

1 **FINAL CONSOLIDATED DRAFT OF CAN THO STATEMENT ON**  
2 **Enhancing Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Response to Climate Change**  
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6 **Preamble**

7 We, the APEC Ministers and high-level representatives responsible for food security and  
8 agriculture, met in Cần Thơ, Việt Nam on 25 August 2017 under the chairmanship of Mr.  
9 Tran Hong Ha, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam, to discuss  
10 cooperation and solutions to enhance Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in  
11 Response to Climate Change in the APEC region.

12 We welcome the participation of the representatives of Food and Agriculture  
13 Organization, Association of Southeast Asian Nations and World Economic Forum.

14 We underscore that food security is and will remain a critical issue for the international  
15 community in general and in the APEC region in particular, given that global food  
16 production must rise in volume by at least 60 percent by 2050 to feed the expected  
17 world's population of 9,15 billion people. We also highlight the significant role of APEC  
18 economies in today's agricultural value chain and the importance of trade.

19 We recognize the linkages between food security, poverty, climate change and  
20 sustainable development. Sustainable and resilient agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries  
21 contribute to advancing a number of the Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing  
22 food security, rural employment, poverty eradication, community empowerment,  
23 economic development, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change.

24 Under the overarching theme of "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future",  
25 and recognizing that climate change is one of the four major priorities of APEC 2017, we  
26 seek to address, through relevant APEC fora, including ATCWG, PPFs, OFWG and  
27 HLPDAB, the following key issues related to food security, through sustainable  
28 agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries:

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30 **Addressing the food security – climate change relationship**

31 Increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change are  
32 already negatively affecting agricultural production systems and food security. We  
33 endorse the APEC Multi-year Action Plan on Food Security and Climate Change to  
34 promote a more coordinated regional effort at addressing the closely linked challenges  
35 of food security, development, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

37 **Sustainable natural resources management**

38 We are conscious that the region's natural resources are under stress from  
39 overconsumption, land and marine habitat degradation, fresh water scarcity and loss of  
40 biodiversity. Greater concerted efforts, including regional coordination, to foster  
41 sustainable use and management of land, forests, water and marine resources, are  
42 essential to both food security and environmental protection.

43 We believe it is critical to strengthen policy and technical cooperation to improve  
44 sustainable use of natural resources while securing long-term food supply, including:

- 45     ▪ Fostering relevant and coherent policies that promote climate-resilience, water  
46       and energy efficiency, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable growth;
- 47     ▪ Encouraging investments in a range of integrated approaches at various scales  
48       that build synergies and manage trade-offs;
- 49     ▪ Implementing innovative successful programs and best practices that promote  
50       the sustainable use of land, forest, water, aquatic resources through local,  
51       regional, sub-regional, and economy-wide programs and institutions, as a matter  
52       of priority;
- 53     ▪ Addressing the sustainable management and protection of land and marine  
54       ecosystems for food security and livelihoods.
- 55     ▪ Promoting activities that make the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors  
56       more resilient to climate-related risks such as droughts, flooding, salination and  
57       water quality deterioration; intensify cooperation to mitigate impacts of drought,  
58       flood, extreme events of El Niño-La Niña (ENSO), and climate change exacerbated  
59       disasters to address sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and food  
60       security; implement and scale up actions towards restoring degraded land,  
61       marine, coastal, lake and river ecosystems and addressing drought issues.
- 62     ▪ Addressing the negative impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)  
63       fishing on fish stocks, the marine environment and food security.

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65 **Sustainable rural-urban development**

66 We acknowledge that most agricultural production takes place in rural areas, where  
67 large proportions of poor and malnourished populations live. Accordingly, rural  
68 development, as well as rapid urbanization and the subsequent demographic and diet  
69 changes, have significant implications for food security and quality growth.

70 We underscore that sustainable rural-urban development includes minimizing the  
71 negative impacts of land-based activities on marine and coastal ecosystems, and the lack

72 of effective solid waste management infrastructure imposes great socio-economic and  
73 environmental costs.

74 We, therefore, encourage APEC member economies to further promote innovative,  
75 inclusive and resilient rural development, and economic growth. That includes  
76 empowering farmers, disadvantaged groups, such as women and indigenous  
77 populations, smallholders and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in  
78 agriculture, to secure livelihoods, reduce poverty and improve food security for farming  
79 and fishing communities. Meanwhile we promote sustainable urban development that  
80 links rural and urban areas creating food systems that meet the nutritional needs of all  
81 consumers, particularly smallholder farmers and the urban poor. The development of  
82 competitive agriculture and food value chains will help promote rural development by  
83 adding value to farmers' products and reducing food loss and waste.

84 We welcome the efforts made by APEC member economies to share best practices and  
85 experiences in promoting sustainable rural-urban development. We endorse the Action  
86 Plan on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth.

