

Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Ministerial Meeting Seattle, Washington, 17–19 November 1993

JOINT STATEMENT

1. Ministers from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and the United States of America participated in the Fifth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting convened in Seattle, Washington, 17–19 November 1993. The ASEAN Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and the South Pacific Forum (SPF) attended as observers. Members of the APEC Secretariat also were present.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Warren Christopher, Secretary of State of the United States.
3. In his opening remarks, Secretary Christopher stated trade and investment within Asia and the Pacific are weaving a new web of human and commercial relationships. He indicated APEC can play a crucial role in developing these Asia-Pacific networks. The Secretary also stressed APEC's development depends on its ability to promote more open trade and investment in the region, increase co-operation on issues that require regional solutions, and improve regional infrastructure.
4. The Ministers noted with great anticipation the meeting of APEC leaders to be held in Seattle, 20 November 1993. The Ministers agreed this meeting offers a unique opportunity for leaders to articulate a shared vision for the region into the next century and further develop economic ties in the region.
5. Ministers held discussions on a range of topics, including;
 - The Report of the Eminent Persons Group
 - Economic Trends and Issues
 - Trade and Investment Issues
 - The APEC Work Program
 - Participation Issues
 - Organizational Issues
6. As the former Chairman of APEC and the current Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, H.E. Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri of Thailand expressed satisfaction with the progress made since the Bangkok Ministerial meeting. He stated APEC's priority tasks are to push for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round by the target date and to further enhance technical co-operation and trade facilitation in APEC. The Foreign Minister stressed the achievement of regional trade liberalization must

be made through consultation in a manner consistent with the principles of GATT and open regionalism, with full recognition of members' differences in levels of economic development. APEC must retain its consensual and flexible character, which continues to be its fundamental strength.

Report of the Eminent Persons Group

7. Ministers expressed their great appreciation for the initial Report of the Eminent Persons Group, which assessed the current position and outlook of the APEC region, developed a long-term vision for open trade in the APEC region and proposed a programme of initiatives to implement the vision. The EPG chair, Dr C. Fred Bergsten, presented the Group's unanimous Report which emphasized that APEC must accelerate and expand co-operation in order to respond to three threats to the continued vitality of the region: erosion of the multilateral global trading system; evolution of inward looking regionalism; and risk of fragmentation within the Asia-Pacific region. The EPG recommended APEC undertake initiatives in four areas: regional and global trade liberalization; trade facilitation programmes; technical co-operation; and institutionalizing APEC.

8. Ministers warmly welcomed the Report's broad thrust and direction, pointing out [that] the Report's bold vision of open trade, investment and economic development in the region provides an important foundation and catalyst for future regional co-operation. In a wide-ranging discussion Ministers noted the contribution of the EPG in promoting vigorous debate on the economic challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region, reaffirmed the central value of a strengthened open multilateral trading system to continued growth in APEC economies, urged acceleration and extension of APEC's trade and investment facilitation and technical co-operation, and expressed their desire to enhance APEC's role as a vehicle for regional and global trade and investment liberalization. They also noted the EPG vision reflected the strengthening of economic relationships and a growing sense of cohesion and community in the Asia-Pacific region, reflecting APEC's commitment to consultation and consensus building. Ministers directed the APEC Secretariat to give broad distribution to the Report. They also suggested EPG members might wish to discuss the Report with the business community, academia, and the general public, and APEC members might wish to encourage this process.

9. Ministers discussed several approaches to addressing the EPG recommendation, noting in particular that those recommendations closely linked to ongoing work should be implemented promptly; those recommendations related to the outcome of the Uruguay Round would require additional study and consideration; and those recommendations related to longer term trade liberalization would require further elaboration by the EPG, on the advice of Senior Officials.

10. In light of the above, Ministers instructed Senior Officials to develop pragmatic programmes to implement the EPG recommendations on trade liberalization and facilitation, technical co-operation, and the development of the APEC structure and decision-making process. Ministers further requested Senior Officials prepare a strategy and programme to advance regional and global open trade, identify mechanisms to achieve that goal, and report to Ministers at the next ministerial meeting.

11. Ministers asked the Eminent Persons Group, on the advice of Senior Officials, to present further more specific proposals on how the recommended long-term vision might be realized. Ministers wish to consider these proposals at their meeting in Indonesia in 1994.

