

1989, the concept of an open region was further strengthened by the establishment of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the first region-wide, government-to-government dialogue. In its Seoul Declaration in 1991, APEC endorsed as its own the aspiration of an open region. Linked by common goals, PECC's task forces and APEC's working groups are entering into productive relationships with great potential for synergy.

Now, a fourth strategic stage in this process has become necessary. Facilitating an open region now requires commitment to coherent measures to maintain it and to further its objectives. It also requires, on a continuing basis, that the Council focus its general meetings on the results of its policy initiatives toward the principles of an open region. These active measures can also enable the Pacific Basin to strengthen its complementary relationship with the multilateral economic system. PECC is in a unique position to undertake such work and to propose parallel initiatives APEC might wish to consider. Launching this fourth stage is the purpose of the San Francisco Declaration and this supporting statement.

San Francisco Declaration

Open Regionalism: A Pacific Model for Global Economic Cooperation

The undersigned member committees of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council recognize that the economic dynamism of the Pacific region is due mainly to its increasing openness and that the Pacific experience in economic cooperation can contribute to a stronger, more open global economic system.

The Council has agreed, therefore, that its work in support of multilateralism will now be strengthened by a collective commitment to a dynamic vision of open regionalism, and declares that its future efforts will be directed toward supporting those public and private practices which help regional economies to:

- **become** increasingly open to flows of goods, investment, services, information and technology;
- **comply** with the disciplines, principles, and practices developed by the world community through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;
- **benefit** from trade creation flowing from subregional arrangements that are consistent with GATT principles as a means of maintaining and promoting the overall benefits of the region's increasingly open character;
- **develop** commerce with economies outside the region that are committed to outward-oriented policies; and
- **promote** the further strengthening of openness in the region and in the global economic system.

The Council understands the desirability of working with others to achieve the goal of open regionalism. It wishes to expand its cooperative efforts with the inter-governmental Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and, through the example of these joint initiatives, actively to encourage other regions to adopt a similar vision of openness within and between emerging economic areas.

The Council recognizes further that to maintain movement toward an open region it must consider, develop and promote new trade and other economic policy initiatives and actively review their effects.

The Pacific Economic Cooperation Council therefore declares that, working through its task forces and other organizational means, it will seek to:

- **encourage** increasing consistency in the region with GATT principles and, in particular, the all-important one of non-discrimination;
- **renew** support for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and for movement toward progress in areas where GATT agreements — including in the Uruguay Round — are not yet fully comprehensive, such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, other institutional impediments, remedies and dispute settlement;
- **extend** the scope for regional harmonization and common standards that go beyond the Uruguay Round agenda in investment, competition, environment and transfer of technology, taking care to ensure that these extensions are compatible with the underlying GATT framework;
- **recognize** the importance to the region's growth potential of human resource development and sustainable use of natural resources; and
- **review** measures designed to avoid disputes in the region, and consider the creation of regional economic dispute settlement mechanisms if that is necessary to add to the effectiveness of GATT procedures.

With this Declaration, PECC adopts a vision of open regionalism whose benefits will be limited only by the support it is able to attract. Although the Declaration embodies technical policies with long-term effects, its intended benefits — development, sustainable growth, improvement in social well-being — can be readily understood. These benefits will assuredly grow under the economic relations envisioned here. It is with the favorable prospect for these benefits foremost in mind that Council members adopt this Declaration.

Signed in San Francisco, Friday, September 25, 1992, at the close of the Ninth General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.

Australian Pacific Economic
Cooperation Committee

Japan National Committee
for Pacific Economic Cooperation

Russian National Committee for Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Brunei Darussalam
National PECC Committee

Korea National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Singapore National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Canadian National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Malaysia National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

South Pacific Forum

Chilean National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Mexico National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Chinese Taipei
Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee

China National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

New Zealand Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Thailand National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Hong Kong Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Peruvian National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

United States
National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Indonesian National Committee for
Pacific Economic Cooperation

Philippine Pacific Economic
Cooperation Committee

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