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#### 88 **Facilitation of trade and investment in agriculture and regional food markets**

89 As APEC members are among the world's largest food producers and traders, we  
90 recognize that trade and investment in food, agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries are  
91 crucial to food security in the APEC region and beyond. We underscore that it is vital for  
92 farmers to have access to domestic, regional and international markets. The profitability  
93 of agricultural producers is crucial for a successful agriculture sector and for food  
94 security. We, therefore, welcome further joint efforts in promoting trade facilitation,  
95 innovative technologies, food market access and integrity and supply chain connectivity  
96 so as to reduce costs of food trade and improve market transparency. We will strive to  
97 reduce non-tariff trade barriers to promote the efficient flow of agriculture and fisheries  
98 products. We note the ABAC study on non-tariff barriers in agriculture and food trade in  
99 APEC's work to address NTMs and will continue to consider how to work on this issue.

100 An enabling policy and regulatory environment is also needed to foster and facilitate  
101 investment in rural transport, connectivity, logistics, agro-industry clusters and other  
102 services to improve farming, food processing and the linkage of food markets, consistent  
103 with international obligations. The cooperation in this regard can cover, but not be  
104 limited to, the following activities:

- 105     ▪ Advance the Lima Declaration on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP)  
106     and develop the multi-year work program to further enhance APEC economies  
107     ability to participate in high quality, comprehensive free trade agreement  
108     negotiations in the future.

- 109       ▪ Engage private sector in a meaningful, comprehensive way that can help develop  
110       models that are integral to core business strategies and meet the regional food  
111       security challenge. These “win-win” partnerships are advancing the impact of  
112       sustainable development and will foster private sector-led growth in emerging  
113       markets, critical to reducing poverty, fighting hunger and improving nutrition.
- 114       ▪ Support member economies' individual and collective efforts to (i) Develop  
115       science-based, transparent policy environments that enable open markets,  
116       private sector investment, and gender-equitable access to factors of production,  
117       products, and income; (ii) Promote effective institutions and services, such as  
118       rural extension and finance, to enable both women and men producers to  
119       acquire, protect, and use the assets they need to take advantage of emerging  
120       market and trade opportunities; (iii) Strengthen producer and other rural  
121       organizations to help them participate effectively in domestic, regional and global  
122       food value chains, reduce transaction costs, acquire productivity-enhancing  
123       technologies, and make use of information on domestic, regional, and  
124       international markets.
- 125       ▪ Greater convergence among economies based on sound scientific principles,  
126       international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, would  
127       ultimately enhance food safety and provide for incremental improvement in  
128       public health while promoting a predictable, fair, transparent and open trading  
129       environment, consistent with members' rights and obligations under the Sanitary  
130       and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)  
131       Agreements of the World Trade Organization

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133       We acknowledge that agricultural biotechnologies can be used as tools to enhance  
134       agricultural productivity, raise farm income, protect the environment, strengthen food  
135       security and mitigate against the impact of climate change. We will work together  
136       toward the promotion of transparent, science-based and functioning regulatory systems  
137       that allow the development, application and safe trade of innovative agricultural  
138       biotechnologies for the benefit of APEC member economies. We encourage the  
139       management of regulatory differences through the development of transparent and  
140       science-based solutions to global challenges.

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### 143       **Food loss and Food waste management**

144       We highlight that post-harvest food loss and waste remains a challenge that demands  
145       further actions, including infrastructure development as well as implementation of

146 innovative technologies among APEC member economies. The collaboration and co-  
147 ordination of regional initiatives on food loss and waste reduction is essential.

148 We call on economies to continue to advance the implementation of the APEC Action  
149 Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and value the progress of the APEC Food Losses  
150 Multi-Year Project. We encourage all member economies to strengthen public-private  
151 partnership on awareness raising, capacity building, and investment, and consider  
152 further collaboration on relevant APEC action plans.

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#### 154 **Looking forward**

155 We reiterate our commitment to achieving a sustainable APEC Food System by 2020  
156 through the implementation of the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020 and past  
157 APEC Ministerial Declarations on food security.

158 We are encouraged by the outcomes of the Dialogue between Ministers and CEOs on  
159 the Responsible Use of Resources to Enhance Sustainable Food Production and Agri-  
160 business preceding our High Level Policy Dialogue. We emphasize the importance of  
161 engaging the private sector and other stakeholders in the development of the APEC  
162 Food System.

163 We welcome the successful convening and fruitful outcomes of the individual and joint  
164 meetings of the ATCWG, PPFs, OFWG and HLPDAB, as well as the series of food-security  
165 related workshops.

166 We will report the outcomes of the High level Policy Dialogue on Food security and  
167 Sustainable Agriculture in response to Climate change, including this Statement and the  
168 APEC Multi-year Action Plan on Food Security and Climate Change and the APEC Action  
169 Plan on Rural-Urban Development to Strengthen Food Security and Quality Growth to  
170 the APEC Ministerial Meeting and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Da Nang this  
171 November.

172 We thank the Government of Viet Nam for the warm hospitality and excellent  
173 arrangements for the 2017 APEC Food Security Week and the High Level Policy Dialogue  
174 in Cần Thơ city. We look forward to the next APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security  
175 to be hosted by Papua New Guinea in 2018.