Economic Trends and Issues

12. Ministers emphasized the central role which sound economic analysis plays in developing both national policies and regional co-operative initiatives. The growing interdependence within the region is producing shared goals and aspirations and fostering a spirit of common purpose and of community

among APEC members. The work of the Ad Hoc Group on Economic Trends and Issues is, therefore, crucial to promoting open trade and investment throughout the region and increasing the economic well-being of all our peoples. Ministers directed the Group to strengthen further its capability to prepare assessments of long-term economic trends and studies of specific sectoral issues. Ministers directed Senior Officials to explore the possibility of transforming the Group into the APEC Economic Committee before the next ministerial meeting.

13. Ministers thanked Thailand for the excellent economic outlook paper prepared for Ministers' review. Ministers discussed the key issues analysed in the report, including the prospects for continued economic growth in the region and the near-term outlook for inflation. Ministers also considered several emerging economic issues the paper identified, including the growth of infrastructure bottlenecks in some member economies and changes in the labour markets of several member economies.

14. Ministers welcomed the valuable analysis contained in Japan's paper on a vision of the region in the year 2000. They noted the importance of continued analysis of the major topics in the report, including trade and investment liberalization, developing human resources and meeting environmental and energy resource challenges.

15. Ministers endorsed the proposal to initiate regular exchange among APEC members of key economic statistics. Such exchange will facilitate policy formulation and enhance future Ministerial discussion of economic developments in the region.

16. Ministers endorsed the Group's mission statement and instructed Senior Officials to advance work on one or more of the proposals to: assess the study on investment flows throughout the region; examine the interrelation of trade liberalization and privatization; study the means of sustaining economic growth in the context of sound energy and environmental policies; and over the longer term, explore the feasibility of producing in-depth analysis of international industrial linkages. Ministers also directed Senior Officials to prepare short- to medium-term economic outlooks for economies of the region for use at the 1994 ministerial meeting.

Trade and Investment Issues

17. Ministers confirmed trade and investment liberalization as the cornerstone of APEC's identity and activity. Strengthening the multilateral trading system, expanding regional and global trade and improving investment rules and procedures in a GATT-consistent manner are, therefore, central APEC objectives. The Uruguay Round must conclude by December 15. Ministers accordingly resolved to exercise the political will required to achieve this goal. To that end, Ministers agreed to a resolute statement urging an early and successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round and demonstrated their commitment to this goal by expressing their preparedness to take additional specific trade liberalizing measures [Annex 1]. APEC challenges other Uruguay Round participants to enhance their own contributions to the Round's successful conclusion.

18. Ministers expressed strong support to non-GATT members of APEC in their efforts to become GATT contracting parties, thus making additional contributions to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

19. Ministers welcomed the Report of the Informal Group on Regional Trade Liberalization (RTL), as agreed by Senior Officials, and endorsed its recommendations on the continuation of a dialogue within APEC on important multilateral and regional trade policy issues and the further development of APEC's action agenda on trade and investment. On the trade policy dialogue, Ministers noted in particular the effective role played by APEC in maintaining the momentum for a satisfactory outcome to the Uruguay Round and in fostering better understanding of subregional trade arrangements and the contribution of such arrangements to APEC's overall goals.

20. Ministers emphasized the imperative that APEC members give effective support to the market-driven dynamism of the region. In this respect, they endorsed the RTL Group's recommendations aimed at improving access to tariff data, reducing administrative barriers to trade, streamlining customs procedures, harmonizing the diverse approaches to standards and conformance issues and encouraging the flow of investment. Ministers welcomed the extensive progress on customs facilitation, publication of an APEC Investment Guidebook and a private sector survey of attitudes toward investment in the region, publication of the APEC Customs Manual and hosting of the APEC Customs Symposium. APEC's important work in this area will be further developed by the new Committee on Trade and Investment which will replace the RTL Group.

21. Ministers wholeheartedly adopted the "Declaration on an APEC Trade and Investment Framework" and the accompanying initial work programme for the newly established Committee on Trade and Investment [Annex 2]. The Declaration significantly advances APEC's role in trade and investment by engaging APEC members in both policy and facilitation matters. The Declaration serves as an instrument within which to further define APEC's identity, expand economic activity and facilitate the flows of goods, services, capital, investment and technology throughout the region.

