



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity



Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform

Individual Action Plans

APEC Economic Committee
July 2022



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For
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Note: The terms ‘National’ and ‘Nation’ used in the text are for purposes of this report and do not imply the ‘political status’ of any APEC member economy.

OVERVIEW

Adopted by the APEC Structural Reform Ministers Meeting (SRMM) in June 2021, the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR) is the framework for economies to undertake robust, comprehensive, and ambitious structural reforms to stimulate growth, and remove undue burdens on investors and businesses in their economies.

The EAASR draws on progress and lessons learnt under the former structural reform instruments of the Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) 2004, the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR) for 2010-2015, and the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR) for 2015-2020. The EAASR is based on the Concept Paper on EAASR, which was prepared by the RAASR Action Team and endorsed by the Economic Committee (EC) in 2020.

APEC economies will continue to focus on recovering from the adverse economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing for future economic shocks, and making joint efforts to implement the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action. EAASR presents an opportunity for revitalizing and rebuilding economies, collaborating, supporting recovery and building back stronger.

The EAASR sets out new direction for growth-focused structural reform that is designed to be inclusive, sustainable and innovation-friendly, in line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aotearoa Plan of Action. The EAASR seeks to contribute to APEC's overarching goal to promote strong, balanced, inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth, through measures in line with the following four pillars:

1. Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets;
2. Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks;
3. Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being; and
4. Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

Under the EAASR, economies submitted individual action plans (IAPs) that outline their structural reform initiatives through to 2025. Economies were encouraged to nominate reform actions under all four pillars and across all sectors, particularly services, to ensure IAPs are suitably ambitious and comprehensive, together with quantitative and qualitative indicators to enable future monitoring and review.

This report is the collation of the IAPs submitted by APEC member economies as at 4 July 2022. The IAPs in this compilation reflect domestic initiatives of individual APEC member economies and the content of each economy's IAP has not been endorsed by other economies. Economies are encouraged to continuously update their IAPs as living documents through to 2025. This report may be periodically refreshed to capture new or updated IAPs.

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AUSTRALIA

1. Introduction

Australia welcomes APEC Economic Leaders' endorsement in 2021 of the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR), and its four pillars, which serve as guideposts for encouraging APEC economies to undertake concrete structural reforms.

Under the government's [Economic and Fiscal Strategy](#) outlined in the 2021–2022 Budget, the Australian Government is undertaking a range of new structural reform measures, helping to facilitate the transition to a stronger, more diversified, economy following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian government is improving the tax system, promoting competition, providing more infrastructure, encouraging the digital economy, and helping young people get into work. These reform commitments highlight Australia's commitment to APEC's structural reform agenda as outlined in the EAASR and will:

- Increase workforce participation through supporting employment skills for young people with new apprenticeships and training places, and enhancing access to childcare support for all families;
- Improve competition and reduce administrative burdens on business to support competitive markets;
- Support growth and higher wages through personal income tax cuts and business tax incentives;
- Invest in settings and skills to improve Australia's digital economy.

The government's Economic and Fiscal Strategy will secure the economic recovery by supporting strong and sustainable private sector led growth and job creation to drive the unemployment rate down to pre-crisis levels or lower.

A strong economy with low unemployment will position the Government to deliver on its medium-term strategy of stabilising and then reducing debt as a share of GDP over time.

In addition, Australia's Productivity Commission provides independent research and advice on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. The Commission is Australia's principal review body on microeconomic policy and regulation, with its research and publications informing many of Australia's structural reform initiatives. For example, the Productivity Commission is currently examining the structural issues affecting the productivity of Australia's maritime logistics system. Long-term trends in system performance will be analysed, and industrial relations, infrastructure constraints and technology uptake will be among the inquiry's areas of focus. Further information is available on the [Commission's website](#).

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Digital Economy Strategy	
<i>The Digital Economy Strategy sets out how Australia will secure its future as a modern and leading digital economy and society by 2030. It builds on the Australian Government's existing digital and data initiatives, sets out further actions that the Australian Government is taking and defines future pathways to 2030. Through the Strategy, the Australian Government is making significant investments in the infrastructure, settings and incentives that will underpin improvements in jobs, productivity and make Australia's economy more resilient.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ¹ ☐ Supporting policies ² The 2021–22 Budget supported the Digital Economy Strategy through \$1.2 billion in strategic investments to unlock the value of data, drive investment and uptake of emerging technologies, build the skills required for a modern economy, and enhance government service delivery. This builds on the \$800 million Digital Business Plan, the \$1.67 billion Cyber Security Strategy 2020, the \$1 billion JobTrainer fund and the \$4.5 billion upgrade plan for the National Broadband Network (NBN). Key initiatives in the \$1.2 billion Digital Economy Strategy package included: - AI investments to drive greater AI adoption across the economy - Emerging Aviation Technology reforms and industry partnerships to enable the use of drones and other aviation technologies - Tax incentives to grow the digital games sector and encourage business investment in digital technologies - Accelerating the rollout of the Consumer Data Right (CDR) giving Australians greater access to, and control over, their data ▪ The CDR is a significant reform that will have a positive impact on competition as it democratises access to data, allowing new entrants to access the data needed to create competitive and personalised products. The CDR eases the burden of doing business as it allows SMEs to harness the value of their data in a way that removes the hassle from business administration. - Unlocking the value of data with an Australian Data Strategy

