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Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 3.1

APEC 2017 Tasking Statement (for 2018) - Final

Purpose: Information
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**Informal Senior Officials' Meeting
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
6 December 2017**

APEC 2017 TASKING STATEMENT (FOR 2018)

Following is a list of tasks/actions to be carried out in 2018 as mandated by Leaders and Ministers in 2017. As this is considered an informal document, economies and APEC fora shall refer to the Leaders' Declaration, Joint Ministerial Statement, and sectoral ministerial and high-level statements in 2017 for detailed instructions.

| Work Program | Actions Required | Responsibility | Timeline |
|--|--|---|--------------------|
| OVERARCHING INITIATIVES | | | |
| Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Action Agenda. Encourage APEC fora to incorporate economic, financial and social inclusion in their work plans or strategic plans, and propose in 2018 at least six initiatives, two in each inclusion areas. • Strengthen cross-fora coordination, particularly between SOM and SFOM, and enhance collaboration with regional and global institutions in this regard where appropriate. • Mid-term report of progress in 2024, and final review in 2030. • Support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a framework for inclusive and sustainable growth, achieve a more inclusive APEC community by 2030. | SOMs, SCE, All APEC fora Economies | 2018 – 2030 |
| Human Resources Development in the Digital Age² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age. Mid-term review of progress in 2022. | SOMs, HRDWG, relevant APEC fora, Economies | 2017 – 2025 |
| APEC towards 2020 and beyond³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the APEC Vision Group to assist Senior Officials in shaping the post-2020 Vision, including through consultations with relevant stakeholders. • Continue the multi-stakeholder dialogue on APEC toward 2020 and beyond. • Build a peaceful, stable, dynamic, inter-connected and prosperous Asia-Pacific Region.⁴ | Economies, SOMs, APEC Secretariat, PSU | 2017 - 2020 |
| PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH | | | |

¹ 2017 APEC Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM) Declaration, Annex A.

² 2017 AELM Declaration, Annex B, and Statement of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age, May 2017.

³ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 34, 35,36, and 2017 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Statement, para 63.

⁴ 2017 AMM Statement, para 63

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urge the LSIF-RHSC to develop performance indicators and track progress, aiming at the goal set in 2011 about regulatory systems and regulatory convergence. | | |
| Education¹⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the APEC Education Strategy Action Plan. | SOMs, HRDWG | 2017 - 2030 |
| Innovation, science and technology¹¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and STEM-based entrepreneurship. | PPSTI, PPWE, HRDWG | |
| Urbanization¹² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership, Encourage knowledge sharing and policy coordination to achieve people-oriented, sound and sustainable urbanization. | SOMs, FoTC on Urbanization, CTI, and relevant APEC fora | |
| Persons with Disabilities¹³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support full inclusion of persons with disabilities in APEC economies. Promote equal access to high quality, inclusive education and training, and competitive, integrated employment; advancing their participation in the internet economy and open labour market without any discrimination and on equal basis with others. | GoFD, HRDWG, TELWG, ECSG | |
| Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management¹⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework Action Plan with emphasis on cooperation in capacity building, early warning systems, disaster risk assessment and financing policies, mitigation, search and rescue, and post disaster recovery assistance. | EPWG | |
| Anti-corruption¹⁵ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster integrity in the public and private sectors and fight corruption and bribery, and deny safe havens for corrupt officials and stolen assets. Implement the APEC Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption. Strengthen the role of the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies in enhancing informal and pragmatic cross-border cooperation among law enforcement agencies in fighting corruption, bribery, money laundering, and recovery of stolen assets. | ACTWG | |
| Counter-terrorism¹⁶ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually and effectively respond to the terrorist challenges in the region and their economic impact, as guided by the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy, bearing in mind concerns of terrorist threats which stem from ISIL, Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations, exacerbated by the cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters and emerging sources and channels of terrorist financing. | CTWG | |

¹⁰ 2017 AMM Statement. Para 33.