22. Ministers called for a meeting of ministers concerned with trade policy to review the results of the Uruguay Round and its implications for the region. Ministers urged this post-Uruguay Round meeting to consider next steps for regional and global trade liberalization.

Work Program Issues

23. APEC's role in sustaining regional growth and development derives from growing intraregional economic interdependence. The activities of the ten Working Groups are an essential part of APEC's efforts to contribute to the region's development and prosperity. Recognizing the critical importance of modern telecommunications and information technologies to regional integration and co-operation; the unique role of tourism as the largest industry in the region; and the urgent need to work with other organizations on marine resources conservation to strengthen regional co-operation in response to UNCED, Ministers issued separate declarations on those issues [Annexes 3-5].

24. Ministers commended and approved the vision and policy issues statements and asked the Working Groups to direct their efforts to realizing the objectives in those statements. Ministers approved the Consolidated Report on the APEC Work Programme.

25. Ministers welcomed Korea's proposals on the establishing of an "APEC Vocational Training Program" and the creation of an "APEC Technomart" and directed the Senior Officials to explore the possibility of implementing them within the framework of the Human Resource Development and Investment and Industrial Science and Technology Working Groups.

Trade and Investment Data

26. Ministers welcomed the progress made on developing a near comparable merchandise trade data base for APEC economies and directed that priority attention be devoted to efforts to adjust published merchandise trade data according to agreed principles and standards. The Group should also strengthen efforts to improve the collection and sharing of services trade and investment data.

Trade Promotion: Programmes and Mechanisms for Co-operation

27. Ministers noted the Working Group can play an important role in strengthening interaction with the business/private sector. Ministers anticipate the first Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair to be held in

Osaka, Japan in October 1994 will be significant step to accelerate trade promotion and increase commercial transactions in the region.

Investment and Industrial Science and Technology

28. Ministers noted the broadening of the mandate for the Investment and Industrial Science and Technology Working Group and endorsed its efforts to develop a work programme that increases co-operation in these fields.

Human Resources Development

29. The people of the Asia-Pacific region are its single most important asset. The dynamism of the region is reflected in changing human resources needs. Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in APEC's human resource development activities, but urged that continued priority attention be devoted to this work — with particular emphasis on the training and adjustment needs necessitated by changing trade patterns, industrial restructuring and other economic changes associated with rapid growth and technological progress.

Energy Co-operation

30. Ministers noted the vital importance of secure and balanced energy supplies and rational energy use for sustained economic development and protection of the environment. They welcomed technology and policy exchanged on energy efficiency, clean coal technology and renewable energy, and in particular were encouraged by active business/private sector participation in APEC technical energy workshops and seminars.

Marine Resource Conservation

31. Ministers confirmed the unique contribution APEC can make to marine resources conservation and the importance of APEC co-operation with other marine resources conservation organizations in response to UNCED.

Telecommunications

32. Modern and compatible telecommunications networks are vital components linking and drawing closer the APEC economies. Ministers praised the completion of the second edition of *The State of Telecommunications Infrastructure and Regulatory Environments of APEC Economies*, the Working Group's stress on human resources development, and its important contribution to the consideration of co-ordinating APEC's electronic data interchange activities.

Fisheries

33. Ministers noted the important role of fisheries to the region's economies and endorsed the Working Group's projects on fisheries management, survey of training needs, health and quality rules for fisheries products, improved marketing information on seafood trade in the region, and the possible role of APEC in respect to aquaculture.

Transportation

34. Ministers emphasized the importance of efficient transportation systems in promoting regional growth and integration. They expressed appreciation for the Working Group's efforts in developing information on regional transportation and encouraged the Group to accelerate its work on identifying infrastructural needs and facilitating movement of passengers and goods in the region.

Tourism

35. Ministers welcomed the progress made by the Working Group in addressing the issues of sustainable development of the tourism sector and addressing the relationship between tourism and the environment.

Participation Issues

36. Ministers noted the continuing interest expressed by a number of economies and organizations in participating in some capacity in the APEC process. Ministers reaffirmed APEC is an open and evolving process and recalled the view expressed in Bangkok that consolidation and effectiveness should be the primary considerations at this stage of APEC's development. Ministers also recognized, however, that APEC should develop more systematic means of addressing the issue of new members in a manner which is responsive to APEC's needs while promoting constructive interaction with other economies and organizations in the region.