¹ **Supplementary Structural Reforms** can range from macroeconomic policy to a variety of changes to laws, regulations and institutions that directly or indirectly improve the functioning of markets, but do not fall under EC's six Core Structural Reform areas. For more details see 'Structural Reforms for Inclusive Growth: Three Approaches' (Singapore: APEC, 2018), <https://www.apec.org/-/media/Files/Groups/EC/Structural-Reforms-for-Inclusive-Growth---Three-Approaches.docx?la=en&hash=BD201A724890FAADE32D3A9A0E5999A8A6F51C10>

² **Supporting Policies** are policies required to advance government objectives but that generally do not involve changes in laws or institutions. They often (but not always) involve government expenditures (e.g., programs, grants, incentives). When deployed along with Core and Supplementary Structural Reforms, they can be part of an integrated package designed to promote inclusive growth or attain other broad policy goals.

	- Building skills for a modern economy with a Digital Skills Cadetship Trial and Next Generation AI and Emerging Technology Graduates - Enhancing myGov to deliver better services to Australians - Enabling next-wave My Health Record for world-leading healthcare - Expanding the use of the Digital Identity System for secure and simple access to services from government and across the economy - Expansion of Digital Solutions – Australian Small Business Advisory Services to build SME digital capability - Improving internet and mobile connectivity in peri-urban areas - Driving the uptake of eInvoicing by businesses - Working with industry to secure Australia’s mobile networks (5G and future 6G networks) and data centre infrastructure - Digital Atlas to support emergency response, environmental management, virtual construction design and business investment
Activities and Timelines	The measures under the Digital Economy Strategy are being delivered progressively over several years. The Digital Economy Strategy will be continually renewed to realise the vision of being a leading digital economy and society by 2030. Under the Digital Economy Strategy, \$111.3 million will be invested in developing the Consumer Data Right—an economy-wide and consumer-centric reform that will underpin Australia’s data and digital economy. - Energy consumers will start to benefit from secure and easy sharing of data from 15 November 2022, with telecommunications consumers set to benefit next.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: 100 percent of Australian Government services are available online. Tertiary advanced digitally skilled graduates increase to more than 15,000 per year. Tertiary advanced digitally skilled graduates increase to more than 15,000 per year. 95 percent of SMEs are using e-Commerce tools. Full implementation of CDR data sharing in the banking, energy, and telecommunications sectors within the next two years. With Implementation of CDR data sharing in further sectors within the next five years. Quantitative: • All new businesses are ‘born’ digital.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Committee on Trade and Investment Economic Committee Finance Ministers’ Process APEC Business Advisory Council

Key Initiative 2: Infrastructure Investment and Advocacy

A key element of Australia’s fiscal strategy is investing in infrastructure to support economic growth and productivity. The Australian Government is investing \$110 billion over 10 years from 2021–2022 in land transport infrastructure across Australia through its rolling infrastructure pipeline. This includes the infrastructure investment program which is part of the Government’s broader strategy to reduce congestion, better connect regional areas, improve freight links and build a stronger and more resilient Australia.

Australia is also committed to supporting quality infrastructure investment internationally. Australia as co-chair of the G20 working group, and chair of the OECD Taskforce on Long-term Investment and is working with the G20 Presidency and members to deliver the G20’s Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class. Australia is also working with the G20 Presidency and members to remove barriers to private infrastructure investment.

