

4 August 2024

The Honorable Angel Manero Campos
Chair, APEC Food Security Ministerial Meeting
Minister of Agrarian Development and Irrigation
Peru

Dear Minister Manero,

The COVID-19 pandemic and global uncertainties have underscored the need for focused action to establish a sustainable, secure, resilient and inclusive regional food system that supports equitable access to adequate, safe, nutritious and affordable food for all. Finding solutions to food insecurity in the APEC region and globally require a cross-regional and whole-of-society approach. ABAC encourages APEC to collectively implement the following recommendations to close existing gaps in the food system and ensure greater resiliency throughout the APEC region.

1. Establish coherent standards for agri-food technology to foster sustainable innovation

As the APEC Food Security Digital Plan recognizes, the adoption of artificial intelligence, big data, smart technologies, and other digital tools are modernizing food production, distribution, and trade while increasing efficiency, improving quality and yield volume, and lowering the environmental impact of food production. Businesses are at the forefront of this innovation yet face fragmented regulatory regimes in emerging areas such as future foods – proteins that address supply issues and reduce carbon emissions – and in the cross-border data flows that support innovation. Coherent approaches to regulatory standards for agri-food technologies (including, as appropriate, the development of international standards, mutual recognition and harmonization) and good data governance are imperative to foster innovation, better manage interconnected regional food value chains, and ensure greater sustainability, food safety, and consumer protection across the APEC region.

2. Expand market access and facilitate trade and supply chains for greater food security

An open, undistorted, and well-functioning food system in the APEC region will enhance food security, sustainability and equity. Priority actions include the full implementation of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and conclusion of its second stage, and meaningful reductions leading to elimination of trade-distorting agriculture domestic support at the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2026. Within the APEC region, the unfinished business of the Bogor Goals should be completed through further reductions in agriculture tariffs and elimination of non-tariff barriers. Resilient supply chains are also essential; ABAC's Supply Chain Resilience Toolkit provides a suite of actions to enable this, and adoption of paperless trade through the region would similarly support efficient and lower-cost food trade.


3. Revitalize Public-Private Partnerships for effective approaches to food security

The private sector is at the heart of the APEC food system, but the system cannot function effectively – and food security cannot be fully realized – without close collaboration and

communication between food producers, businesses, and policymakers. ABAC calls on APEC economies to ensure that the terms of reference review of the Policy Partnership on Food Security, under section 18b of the *Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030*, enables a genuine partnership. Under that partnership, APEC should support the exchange of industry best practices and cross-border research collaborations, and meaningful opportunities for the private sector to have a voice in shaping policy outcomes in the food system.

We thank you for your attention to our key messages. ABAC stands ready to collaborate with you during the APEC Food Security Ministerial and related meetings taking place in Trujillo, Peru in August.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julia Torreblanca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Torreblanca
ABAC Chair 2024

