee would be an umbrella group or liaison for the working groups to make connections between their activities and the work of the public sector activities.
 - **Purpose of the Steering Committee:**
 - Steering Committee would be responsible for planning yearly PPFS engagement activities for the private sector.
 - Workshops: In addition to, in coordination with, or complementary of public sector led workshops, a workshop agenda would reflect private sector priorities.
 - SOM3: 1 or 2 days during SOM3 Food Week to showcase the working groups, hold additional workshops, private sector exhibits, tours of host economy ag sector stakeholder operations, and allow for networking.
 - **Structure of Steering Committee:**
 - Host economy would nominate “Host” private sector representative Chair to lead the Steering Committee.
 - Vice Chair economies would also nominate Co-Chairs.
 - ABAC would also have a Co-Chair.
 - To the extent practicable, nominees should represent under-represented groups, particularly women and youth.

- Additional Steering Committee members would be the leads from each working group.

○ Steering Committee Engagement with PPFS Public Sector Representatives:

- Steering Committee would meet with ABAC on the margins of an ABAC meeting held *prior to* SOM1 to develop above said agenda.
- Steering Committee would present the agenda to public sector representatives at SOM1.
- Steering Committee would coordinate closely with PPFS Chair and Co-Chairs to coordinate activities and information sharing.

5.3. Working Groups. [New based on 2024 recommendations]

○ Purpose/objectives:

○ Membership Structure [see alternative proposal below from FSCEF]:

- Working Group members would be recruited by the private sector and ABAC.
- Represent stakeholders from across the wide scope of agri-food system sectors, including non-traditional groups, such as: distributors, banking, equipment, transportation, NGOs, academia, international bodies, etc.
- Represent under-represented groups, such as: MSMEs, women, youth, and groups with untapped economic potential, such as Indigenous Peoples as appropriate, persons with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities.

○ Workplans:

5.4. Meetings & Venue. [Moved existing language]

5.4.1. PPFS will meet at least once a year in plenary. The duration of the meeting shall be determined by the agenda.

5.4.2. Other plenary meetings or PPFS planning meetings may be scheduled as necessary, especially in conjunction with SOM meetings. PPFS plenary meetings are designed to be held at high level to ensure commitment from both government and private sector stakeholders.

5.4.3. The Chair, in consultation with the management council and in consultation with the host and Secretariat, will decide whether the plenary meeting should be held at the level of Ministers/CEOs/Vice Ministers/Group Presidents etc.

5.5. Quorum. [Moved existing language]

5.5.1. Quorum for PPFS's Meetings constitutes attendees from 14 economies. Decisions can be made if quorum and consensus are reached.

5.5.2. If a quorum is not reached, the meeting may continue, but decisions must be put to the full membership for consideration. Should the PPFS fail to meet quorum for one meeting, it must notify the SOM Chair.

5.5.3. Should PPFS fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it shall be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist.

5.6. Host Year Activities. [New based on 2024 recommendations] Each year, the Host economy and PPFS Chair will endeavour to accomplish the following:

- Dedicate a portion of Food Week to private sector networking sessions, to include private sector exhibitions; engagement with ministers, field trips, involvement in PPFS workshops.
- Engage with private sector early in preparation for the upcoming host year.
- Engagement shall be at all levels of the rural sector (big and small farmers) to cultivate partnerships.
- Collaborate with the private sector to develop a private sector host committee to develop input for the host year PPFS work plan, to include MSMEs and facilitation of their participation.
- Engage with the private sector representatives that cover the topics of interest identified while ensuring a diverse representation of the stakeholder group, to include MSMEs.
- Work closely with the Working Groups to identify private sector representatives that will participate during SOM1, intersessional and during SOM3 (a mix of small, medium, and large stakeholders).
- Engage in virtual meetings access and support to all stakeholders.

6. APEC Secretariat and ABAC Secretariat Support. [Moved existing language].

- 6.1. The APEC Secretariat will serve as the primary support for PPFS. Virtual links to other existing institutions shall be used to increase resources.
- 6.2. The program director at the APEC Secretariat will help to organize meetings, provide guidance regarding APEC guidelines and protocols and serve as a focal point for the distribution of information regarding PPFS.
- 6.3. The APEC Secretariat will ensure that information regarding PPFS is appropriately distributed to ABAC and the broader private sector participants.
- 6.4. The ABAC Secretariat may provide support to the PPFS management council in drafting an annual report from PPFS to SOM, Ministers and Leaders on progress made and issues needing attention.

7. Sunset Clause.

- 7.1 PPFS's term is 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029. PPFS must be explicitly renewed by Senior officials in order to continue, after the expiration of this Term of Reference.

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8. Structure and Operation of PPFS Working Group

8.1. **PPFS Working Group will be constituted as follows:**

- **Up to two from developing APEC Member economies**
- **Up to two from developed APEC Member economies**
- **Up to four from academia**
- **Up to four from industry (to include MSMEs)**
- **Up to two from a development bank; and/or**
- **Up to two representatives from relevant international bodies, as appropriate, may be invited to meetings as guests, subject to normal APEC invited guest approvals for non-member APEC economies and international institutions.**

8.2. **The PPFS Working Group will seek to identify the Ag-related, food security issues of the private sector and ensure there is constant engagement and capacity building to address these issues.**

8.3. **Revitalize the functionality of the APIP – APEC (Asia-Pacific Information Platform on Food Security).**

8.4. **In addition to the private sector being nominated by the host economy, private sectors can be nominated by respective APEC economies to participate in PPFs on a regular or annual basis.**

8.5. **Economy nominations of the private sector shall consider diverse representation as well as industry trade associations to allow access to resources.**
