
Appendix A

APEC Environmental Vision Statement

This meeting of APEC Ministers for the Environment forged consensus on a wide range of issues, sharing the spirit of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. We reaffirmed the inseparable linkages between environment protection and economic growth to build an enduring foundation for sustainable development in our region.

We want to see the continued dynamic growth and growing interdependence of APEC member economies which has transformed our region. We are concerned that degradation of our environment will adversely affect our ability to sustain our economic growth. Our efforts to assure stable and sustainable development must take account of the effect of our economies and our population on the natural environment. To this end we support the outcomes of UNCED [UN Conference on Environment and Development].

We, the Asia Pacific economies are agreed that we must protect our environment and conserve natural resources. In particular, we have to improve the quality of air, water and manage energy resources to ensure sustainable development and provide a more secure future for our people. We agree to develop cooperative programs to this end.

We recognize that problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, deteriorating water quality and availability, soil erosion, population pressures, and growing energy consumption challenge all of us to cooperate more effectively in dealing with these issues. APEC should take the lead in addressing these global problems and solutions in line with the global consensus reached at UNCED.

All APEC members share a commitment to sustainable development. We support enhanced protection of our environment and greater sensitivity and concern for the environment in our economic decision-making processes by integrating environmental considerations into relevant policy development and economic decisions throughout the region. To this end, we encourage APEC working groups and policy committees to integrate environmental concerns into their work programs.

Members recognize that the market can be an efficient and flexible means of allocating resources but that market outcomes do not always take into full account relevant environmental concerns. The challenge is to achieve sustainable development while taking advantage of the dynamism that market economies provide.

We welcome the call of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) and APEC members to embark on a course of sustainable development, without creating new forms of protectionism. We would hope the important EPG work of developing a long term vision for APEC would address equally relevant environmental and economic considerations.

We think APEC's work on the environment should add value to other environmental activities in the region through mutually beneficial work complementary to other multilateral institutions and fora.

We believe sound environment and sound economic policies are mutually supportive and that preventing environmental degradation is fundamental to sustainable development.

We will work together with our APEC Ministers to promote sustainable development, trade and investment in the region, through a vision for APEC that encourages members to integrate environmental considerations into their policymaking having regard to the attached framework of principles for integrating environmental considerations within APEC, at all levels.

APEC economies recognize the inter-relationship among poverty, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, population growth, natural resource depletion, and environmental degradation, and the potential for regional approaches in addressing global environmental problems. We encourage an enhanced dialogue focused on opportunities for regional cooperation in priority areas such as environmental technologies, environmental education and information, policy tools, and sustainable cities, as well as earth observation and global changes research.

We urge each APEC economy to broaden consultations on sustainable development issues to provide multi-sectoral input into their policy development process. We encourage the private sector to observe their role and obligations in achieving sustainable development. We also encourage APEC senior officials (SOM) to develop ideas for multi-sectoral exchanges at the regional level, including the possible exploration of an Asia Pacific Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, and we encourage

APEC economies to develop their own mechanisms for contacts with the private sector and major groups.

We call on APEC senior officials to build on the environment work already under way in APEC working groups to develop a strategic approach, based on sustainable development principles, for environment considerations to be fully integrated into the program of each APEC working group and policy committee.

We are committed to develop policies that are sound economically and environmentally. We agree that sustainable development depends upon successful implementation of policies and programs that integrate economic, environmental, and social objectives. We believe that APEC should take the lead in achieving sustainable development.

APEC Ministers Responsible for the Environment
Vancouver, Canada
25 March 1994

Appendix B

Framework of Principles for Integrating Economy and Environment in APEC

Preamble

The challenge of sustainable development requires integration of economy and environment in all sectors and at all levels.

The experience of APEC members is that a market economy can be a very efficient and flexible means of allocating resources to meet individual preferences. Competitive market economies make for a dynamic and innovative society.

But the market will not necessarily deliver other objectives that society may have, such as meeting the basic needs of all citizens, environmental quality, and access to resources for future generations.

In seeking to reconcile the objectives of economic growth and efficiency with improved environmental outcomes, the following principles could be taken into consideration by member economies to achieve sustainable development.

Principle: Sustainable Development

Member economies should promote sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people. All the possible measures should be seriously considered to bring about a society where "... environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process

and cannot be considered in isolation from it” (from Principle 4, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).

Member economies should promote the complementary principles of reduction of poverty and improvement of the environment, consistent with Principle 5 of the Rio Declaration.

Principle: Internalization

Members should “endeavor to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment” (from Principle 16, Rio Declaration).

Principle: Science and Research

Scientific research should be fostered to increase the community’s understanding of ecological system, and their interactions with the economy, employment, and human communities.

Principle: Technology Transfer

Member economies should cooperate to strengthen capacity-building for sustainable development through exchanges of scientific and technical knowledge. They should enhance the development and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies, consistent with Chapter 34 of Agenda 21.

Principle: The Precautionary Approach

Member economies should, according to their capabilities, widely apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration: “. . . Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measure to prevent environmental degradation.”

Principle: Trade and the Environment

Member economies should support multilateral efforts to make trade and environment policies mutually supportive, consistent with Principle 12 and other relevant principles of the Rio Declaration.

Principle: Environmental Education and Information

Member economies, industry, consumer groups, and environmental groups should provide to all citizens information and educational opportunities that will enhance informed choices that affect the environment.

Principle: Financing for Sustainable Development

Member economies should cooperate to meet the goal of mobilizing financial resources for sustainable development, including the exploration of innovative approaches to fund raising schemes and mechanisms, taking into account conditions and priorities of APEC members.

Principle: Role of APEC

APEC members should, in promoting regional cooperation, make the best use of existing multilateral and bilateral fora, and activities of APEC to attain sustainable development. These fora and activities have contributed to the implementation of Agenda 21 in the fields of environmental priority setting, accumulation of scientific knowledge, and enhancement of capacity building. APEC members should seek appropriate ways and means by which APEC can add concrete value to these ongoing activities, avoiding duplication of functions.

Meetings of APEC ministers responsible for the environment should be held on an ad hoc basis as the necessity arises.

APEC members should consider ways to better incorporate sustainable development into the work of APEC Working Groups and Committees, where relevant, including consideration of these issues at the levels of Senior Officials Meetings and APEC Ministerial Meetings.

APEC members should achieve the integration of economy and environment considerations through conscious efforts to incorporate environmental concerns into decision making for sustainable development at all levels.

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