**Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Accessing the APEC Support Fund Sub-Fund on Promoting Digitalisation for Green Transitions**

This paper sets out the governance arrangements and eligibility criteria for the APEC Support Fund Sub-Fund on Promoting Digitalisation for Green Transitions.

**Background**

To pursue a more sustainable way of economic growth and achieve climate goals, APEC economies are making efforts to explore feasible transitions to sustainable and climate resilient economic growth. In the meantime, the digital revolution is in full swing, not only holding massive economic opportunities, but also tapping huge potential to promote transitions to sustainable and resilient economies, and combat climate change in support of APEC members’ respective net zero/carbon neutrality commitments.

In the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC committed to accelerating digital transformation and pursuing sustainable and inclusive growth, including by promoting economic policies, cooperation and growth which support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters. The Aotearoa Plan of Action set up individual and collective actions towards achieving the PV2040. To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy, economies agreed to foster an enabling environment that is, among others, market-driven and supported by digital economy and innovation, including by adopting new and emerging technologies to stimulate growth and digital transformation. To strengthen digital infrastructure, accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, as well as cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions, collective actions included supporting the digitalisation of industries such as services, manufacturing and agriculture; and stimulating practical application of digital technologies for inclusive and sustainable growth, among others.

APEC also endorsed Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, that integrates three economic approaches, where technology and innovation are used to create value, reduce waste, advance resource efficiency, and promote sustainable business models. The Bangkok Goals calls for more holistic efforts to achieve more balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth, including through leveraging science, technology, innovation and digitalisation.

Building on previous efforts, the proposed Sub-fund is to complement the current endeavors and provide additional resources.

**Scope**

The proposed Sub-fund aims to support policy-exchange, information-sharing and capacity-building projects to promote digitalisation and innovation for sustainable growth including combating climate change.

SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) will undertake the duties as the Responsible APEC Forum as set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects with respect to the Sub-fund.

**Criteria for Accessing the Sub-Fund**

Any interested economy, within any APEC forum, may submit Concept Notes (CNs) which fall within the scope and eligibility criteria of the Sub-fund to SCE.

To be considered eligible for the Sub-fund, the project must contribute to at least one of the following aspects:

1. Facilitate policy-exchanges on promoting digitalisation and innovation for sustainable growth including combating climate change in relevant sectors and areas, including energy, transportation, logistics, urban planning and management, agriculture, tourism,etc.
2. Promote innovation and adoption regionally of digital solutions and green technologies that address environmental challenges including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters.
3. Explore the enabling role of Artificial Intelligence in green and digital transitions, where appropriate.
4. Advance the implementation of Bangkok Goals on BCG Economy including through capacity building on the relevance and advancement of zero and low-emissions digital technology sectors.
5. Promote an enabling ecosystem that supports innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in green and digital transitions.
6. Enhance inclusiveness in the green and digital transitions to bring palpable benefits and greater wellbeing to all, and fostering transitions to formal and global economy, job creation, including MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential, such as Indigenous Peoples as appropriate, persons with disabilities, and those from remote and rural communities.
7. Explore and promote the nexus between sustainable growth including combating climate change, and digital transformation.

Project Concept Notes applying for the Sub-fund will be checked against these criteria for their eligibility.

Consistent with the ASF General Fund, an APEC funding limit of USD150,000 shall apply for an individual CN.

**Procedures to access the Sub-Fund:**

All CNs seeking access to the Sub-fund must follow the co-sponsorship requirements as outlined in the Guidebook and be endorsed by the proposing forum, then will be provided to the SCE, which will assess the CNs against the eligibility criteria above. Eligibility does not guarantee funding.

CNs that are deemed eligible will then be scored by SCE using the APEC Scoring Template. Consistent with the Guidebook on APEC Projects, the Secretariat will then calculate which CNs can be funded, based on order of scores (highest to lowest), and in consideration of the total amount that is available under the Sub-fund, for the APEC Project Session in question.

In line with the rules that apply to all APEC project funds, if a CN is found to be ineligible, the CN may not proceed any further in the APEC Project Session in question, either under the Sub-fund, or any other APEC project fund (including the ASF General Fund).

The Sub-fund will provide a maximum of USD450,000 per project session.

**Administration of the Sub-Fund**

The APEC Secretariat will be responsible for the administration of the Sub-fund. It will be subject to the procedures and timelines governing the APEC Support Fund, as set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects and the APEC website. Refer to <http://www.apec.org/Projects/Applying-for-Funds.aspx>.