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Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Support for the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment promote an infrastructure development approach expected to deliver high benefits at low cost in the long run, in terms of contribution to well-being, environment and ecosystems services conserved, enhanced economic activity, as well as financial sustainability.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The \$110 billion infrastructure pipeline is comprised of a number of programs, including the infrastructure investment program. The infrastructure investment program makes investments on a co-contribution basis with state governments in infrastructure projects across Australia. Operationalisation of the QII Principles will build on the G20's efforts to mobilize financing from various sources, particularly the private sector and institutional sources including multilateral development banks, thereby contribute to closing the infrastructure gap, develop infrastructure as an asset class, and maximizing the positive impacts of infrastructure investment according to economy conditions. This includes strengthening infrastructure governance, which will ensure long-term cost-effectiveness, accountability, transparency, and integrity of infrastructure investment.
Activities and Timelines	The Australian Government is investing \$110 billion over 10 years from 2021–2022 in land transport infrastructure across Australia through its rolling infrastructure pipeline. The G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment were endorsed by the G20 in 2019. In 2021, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) prepared an interim version of the G20 Compendium of Quality Infrastructure Investment Indicators after the G20 Infrastructure Working Group agreed to a Terms of Reference for the IFC's work. This Compendium presents a possible menu of voluntary, non-binding, non-prescriptive and customizable indicators that can complement the QII operationalization toolkit. The October 2021 G20 Communique noted that the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) look forward to further discussing possible QII indicators prepared by the International Finance Corporation at the next Infrastructure Working Group meeting in January 2021.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Australia will support the G20 in progressing work on operationalising QII principles during Indonesia's G20 Presidency and beyond. An agreement to the G20 Compendium of Quality Infrastructure Investment Indicators would demonstrate tangible progress on the work on QII Principles. Quantitative: The Department of Infrastructure reports periodically to Government on the progress of projects. Projects are each at varying stages of development and delivery with details available at https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This work aligns with the 4th pillar of the CEBU Action plan to Accelerate Infrastructure Development and Financing.

Key Initiative: New Employment Services Model <i>The Government is undertaking the largest reform to employment services since 1998 with the introduction of the New Employment Services Model (NESM). The new model is intended to reduce long-term unemployment by providing employment services through a digital platform and investing in quality, tailored services for unemployed Australians.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Through the rollout of a digital platform and enhanced digital servicing for job-ready jobseekers, the NESM will encourage greater investment in disadvantaged job seekers, including the long-term unemployed. Under the NESM, there will be greater flexibility for jobseekers to meet their mutual obligations.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The rollout of NESM will ensure greater support for disadvantaged jobseekers, helping them to find employment.
Activities and Timelines	The New Employment Services Trial (NEST) is being undertaken in two regions from 1 July 2019, with the full model expected to be rolled out from 1 July 2022.
Measures of progress	Quantitative: The NESM includes a new provider payment structure, to encourage greater investment in disadvantaged job seekers. Providers will attract progress fees and bonus payments for achieving employment outcomes for long-term unemployed jobseekers – this will be a critical measure of success. The Department of Education, Skills and Employment manage data related to employment outcomes.
APEC cross-fora alignment	<i>n/a</i>

Key Initiative: Climate Change Technology Investment Roadmap <i>The Technology Investment Roadmap is an Australian Government strategy to accelerate the development and commercialisation of new and emerging low emissions technologies.</i> <i>The Technology Investment Roadmap and annual statements form the cornerstone of Australia's long-term emissions reduction strategy. The roadmap is a comprehensive and enduring investment strategy to accelerate the development and commercialisation of new and emerging low emissions technologies.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Annual Low Emissions Technology Statements (LETS) are released under the Technology Investment Roadmap. Annual statements provide the opportunity to review

	and refine priority technologies, and the government's investment approach, to deliver the best economic and emissions reduction outcomes for Australia. Annual statements ensure our investment priorities and actions adapt to changing technology and market developments.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Australian Government investments in low emissions technologies. The roadmap will guide at least \$21 billion of Australian Government investment over the decade to 2030. We expect to drive more than \$84 billion in total public and private investment by 2030. We invest in low emissions technologies through agencies like the: • Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) • Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) • Clean Energy Regulator (CER), which administers the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). LETs 2021 highlights \$1.7 billion of new government funding for low emissions technology in 2021. This includes \$565 million to progress low emissions technology partnerships with partners including Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.
Activities and Timelines	Australia developed a Technology Investment Roadmap in 2020, to accelerate low emissions technology deployment. Annual Low Emissions Technology Statements are released under the Technology Investment Roadmap. These statements provide the opportunity to review and refine priority technologies, and the government's investment approach, to deliver the best economic and emissions reduction outcomes for Australia. LETs 2020 was the first milestone under the roadmap, and LETs 2021 builds on the first statement, prioritising an additional technology, identifying technology deployment pathways, committing to new actions and outlining the importance of enabling infrastructure to achieve our vision as a global low emissions technology leader.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: LETs 2021 introduced an impact evaluation framework for the Technology Investment Roadmap. The framework includes the metrics to track progress. Progress against the metrics in the framework will be reported in consequent annual low emissions technologies statements. The impact evaluation framework will be regularly reviewed and refined in line with the roadmap's adaptive approach. Updates to the Technology Investment Roadmap through the annual low emissions statements will also provide qualitative updates on progress. Quantitative: Australia's whole-of-economy Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan is our plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The second Low Emissions Technology Statement, released in 2021, identified six priority technologies and set economic stretch goals for each one: • clean hydrogen – production under \$2 per kilogram • ultra-low-cost solar – electricity generation at \$15 per MWh • energy storage – electricity from storage for firming under \$100 per megawatt hour (MWh)