37. Ministers welcomed the admission of Mexico and Papua New Guinea to APEC. They also decided to admit Chile to APEC and looked forward to its membership at the ministerial meeting in 1994. In the interim, Ministers encourage Chile to participate in the Working Group activities. Noting the importance of increasing APEC's effectiveness, Ministers agreed to defer consideration of additional members for three years, during which time Senior Officials would study APEC's membership policies and provide recommendations to Ministers on an ongoing basis.

38. Ministers reaffirmed that participation by non-members from the Asia-Pacific region in APEC work projects can be beneficial to members as well as non-members. In order to facilitate co-operation with non-members and address issues arising from increased economic interdependence, Ministers approved the proposed guidelines for non-member participation in APEC working group activities which appear as Annex 6 [not included here], and asked Senior Officials to identify other potential means to promote mutually beneficial interaction. With respect to organizations, Senior Officials should identify considerations to guide APEC in fostering appropriate ties and report their findings to the Sixth Ministerial [meeting].

Private Sector Participation

39. The business/private sector has played a major role in facilitating the dynamic growth of the region. Engagement with the business/private sector, particularly through Working Group activities, ensures APEC's efforts are relevant to real world challenges and opportunities. Ministers commended the progress made this year in increasing business/private sector engagement with APEC and directed each Working Group to enhance its outreach to the business/private sector. Ministers pledged to solicit the advice of the business/private sector on issues relevant to APEC's work, especially through the PECC, and instructed Senior Officials to explore other ways of broadening and deepening co-operation with business/private sector including the work of the new Committee on Trade and Investment.

Organization Issues

APEC Secretariat

40. Ministers noted with satisfaction the successful establishment of the APEC Secretariat, and expressed deep appreciation to Singapore for its extraordinary generosity in assisting the Secretariat and to Executive Director Ambassador Bodde and the Secretariat staff for their outstanding efforts during the first year of operation. Ministers highlighted the Secretariat's crucial role in facilitating co-operative links with members and the work programme. Ministers stressed the Secretariat should serve as a central co-ordinating point for disseminating information including informing Working Groups of Senior Officials' decisions, co-ordinating requests by non-members to participate in APEC activities, and publishing and distributing APEC documents. The Secretariat should continue to place high priority on careful management of the APEC budget, disbursement of central funds, and maintenance of effective financial controls to ensure accountability of APEC funds.

Budget

41. Ministers endorsed efforts by Senior Officials, assisted by Working Group Shepherds and the APEC Secretariat, to develop and implement a series of measures related to financial operations and administration. Ministers approved an APEC 1994 Central Fund of \$2 million and stipulated that unspent 1993 funds may be carried over to 1994 for expenditures approved by Senior Officials. Ministers asked the Budget and Administrative Committee to address the issue of contributions from new members.

APEC Structure

42. Ministers praised work by Korea and Canada in developing a comprehensive Vision Statement containing proposals designed to ensure efficient management of APEC's scarce resources. Similarly, Ministers directed that a Budget and Administrative Committee be established to advise Senior Officials on operational and administrative budget issues, financial management, and project management of the APEC work programme. For the first year, committee membership will be open to all APEC members. The Working Groups will continue to report directly to Senior Officials. Ministers directed Senior Officials to use the Vision Statement as a basis for developing proposals related to APEC's structure and to provide recommendations at the 1994 ministerial meeting on restructuring APEC to improve its effectiveness and decision-making process.

Venues for Future APEC Ministerial Meetings

43. As decided at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Sixth Ministerial Meeting will be held in Indonesia in 1994, the Seventh Ministerial Meeting will be held in Japan in 1995, Philippines and Canada will host the Eighth and Ninth Ministerial Meetings in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Other Matters

44. Ministers also welcomed Canada's offer to host a meeting of APEC ministers concerned with the environment in Vancouver on 25-26 March 1994 in connection with the Globe '94 conference and environmental exhibition.

45. Ministers and their delegations expressed their deep appreciation to the United States for arrangements made available for the Meeting.

ANNEX I DECLARATION OF APEC MINISTERS ON THE URUGUAY ROUND

APEC Ministers call for urgent action to complete successfully the Uruguay Round by December 15 because of its vital contribution to global growth and prosperity. APEC members believe that a strengthened multilateral trading system will serve as the foundation for trade expansion initiatives within APEC.

