

ABAC Statement on Advancing a Sustainable, Responsible and Competitive Mining Sector in APEC

The members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) recognize the growing strategic importance of mining to the economic prosperity, industrial competitiveness, energy security, and sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region.

APEC economies play a central role across global mineral supply chains as producers, consumers, investors, technology developers, processing hubs, and trading partners. Collectively, APEC economies account for a significant share of global mineral production and consumption, positioning the region at the heart of the supply chains that underpin economic growth, industrial development, and technological innovation. In 2025, APEC economies accounted for US\$233.9 billion in mineral exports, equivalent to 61.9% of the global total¹, underscoring the region's central role in international mineral trade.

The importance of mining is increasing as economies pursue digital transformation, industrial modernization, and the transition to lower-emission energy systems. Minerals and metals are indispensable for renewable energy generation, electricity transmission and distribution networks, battery storage systems, electric vehicles, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. As demand for these minerals is expected to grow significantly in the coming decades, ensuring secure, resilient, transparent, and sustainable mineral supply chains has become a matter of economic competitiveness, energy security, and strategic importance for the APEC region.

The growing relevance of mining is not limited to economies with significant mineral endowments. The availability of minerals and metals increasingly affects the competitiveness, energy security, technological development, and economic resilience of all APEC economies. Whether as producers, processors, investors, manufacturers, technology developers, or consumers, all APEC economies have a shared interest in ensuring that mineral supply chains remain secure, resilient, transparent, and sustainable.

At the same time, the sector faces significant challenges, including the need to maintain attractive investment conditions, improve regulatory efficiency and predictability, strengthen supply chain resilience, advance sustainability performance, promote transparency and traceability, foster community trust and social acceptance, and address the growing threat of illegal mining, which is generating serious environmental, social, economic, and security impacts in several APEC economies.

ABAC believes that addressing these challenges requires greater regional cooperation and a more strategic dialogue on mining within APEC.

To contribute to these efforts, ABAC has developed the ABAC Roadmap for a Sustainable, Responsible and Competitive Mining Sector in APEC, which identifies key opportunities and policy recommendations to strengthen the sector's contribution to sustainable growth, regional competitiveness, responsible resource development, and resilient mineral supply chains. In this context, ABAC encourages APEC economies to:

- **Promote competitive and investment-friendly mining frameworks** by supporting stable and predictable regulatory environments, efficient permitting

¹ Source: ITC calculations based on UN COMTRADE and ITC statistics

processes, legal certainty, and policies that encourage long-term investment, regulatory certainty, and efficient permitting processes across mineral value chains.

- **Advance sustainable and responsible resource development** through high environmental, social, and governance standards, responsible water management, biodiversity protection, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and the adoption of responsible sourcing practices.
- **Build sustainable, resilient, transparent and traceable international mineral trade** by strengthening transparency, traceability, responsible sourcing, supply chain visibility, and cooperation to address illicit trade and illegal mining.
- **Accelerate innovation, technology and human capital development** by promoting mining innovation, digitalization, responsible use of artificial intelligence, workforce development, STEM education, and knowledge-sharing across economies.
- **Deepen regional cooperation and effective governance through public-private collaboration**, including by considering the establishment of an APEC Mining Task Force supported by a regular High-Level Policy Dialogue on Mining.

ABAC invites APEC to consider and advance the ABAC Roadmap for a Sustainable, Responsible and Competitive Mining Sector in APEC as a private-sector contribution toward a shared vision of positioning the Asia-Pacific as the world's leading region for sustainable, responsible and competitive mining.

ABAC stands ready to work with APEC economies to support greater cooperation, stronger mineral value chains, and an enabling policy environment that allows the mining sector to contribute fully to the region's growth, resilience, and long-term prosperity.