¹¹ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 8, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 39.

¹² 2017 AMM Statement, para. 40.

¹³ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 41.

¹⁴ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 27, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 42.

¹⁵ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 7, and AMM Statement, para. 43.

¹⁶ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 26, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 44.

| DEEPENING REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION | | | |
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| Bogor Goals¹⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards attaining the Bogor Goal of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region, and take concrete actions towards the achievement of it by 2020. • Accelerate efforts to address WTO-inconsistent barriers to trade and investment. Note the importance of non-discriminatory, reciprocal and mutually advantageous trade and investment frameworks. • Work together to make trade more inclusive, support improved market access opportunities, and address unfair trade practices. • Call for the removal of market-distorting subsidies and other types of support by governments and related entities. • Carry out further actions to promote an enabling and conducive environment for investment in the Asia-Pacific region. | Economies, SOMs, CTI, APEC fora | 2018 - 2020 |
| Multilateral Trading System¹⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underline APEC's crucial role in support of a rules-based, free, open, fair, transparent, and inclusive multilateral trading system; ensure a level playing field Recall the pledge to extend standstill commitment until the end of 2020 and fight protectionism, including all unfair trade practices, recognizing the role of legitimate trade defense instruments. • Improve the functioning of the WTO, including its negotiating, monitoring, and dispute settlement functions, to adequately address challenges facing the system. Work to ensure the effective and timely enforcement of the WTO rules. • Note the importance of bilateral, regional and plurilateral agreements, and work to ensure they complement the multilateral trade agreements. • Call for the TFA full implementation. Urge economies that have yet to fulfill the commitment to reduce tariffs to five percent or less on the 54 products in the APEC List of Environmental Goods to do so as soon as possible. | Economies, SOMs, CTI, SCCP, APEC fora | 2018 onwards |
| Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)¹⁹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance in a comprehensive and systematic manner the process toward the eventual realization of an FTAAP. • Advance work related to the eventual realization of an FTAAP, including capacity building initiatives and information sharing mechanism. • Encourage further progress on advancing the Lima Declaration on FTAAP and to develop multi-year work programs to further enhance APEC economies' ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreement negotiations in the future. | Economies, SOMs, CTI, CTI sub-fora, ABAC | 2018 onwards |

¹⁷ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 14-15, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 6.

¹⁸ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 19, 20, 21, 22, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 7, 8, 9.

¹⁹ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 18, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 10.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Action Plan Framework for the 3rd REI Capacity Building Needs Initiative and the RTAs/FTAs Information Sharing Mechanism. | | |
| Internet and Digital Economy²⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to realize the potential of the internet and digital economy. Consider actions to facilitate the development of the internet and digital economy, including e-commerce and digital trade. Implement the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap. Implement the APEC Framework on Cross-border E-commerce Facilitation with annual reports. Encourage initiatives to explore new areas of potential economic growth in digital trade, including identifying building blocks. Continue dialogue between the public and private sectors to strengthen consumer trust in the use of internet through appropriate consumer protection and privacy rules. | Economies, SOMs, ECSG, AHSGIE(as appropriate), CTI, relevant CTI sub-fora, TELWG | 2018 onwards |
| Services²¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further efforts to increase APEC's competitiveness in services and to address barriers that inhibit APEC businesses from competing or trading in services markets. Further implementation of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (ASCR) including the initiatives on developing an index on the regulatory environment of services trade and a set of non-binding principles for domestic regulation of the service sector. Action plan for the interim review to be conducted in 2018 on the Manufacturing Related Services Action Plan (MSAP). Further concrete outcomes for implementing the Environmental Services Action Plan (ESAP) | Economies, SOMs, CTI, GOS, relevant APEC fora, ABAC | 2018 - 2025 |
| Connectivity²² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a seamless and comprehensively connected and integrated Asia-Pacific by 2025. Continue implementing the APEC Blueprint on Connectivity 2015-2025; encourage new initiatives that will promote further work on progressing the Connectivity Blueprint before the mid-term review of 2020. Encourage cooperation to advance policy coordination, trade facilitation, connectivity, financing and people-to-people exchange. Promote infrastructure in terms of both quantity and quality through adequate investment and strengthened public-private partnership. Further deepen and accelerate initiatives to progress quality infrastructure, including the upgrading of APEC Guidebook on Quality Infrastructure Development and Investment. | Economies, SOMs, FoTC on Connectivity, CTI, TPTWG, PSU, relevant APEC fora | 2018 – 2025 |