The time for pledges and commitments is long past. Concrete steps are required to assure a substantial result in market access in industrial and agricultural goods, and in services, and a strengthened system of rules and disciplines resulting from a completed draft "Final Act". APEC members are ready to do their part to meet this challenge in the remaining few days. The nature of our contributions should reflect specific economic interests and our varied levels of development.

As the most economically powerful and dynamic region in the world representing nearly 40% of the world's population and 40% of world trade, we collectively are determined to [en]sure that the Round succeeds by helping to forge the necessary consensus in Geneva. Accordingly,

1. We challenge Uruguay Round participants to improve their market access offers in Geneva. Subject to comparable commitments from our trading partners, and in the context of a global and balanced result in all areas, members engaged in the negotiations are prepared to participate to the maximum extent possible by:
 - a. offering to eliminate, reduce or harmonize tariffs and non-tariff barriers in sectors previously agreed by the Quad;
 - b. offering to eliminate, reduce, or harmonize tariff and non-tariff barriers in additional sectors of particular importance to APEC economies; and
 - c. accelerating the work in our respective bilateral negotiations to expand and secure market access opportunities in goods and services of particular interest to APEC economies.
2. We confirm that agriculture remains an essential element of a global and balanced result. The Blair House Agreement already dilutes the draft "Final Act" agriculture text and any further efforts to weaken that outcome would jeopardize the ability to secure an overall acceptable result on agriculture. A successful result will also require the strongest possible package of agricultural trade liberalization, including for processed products.
3. We agree to review and improve our respective services offers in key sectors to the maximum extent possible, keeping MFN derogations to a minimum in order to begin the process of progressive liberalization that will accompany the strong framework of rules already negotiated.
4. We agree that the draft "Final Act" must provide the basis for the final agreement with any agreed changes kept to a minimum. This should result in a strengthening of the multilateral framework of rules and disciplines and an effective mechanism for resolving disputes.

ANNEX 2 DECLARATION ON AN ASIA-PACIFIC CO-OPERATION TRADE AND INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND ACCOMPANYING 1994 WORK PROGRAM

Ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States of America, meeting in Seattle from November 17-19, 1993, (collectively the "Members"):

1. *Determined* to work through APEC toward the further development of open regionalism and market-driven economic interdependence in the Asia Pacific region;
2. *Challenged* by their desire to capitalize upon the strong and dynamic growth in regional trade and investment through increased co-operation and facilitation;
3. *Recognizing* that GATT principles are the cornerstone of the multilateral, international trading system and the basis for economic co-operation in APEC, and remaining committed to those principles;
4. *Mutually determined* to develop APEC's global role as a forum operating through consultation and by consensus, distinguished by open regionalism and committed to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system embodied by GATT;

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5. *Demonstrating* to the global trade and investment community APEC's vision of dynamic interdependence and APEC's ability to represent the mutual interests of the Asia-Pacific region with an active, common voice on trade and investment issues of global importance;
 6. *Recognizing* the differences in the stages of development and in the socio-political systems, and giving due consideration to the needs of developing economies;
 7. *Recognizing* the linkage between trade and investment and the flow of technology;
 8. *Committed* to open dialogue and consensus-building with respect to the views of all participants;
 9. *Determined to pursue* the objectives of the Seoul APEC Declaration November 14, 1991, confirmed at Bangkok on September 11, 1992 to:
 - *sustain* the growth and development of the region for the common good of its peoples and, in this way, to contribute to the growth and development of the world economy;
 - *enhance* the positive gains, both for the region and the world economy, resulting from increasing economic interdependence, including by encouraging the flow of goods, services, capital and technology;
 - *develop and strengthen* the open multilateral trading system; and
 - *reduce barriers* to trade in goods and services and investment among participants in a manner consistent with GATT principles and without detriment to other economies;
 10. Acknowledging the essential role played by the APEC business sector in furthering growth, creating jobs, expanding trade and investment, improving technology and enhancing economic development and cognizant that protectionism, certain investment measures as well as other discriminatory and restrictive practices that distort trade would deprive APEC economies of such benefits;
 11. *Desiring* to consult on and seek solutions to trade and investment problems in the region as amicably and expeditiously as possible without prejudice to the rights and interests of members under the GATT and consistent with GATT principles;
 12. *Convinced* that it would be in the interest of APEC economies to establish an APEC mechanism to stimulate the liberalization of trade and investment and advance a trade agenda in support of these objectives within the region.

