Shenzhen, People's Republic of China 21 November 2026

2026 APEC Leaders' Declaration



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Shenzhen Outlook: Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together

1. We, the Economic Leaders of APEC, gathered in Shenzhen, China, on November 18 to 19, 2026. Decades after APEC's establishment, our sustained efforts have helped make our region a key engine of global growth and a champion of regional economic cooperation. Under the theme "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together", we have built on our work throughout the year with China's APEC 2026 priorities "Openness, Innovation, Cooperation", and advanced our shared objectives toward realizing an open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful Asia-Pacific community, guided by the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

2. The world today is changing rapidly, with new opportunities emerging alongside complex challenges. Technological breakthroughs are contributing to the economic growth, resilience, and dynamism of our region. We endeavor to work together to maintain macroeconomic stability, promote productivity and dynamism, and boost economic growth for the benefit of all our people.

and to making APEC a more modern, efficient, and effective incubator of ideas.

Trade and Investment

4. We underscore that supporting efforts to improve the trade and investment environment is important to our region. We reaffirm our commitments to strengthening supply chain resilience and deepening regional economic cooperation to build robust and resilient economies, contributing to sustained economic growth and prosperity of our region.

5. We will continue advancing economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region in a manner that is market-driven, including through the work on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda. We recognize that the FTAAP agenda plays an important role in building economies' capacity to participate in high standard and comprehensive regional undertakings.

6. We recognize the important role of digitalization as a driver for innovation, productivity, and economic growth across the region, and its benefit to facilitating trade. In this context, we welcome the APEC Trade Digitalization Cooperation Framework (2027-2030) to guide our efforts to foster a supportive policy environment, strengthen policy exchange and promote use of digital technologies for trade digitalization. We will continue to facilitate trade, including through measures to advance paperless trade and cross-border e-commerce. We are also committed to harnessing the benefits of emerging technologies for trade.

7. Recognizing the contribution of the services sector to economic growth and job creation, and the expanding role of digitally-delivered services, we will continue to enhance the competitiveness of the APEC economies in the sector. We note the impacts of environmental and related challenges and encourage APEC economies to consider how capacity building and exchanges of experience can help meet their respective environmental and trade objectives. We also recognize APEC's past and ongoing work to foster cooperation in advancing resilient business models. We acknowledge the positive contribution of the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) to economic growth, and affirm the importance of robust intellectual property protections. We are committed to enhancing the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, as well as continued efforts to address challenges faced by innovators, creators, and other right holders.

Connectivity

8. We affirm that connectivity has served as a conduit for economic growth, facilitating the flow of goods, services, capital, and people, including as supported by safe and resilient transport links. We appreciate the efforts made by APEC to advance regional connectivity over the past decade. Building on this progress, we endorse the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, through which we encourage economies to continue efforts towards achieving a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated Asia-Pacific, by further strengthening the three pillars: physical, institutional, and people-to-people. We will continue to advance connectivity to deliver tangible benefits for all. We will enhance cooperation on quality infrastructure development and investment. We also underscore the importance of investment, including through ex-ante investment in disaster risk reduction.

9. In the face of supply chain challenges impacting our region, we reaffirm our commitment to maintaining resilient supply chains, particularly for essential goods. We recognize that it is in our mutual interest that our region remains interconnected and trade corridors remain open to facilitate trade flows, including energy supplies and other essential goods. We affirm our resolve to work together and with other trade partners to ensure trade continues to flow and critical infrastructure continues to support the viability and integrity of supply chains globally. We support efforts to enhance supply chain resilience, address chokepoints, and leverage existing platforms in APEC to advance supply chain connectivity and trade facilitation. We welcome the final review of Phase Three of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework

10. We will continue cooperation to advance innovation and foster IOT resilience in the transport sector. We will continue to promote good regulatory practices, strengthen cooperation on standards and conformity assessment procedures, pursue structural reform to improve the business environment. We will also foster practical exchange of experience on trade digitalization, supply chains, trade facilitation, advance digitalization of customs and trade-related procedures. We encourage business mobility through the APEC Business Travel Card, and welcome economies' efforts to advance tourism facilitation, strengthen education, skills development and cultural exchanges.

Innovation

11. We recognize that technology and innovation are profoundly reshaping our economies and rapidly driving economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. We will leverage technological advancement to pursue innovation-driven and productivity-led growth, improve quality of life, and promote prosperity and opportunity for all our peoples. To this end, we support science, technology, and innovation cooperation to foster a competitive, resilient and secure innovation ecosystem. We encourage the voluntary exchange of good practices to support the growth of local innovation ecosystems.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to growing the digital economy and sharing the benefits of digital transformation with all our peoples. We encourage economies to advance digital connectivity and bridge digital divides across all segments of society and across regions between urban and rural areas, strengthen accessible and resilient digital infrastructure, promote digital transformation for economic growth, enhance digital literacy and skills, and promote the development of digital platforms. We encourage economies to address potential risks such as data breaches, online scams and deliberate misuse of digital and emerging technologies for malicious purposes, to strengthen and enhance the digital environment. We recognize the importance of respecting intellectual property rights in the development of digital and emerging technologies. We recognize the vital role of data in powering digital transformation. We will continue our cooperation on facilitating the flow of data across borders, strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transactions, and ensuring data protection and privacy.