²⁰ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 16, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 13, 14, and Annex A.

²¹ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 17, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 11, 16.

²² 2017 AELM Declaration, para 23, 24, and 2017 AMM Statement, para. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage further collaboration and synergies among various connectivity initiatives and work on advancing economic development and integration of sub-regional, rural and remote areas in the region. • Encourage discussions to continue on practical initiatives to enhance rural development and poverty alleviation. | | |
| Global Value Chains and Global Supply Chains²³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement the APEC Strategic Blueprint for Promoting Global Value Chains Development and Cooperation, and the 2018 Annual Work Plan on the APEC Technical Group of Measurement on Trade in Value-Added (TiVA) towards the completion of the APEC TiVA Database by 2018. • Explore the wider use of interoperable GDS in the region; encourage efforts to implement the Initiative on Single Window Systems' International Interoperability. • Promoting MSMEs' participation in the GVCs. • Implement the Monitoring Framework of the APEC Supply Chain Framework Action Plan Phase II 2017 - 2020 (SCFAP II). • Advance initiatives of the Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN), APEC Port Services Network (APSN), and APEC Green Supply Chain Network. • | CTI, MAG, SCCP, other CTI sub-fora, SMEWG, TPTWG, PSU | 2018 2017 - 2020 |
| Non-Tariff Measures²⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support APEC's work to address non-tariff measures (NTMs), including those that act as barriers to trade, and encourage further capacity building. | CTI, MAG, relevant CTI sub-fora | 2018 onwards |
| Investment²⁵ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue implementation of the Investment Facilitation Action Plan. • Enhance capacity building, support more investment and policy dialogues. | IEG, CTI, PSU, relevant APEC fora | 2018 onwards |
| Supporting Industry²⁶ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage member economies to take further initiatives and strengthen cooperation through information sharing and related capacity building activities. | SOMs, CTI, SMEWG, PPSTI | 2018 onwards |
| Good regulatory practices²⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage public sector and self-regulatory organizations working together on self-regulatory approaches. Continue working on aligning advertising standards. • Enhance regulators' understanding of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. | CTI, EC, SCSC, SCCP | 2018 onwards |

²³ Ibis, and the 2017 MRT Actions, para. on Trade Facilitation.

²⁴ 2017 MRT Actions, para on Trade Facilitation.

²⁵ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 15; 2017 AMM Statement, para. 12, and 2017 MRT Actions, para on Investment.

²⁶ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 25, and the APEC Best Practices for Promoting Supporting Industry in the Asia – Pacific Region (2017/SOM3/027anx04).

²⁷ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 23, 24.