To this end, Ministers jointly resolve as follows:

Paragraph One Establishment of the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

Under the authority of APEC Ministers, the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (the "Committee") is established. The Committee will report to Ministers through Senior Officials (the SOM).

Paragraph Two Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are to:

1. Create a coherent APEC perspective and voice on global trade and investment issues and increase co-operation among Members on key issues.
2. Pursue opportunities to liberalize and expand trade, facilitate a more open environment for investment and develop initiatives to improve the flow of goods, services, capital and technology within the region; consult on issues of importance in that context and develop consensus to expand and strengthen these flows within the region and globally, and to reduce and remove distortions which impede these flows in a manner consistent with applicable GATT principles.

Paragraph Three Scope of Activity

1. Ministers will review progress on trade and investment issues and determine the Committee's work programme at their annual meeting.
2. The Work Programme will address a range of such issues encompassing:
 - a) policy issues related to the evolving interrelationship of the APEC economies within the global economic environment;
 - b) impediments and distortions which affect the movement of goods, services, investment, and technology in the APEC region;
 - c) reduction of transaction costs which affect the flow of trade and investment in the region;
 - d) trade and investment policy issues evolving from the work of individual APEC Working Groups and activities;
 - e) ways to enhance the contribution of the APEC business sector in evolution of trade policies, identification of barriers to trade within the region and possible solutions of mutual benefit to the region.

3. At this Ministerial meeting in Seattle, Ministers enjoined the Committee to undertake the initial work programme for 1994.

Paragraph Four Structure of the Committee

1. The Committee shall be composed of Members' policy-level officials responsible for trade and economic affairs.
2. The Committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair to serve a term to be decided by the Committee.
3. The Committee will meet at such times as agreed jointly by representatives.
4. The Committee may establish either temporary or permanent sub-committees, with clearly defined terms of reference and duration, that may meet concurrently or separately in order to facilitate its work.

1994 APEC Trade and Investment Work Programme

<i>Trade Policy Dialogue</i>	Continue a trade policy dialogue addressing developments in the multilateral trading system, regional trade initiatives, globalization and other relevant issues.
<i>Customs</i>	Pursue efforts to simplify and harmonize customs procedures to facilitate trade transactions among APEC economies.
<i>Investment</i>	Examine the APEC investment environment and possible means to enhance the flow of investment to and within the region.
<i>Tariff Database and Manual</i>	Assist the business community and APEC member decision-making by undertaking a pilot study for a regional electronic database of member tariffs and transparency of regimes.
<i>Administrative Aspects of Market Access</i>	Examine administrative measures affecting trade in the region, the impact of Uruguay Round disciplines on these measures and possible means to address outstanding issues within the region.
<i>Standards and Conformance</i>	Define APEC's possible role in standards, mutual recognition of conformance and certification arrangements and harmonization based upon international standards.
<i>Small-Medium Enterprises</i>	Examine the APEC environment for small and medium enterprises and possible means to enhance their trade and investment activity in the region.
<i>Uruguay Round</i>	Review the results of the Uruguay Round and implications for the region and provide assistance within APEC on implementation of Uruguay Round results.
<i>Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Topics</i>	Based upon guidance from Ministers, address selected topics recommended by the Eminent Persons Group.
<i>Examination Process for Additional Issues</i>	Examine proposals by members for consideration of additional issues.

ANNEX 3 APEC WORKING GROUP ON MARINE RESOURCE CONSERVATION MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The APEC Ministers:

Accepting the charge of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to find new approaches to marine and coastal area management and development at the regional level,

Convinced of the importance of marine resource conservation in achieving the Seoul Declaration objective to sustain the growth and development of the region for the common good of its peoples,

Having endorsed the concept of an integrated, multilateral approach to marine environmental protection and an improved understanding of the marine environment,

Noting the recommendations of the APEC Working Group on Marine Resource Conservation to promote and co-operate in activities addressing coastal zone management including land based sources of pollution and problems of red tides and toxic algae,

Taking into account similar activities of other regional organizations as well as organizations active in the region, such as the North Pacific Marine Sciences Organization (PICES), South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) WESTPAC, UNEP Regional Seas Program and the South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) and other international organizations,

Resolve to fully support APEC co-operation with these organizations with a view to seeking improved understanding, utilization and protection of the marine environment and its resources.