13. We underscore that digital and emerging technologies present transformative opportunities to boost productivity, efficiency, competitiveness, resilience, and economic growth across the Asia-Pacific. We commend APEC's efforts to advance discussions on digital and emerging technologies including the APEC AI Initiative (2026-2030), and endorse APEC Statement on Harnessing Digital and Emerging Technologies for Employment and Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region to continue this important work. We will support human-centric innovation, responsible approaches, and the adoption of digital and emerging technologies across all sectors of the economy for the benefit of all our peoples. We support driving digital and emerging technologies transformation across key sectors, harnessing digital and emerging technologies to improve public service delivery, including strengthening healthcare systems, fostering an enabling environment for businesses, promoting market-oriented and innovation-driven approaches, and empowering micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with accessible digital tools. We will continue to invest in infrastructure related to digital and emerging technologies and advance data utilization to fuel innovation.

Economic Growth

14. We recognize that the economic empowerment of all is an important way to boost productivity and innovation and strengthen participation in the economy. We emphasize the importance of preparing our workforce for the future of work to capture the benefits of technological advancement and respond to demographic changes in line with the APEC Collaborative Framework for Demographic Changes. We reaffirm our commitment to modernizing human resources development through promoting high-quality, full, productive and decent employment, lifelong learning, vocational training, reskilling and upskilling, protecting the rights of workers and continuing efforts to promote international labour standards in the changing world of work, and optimizing social security systems as appropriate.

interest and agree to strengthen communication and cooperation in this regard. We encourage fiscal policies to support households and promote financial access, opportunity and literacy for all, recognizing that financial literacy is important to financial health and well-being.

16. We seek to strengthen comprehensive security across all energy sectors and technologies and jointly address energy security challenges, ensuring uninterrupted, reliable, and affordable access to energy to enable economic prosperity. We encourage strengthened energy security through cooperation on supply chain resilience, secure cross-border infrastructure interconnection, and risk assessment. We recognize the benefits of timely restoration of critical energy infrastructure such as power plants, electric grids, submarine power cables and pipelines, and encourage sharing of economies' experiences on market mechanisms, emergency preparedness and response, and strategic reserve management. We recognize the importance of secure and uninterrupted energy flows and cooperation across the whole supply chain including between producers and consumers in a mutually beneficial manner as well as fostering energy cooperation in the region. We will promote universal access to high-quality energy that is secure, reliable, abundant, resilient, and affordable, including for remote and rural areas. We encourage deepening voluntary cooperation on mutual enhancement between digital and emerging technologies and energy by supporting reliable, resilient and affordable energy for digital and emerging technologies development while harnessing digital and emerging technologies to enhance energy systems that deliver benefits for all. We recognize that conventional and zero and low emission energy sources and technologies provide a foundation for energy security, and strong and sustainable economic growth, and that each economy will choose an energy system mix consistent with its domestic priorities.

17. We will work towards promoting open, fair, transparent, productive, resilient, and innovative agri-food systems that benefit all. We will strengthen policy partnership on food security, boost agricultural productivity and efficiency, enhance the resilience of regional food systems and supply chains, including through innovation and digitalization, promote the transformation of agri-food systems, advance food safety and nutrition for all, and prevent and reduce food loss and waste. We support science- and evidence-based, technology-enabled agriculture, including utilizing tools such as digital and emerging technologies and the advancement in agricultural biotechnology. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening economic opportunities in rural areas.

18. We recognize the multiple values and contributions that forests provide for economic growth, biodiversity conservation, and the resilience and prosperity of communities across the Asia-Pacific region. We support cooperation on combating illegal logging and associated trade while promoting legally harvested forest products, sustainable forest management, and halting and reversing forest loss and degradation. We will also collaborate to improve the resilience of marine and coastal communities and promote the conservation and management of ocean resources, including by combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and addressing the growing challenge of marine debris, while leveraging science- and technology-based approaches.

19. We are committed to fostering an enabling business environment that supports the growth of MSMEs and startups through opportunities to become more competitive and innovative. We will promote greater access for MSMEs to capital, assets, skills training and digital tools, support MSMEs' participation in value chains, and encourage economies to continue providing support for MSMEs capacity building. We encourage the development of accessible, easy-to-use and cost-effective products and solutions that help MSMEs boost productivity and efficiency, expand market participation, accelerate digital transformation and facilitate the transition of economic actors from the informal to the formal and global economies.

20. We recognize the detrimental impact of corruption as a threat to economic growth, eroding public trust, harming trade and fair competition, diverting resources away from vital areas, and facilitating crimes, including organized crime. We resolve to promote growth and prosperity through effective anti-corruption and integrity measures, and continue our joint efforts to fight against corruption, including cross-border

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

21. As part of our collective endeavors to deepen regional cooperation across all fronts, we note the convening of the 2026 sectoral ministerial meetings for *Women and the Economy, Trade, Tourism, Digital and AI, Forestry, Food Security, Small and Medium Enterprises, Energy, Transportation, Human Resources Development, Finance,* as well as other high-level events including during the *Digital Weeks*. We commend the outcomes of the 37th APEC Ministerial Meeting as an important basis for future cooperation, including the adoption of the five-year review of the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

22. Our business communities and other stakeholders bring creativity, dynamism, and energy to APEC and remain vital partners in our work. We look forward to further strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement, as appropriate, including with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).

23. We extend our sincere gratitude to the People's Republic of China and the people and city of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province for their warm hospitality and thorough arrangements. We look forward to the upcoming APEC host years of Viet Nam (2027), Mexico (2028), Singapore (2030), Japan (2031), Chile (2032), Papua New Guinea (2033), and Peru (2034).

See Also

APEC Trade Digitalization Cooperation Framework (2027-2030)

APEC Connectivity Blueprint

APEC Statement on Harnessing Digital and Emerging Technologies for Employment and Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region

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