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| Industry Dialogues²⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further efforts to: (i) Use of good regulatory practices and address divergences in the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals; (ii) Facilitate Electric Vehicles use, production and trade throughout the region, and continue work towards implementing the APEC Roadmap for Electric Vehicles; (iii) Advance APEC's goal of regional convergence on regulatory approval procedures for medical products; (iv) Improve the investment environment for waste management infrastructure,. | CD, AD, LSIF, CTI, TPTWG, EWG | 2018 |
| Intellectual Property Rights²⁹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage to: (i) Promote IP policies and programs that support, protect and advance innovation and creativity; (ii) Enhance MSMEs' innovation and capacity through effective and comprehensive measures, including IP enforcement and commercialization. | CTI, IPEG, SMEWG, SCCP | 2018 |
| Financial Cooperation³⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further efforts in identifying and implementing activities under the Cebu Action Plan. Promote a mutual support program, sharing experiences in implementing Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) minimum standards and other relevant BEPS actions. Encourage to consider the recommendations by international partners to promote financial inclusion and digital payments toward sustainable agriculture and food security. | FMP | 2018 - 2025 |
| STRENGTHENING THE MSMEs' COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION | | | |
| Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs³¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs. Encourage member economies to lead in the suggested pilot sectors at the initial stage. Promote collaboration with relevant APEC fora and organizations and experts. Annual stock-take of APEC projects, activities and initiatives that promote green, sustainable and innovative MSMEs during 2018 – 2022, with a mid-term review in 2020. | Economies, SOMs, SMEWG, CTI, other relevant APEC fora, ABAC | 2018 - 2022 |
| Innovative Start-ups³² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the APEC Initiative on Promoting Innovative Start-ups. Support start-ups through establishing an innovative start-up ecosystem with conducive regulatory frameworks and building start-up networks and partnership. | SMEWG, CTI, other relevant APEC fora | 2018 |
| MSMEs' Capacity and Innovation³³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the ability of MSMEs to compete in international markets and participate in global value chains through increasing their innovation capacities. Increase MSME's innovation capacities, including by facilitating their access to finance, technology and capacity building, especially for women and youth-led businesses; | SMEWG, CTI, PPWE, ABAC, PPSTI | 2018 |

²⁸ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 26, 27, , and 2017 MRT Actions, para on Industry Dialogues.

²⁹ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 28.

³⁰ AMM Statement, para 35, and the 2017 APEC Finance Ministerial Meeting's Statement.

³¹ 2017 AMM Statement, Annex B.

³² 2017 AMM Statement, para. 48, and the 2017 APEC SME Ministerial Meeting's Statement, Annex A.

³³ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 28, 29, 2017 AMM Statement para 45, 47 and the 2017 APEC SME Ministerial Meeting's Statement, para from 15 – 21, 27 -30, and 34 -37.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve MSME's access to the internet and digital infrastructure; • Enhance MSMEs digital capabilities, competitiveness and resilience; • Create an enabling environment for MSMEs. Including by promoting business ethics; and • Support start-ups through establishing an innovative start-up ecosystem with conducive regulatory frameworks that promote a business-friendly environment, ensuring access to resources, and building start-up networks and partnership. | | |
| MSMEs Globalization³⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs and to conduct the mid-term review in 2018. Finalize the Compendium on Methodologies for SMEs Internationalization in 2018 and operate the MSMEs Marketplace. • Call for a reduction in costs associated with non-tariff barriers to facilitate the building of MSMEs' capacity for internationalization. | SMEWG, CTI, ECSG, SCCP, TELWG, relevant APEC fora | 2018 - 2020 |
| ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE | | | |
| Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries³⁵ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020 (MYAP). The first phase (2018) of the MYAP will focus on assessment and stocktaking of current relevant activities. • PPFS will recommend Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines and common progress indicators for all projects under the MYAP. MYAP activity-level indicators are voluntary. | PPFS, HLPDAB, ATCWG, OFWG, SOMs, Economies, relevant APEC fora | 2018 - 2020 |
| Sustainable Rural-Urban Development³⁶ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the APEC Action Plan on Rural - Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth. • Promote the participation and welfare of disadvantaged groups, smallholder farmers and small-scale fishermen, and MSMEs in agricultural and aquaculture sector. Support public-private partnerships on strengthening rural – urban development. | PPFS, SOMs CTI, OFWG, relevant APEC fora | 2018 - 2020 |
| Sustainable management of natural resources³⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to foster APEC cooperation on sustainable use and integrated management of land, forest, marine and water resources. • Encourage all economies and stakeholders to engage in ocean-related cooperation to reduce land based sources of marine debris. • Develop the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report II. • Strengthen policy and technical cooperation to improve sustainable use of natural | PPFS, OFWG, ATCWG, HLPDAB, Economies | 2018 onwards |

³⁴ 2017 AMM Statement, para. 45, 47 and the 2017 Ministerial Meeting Statement, para from 10-14.