ANNEX 4 APEC WORKING GROUP ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

To promote APEC objectives as set forth in the Seoul APEC Declaration November 14, 1991 and confirmed at Bangkok on September 11, 1992 and recognizing that modern telecommunications and information technologies are vital prerequisites for fostering regional collaborative initiatives and increased economic co-operation.

APEC Ministers recommend that:

- A. the flow of information, technology, and expertise should be encouraged in order to provide the means to facilitate the balanced growth of telecommunications necessary for economic development in APEC Economies;
- B. the harmonization of networks and services based on common global standards should be encouraged as a means of promoting interconnectivity and interoperability of telecommunications networks, the flow of information in the region, and the introduction of new services, such as Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);
- C. the development and expansion of modern and compatible telecommunications infrastructure should be given a high priority in economic planning, in order to promote co-operation among APEC Economies and to accelerate the progress of societies and economies in the APEC region.
- D. APEC Member Economies should strive to provide efficient and cost-effective telecommunications services generally available to all citizens and businesses within APEC Economies;
- E. human resource development, being critical for the operation and growth of modern telecommunications systems, should be given primary focus in the formulation of telecommunications policies and programmes.

APEC Ministers encourage the Working Group on Telecommunications to undertake appropriate actions, including the development of procedures for regional harmonization of equipment certification and guidelines for the provision of International Value-Added Network Services:

- (i) As the smooth flow of trade in telecommunications equipment promotes the deployment and expansion of telecommunications-based services, the Working Group should aim to ensure that technical standards and procedures for attachment of terminal equipment to the network facilitate trade and investment flows. Therefore, consistent with their national policies, APEC Economies should develop and adopt compatible procedures for the certification of telecommunications terminal equipment and recognition of technical test data, in order that equipment may be provided at lower prices for end-users, and at the same time, to improve market access for suppliers to APEC Economies.
- (ii) To promote the flow of information necessary to economic development, the Working Group should adopt principles which will facilitate trade in telecommunications-based services. The Working Group should lay the groundwork, consistent with APEC Economies' national policies, for promoting regional guidelines on the provision of International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS).

ANNEX 5 APEC WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

To promote APEC objectives as set forth in the Seoul APEC Declaration of November 14, 1991, and confirmed at Bangkok, September 11, 1992, and recognizing the important role of tourism in fostering regional economic development and co-operation,

APEC Ministers recommend that:

- the sustainable growth of tourism in the APEC region should be encouraged as a means of generating economic benefits for all member economies;
- efforts should be made to reduce barriers to the flow of visitors;
- the promotion of tourism development should be undertaken in a sensitive and sustainable manner in respect of the natural, cultural, and social environment of the region;
- each member economy should be called upon to ensure the safety of visitors and the quality of tourism;
- human resource development should be promoted to ensure high quality in the provision of tourism services
- awareness of tourism's contribution to the APEC region should be heightened through the standardization and the expeditious exchange of tourism statistics and information, and
- infrastructure development, consistent with sustainable growth, should be encouraged.

SOURCE: APEC Secretariat, Singapore.

Ministerial Statement – Tourism

The APEC Ministers encourage the Working Group on Tourism to undertake as priorities the following projects:

Tourism and the Environment

To investigate best management practices for sensitive ecosystems by:

- identifying major ecosystems of importance to tourism, such as tropical rainforest, coral reefs, and forecasting the size and nature of tourism impact on them;
- identifying and assessing successful funding and management strategies and techniques, such as industry self-regulation and user pays.

Human Resource Development

To develop training programmes for public sector personnel in order to encourage the understanding of the implications of policy decisions on tourism by:

- examining possible application of distance learning techniques;
- developing and testing a pilot project.

Tourism Database

To facilitate the exchange of information and statistics by:

- implementing a means of sharing existing information;
- identifying regional information requirements;
- investigating the application of the APEC Communications and Database System to the development of a tourism database.

SOURCE: APEC Secretariat, Singapore.