³⁵ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 31-33, and 2017 AMM Statement, para 50 and Annex C.

³⁶ 2017 AELM Declaration, para. 32, and 2017 AMM Statement, para 52 and Annex D.

³⁷ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 33, and 2017 AMM Statement, para 51.

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| | resources while securing long term food supply and addressing the negative impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing | | |
| Agriculture and Food Market³⁸; Food Loss and Waste Control³⁹; and Food Safety⁴⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for strengthened cooperation in facilitating investment in agriculture, rural transportation and logistics, food processing and retail, and related services. • Encourage economies to address Non-Tariff Measures and Non-Tariff Barriers. • Encourage cooperation on food standards and improved efficiency of food trade. Encourage advancing work in the FSCF to promote the use of science-based standards and guidelines and risk-based approaches to regulation of food and wine • Implement the APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste. | PPFS, CTI, SCSC, FSCF, and relevant APEC fora | 2018 |
| OTHER SECTORS | | | |
| Energy⁴¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the facilitation of energy-related trade and investment, enhancement of access to affordable and reliable energy, and promotion of sustainable, efficient, and clean energy sources. • Strengthen coordination and cooperation through sharing best practices and deploying advanced technologies, including waste recycling. • Make efforts to pursue energy smart communities and low carbon model towns. | EWG, SCSC, PPSTI, and relevant APEC fora | 2018 |
| Mining⁴² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to apply the APEC Mining Policy Principles and encourage sharing best practices in management; voluntary technology transfer and capacity building. | MTF | 2018 |
| Forestry and Wildlife⁴³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards achieving and assessing the aspirational goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares by 2020. Foster sustainable forest management and conservation and reforestation. Promote the revitalization of forest-dependent communities and regional development. • Combat illegal logging and associated trade, illicit wildlife trafficking, and support capacity building in this regard. | EGILAT, ACTWG | 2018 - 2020 |
| Transportation⁴⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote developing a safe, secure, resilient, efficient and sustainable transport system. Encourage the following actions: (i) Initiatives to adopt new technologies in transport sector; (ii) Sharing best practices in promoting the integration of remote areas; (iii) Greater | TPTWG, PPWE and relevant APEC fora | 2018 |

³⁸ 2017 AMM Statement, para 53.

³⁹ 2017 AMM Statement, para 54.

⁴⁰ 2017 AMM Statement, para 55.

⁴¹ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 9, and 2017 AMM Statement, para 57-58.

⁴² 2017 AMM Statement, para 59.

⁴³ 2017 AMM Statement, para 60, and the 2017 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry's Statement.

⁴⁴ 2017 AMM Statement, para 61, and the 2017 APEC Transportation Ministerial Meeting Statement.

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| | participation of women in the sector; (iv) Advancing work on expanding institutional capacity to leverage private investment through Public Private Partnerships; (v) Discouraging the use of any transportation network by human traffickers; (vi) Collaboration in developing joint personnel training. | | |
| Telecommunications and Information ⁴⁵ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue developing information technology and communications, promoting a secure, resilient and trusted information and communications technologies (ICT) environment, and further capacity building. | TELWG | 2016 - 2020 |
| STRENGTHENING APEC AND CAPACITY BUILDING | | | |
| Strengthening APEC and Capacity Building ⁴⁶ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote capacity building efforts and initiatives, and encourage more contributions, especially untied contributions. Strengthen APEC's cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organizations, including further synergy between APEC and ASEAN. Continue improving and streamlining APEC governance. | Economies, SOMs, BMC, CTI, EC, and all APEC fora | 2018 onwards |

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⁴⁵ 2017 AMM Statement, para 62.

⁴⁶ 2017 AELM Declaration, para 38, and 2017 AMM Statement, para 64- 65.