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	• low emissions materials (steel and aluminium) – low emissions steel production under \$700 per tonne and low emissions aluminium production under \$2,200 per tonne • carbon capture and storage (CCS) – carbon dioxide (CO₂) compression, hub transport and storage under \$20 per tonne of CO₂ • soil carbon – soil carbon measurement under \$3 per hectare per year.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The Technology Investment Roadmap aligns with the Aotearoa Plan of Action to “pursue structural reforms and sound economic policies to promote innovation as well as improve productivity and dynamism” and “promote economic policies, cooperation and growth, which will support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet”.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

1. Introduction

SMART NATION

As envisioned in Wawasan Brunei 2035, Brunei Darussalam aims to be recognized around the world for the achievements of its people who are educated and highly skilled in accordance with the highest international standards; the high quality of life among the top 10 economies in the world; and an economy that is both dynamic and sustainable with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that is among the top 10 economies in the world.

In line with this vision, Smart Nation is key to adapting to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and it needs to be driven by the Digital Government, Digital Economy and Digital Society. This requires Brunei Darussalam to go beyond enabling connectivity by leveraging on digital technologies and enriching our society with the necessary skills and knowledge. Through the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025³, the Digital Economy Council was established to provide steer and leadership on economy-wide initiatives related to the digital economy. The Council will also guide the policy towards Brunei Darussalam as a Smart Nation. The Digital Transformation Steering Committee (DTSC) in all ministries was also established to ease coordination between multi agencies:

- To develop the digital transformation plan for the sector under the purview of the Ministry/Institution;
- To identify action plans, set targets and timeline on digital transformation plans for the sector;
- To oversee the implementation of action plans identified to realize the vision on digital transformation; and
- DTSC to report progress of Digital Transformation Plan to CIO Forum, and, if needed, may also be elevated to the Digital Economy Council for any guidance.

One of the Strategic Outcomes under the Masterplan focuses on a Digital and future ready society by ensuring a widespread use of ICT in major industries, increased rate of broadband access, improved quality of life through inclusive access to digital services, increased digital literacy rate and lastly for Brunei's future workforce needs to be digitally capable and equipped with the right skills to adapt to the rapid developments in Technology.

One of the Strategic Enablers is on Digital Data Policy and Governance Framework resulting in the appointment of an Interim Data Office that will oversee the policy and governance of personal data for the private sector. AITI, as the Interim Data Office designated by the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, is working together with the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications and the Attorney General's Chambers to develop a new law for the protection of individuals' personal data. AITI issued a Public Consultation Paper (PCP) in second quarter of 2021 to obtain feedback from Government agencies, private sector organisations and the general public on the proposed data protection framework for private sector in Brunei Darussalam. The framework aims to improve trust between individuals and organisations by recognising both the rights of individuals to protect their personal data and

³ <http://www.mtic.gov.bn/DE2025/documents/Digitalpercent20Economypercent20Masterplanpercent202025.pdf>

the need of private sector organisations to collect, use and disclose such personal data. Currently, Brunei Darussalam has no comprehensive law on data protection, however, government agencies have been guided by official documents within the government sector such as the Data Protection Policy by the E-Government National Centre which relates to personal data (in electronic or manual form) collected and maintained by government agencies and the Protective Security Manual by the Internal Security Department, Prime Minister's Office, which provides common standards to ensure that information handled by government agencies is protected at all times.

The foundation and flagship project of Brunei's digital economy also identified in the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 as follows:

- Digital ID to spur innovation for the benefit of the citizens and businesses as a Smart Nation in the age of Industrial Revolution 4.0. In addition, Digital ID is a focus under Government Digitalization and this project will be expected to be ready in 2022.
- National Information Hub (NIH) serves as the backbone of the eco-system. It provides single repository database for common use via central staging database and provide data integration platform/data sharing. The NIH which serves as the storage of general or common data such as name, address and identity card number. The use of the data uses the Application Programming Interface (API) method for the purpose of system integration.

Digital Transformation Plan: Ministry of Education

Education Big Data encompasses data from schools and institutions in Brunei as well as the Ministry of Education. This includes data on students, teachers, stakeholders as well as resources. This extensive data would pose many benefits through the application of data analytics and machine learning such as to track students at risk of dropping out and to measure and monitor 21st century competencies.

Education Big Data entails several initiatives tackling areas such as policy and standards, data management and human resources. At the forefront of these initiatives is Key Initiative 2: Creating Policy and Standards for Education Big Data. It is a key enabler to drive the success of Education Big Data initiative as it dictates decisions centering on ethics, management, control as well as quality across all Education Big Data initiatives, hence chosen as a Key Initiative.

With regard to policy and standards, current state and gap analyses reveal that the education sector in Brunei has:

- Lack of data policies
- Lack of privacy, authority and legitimacy
- No data governance
- Lack of guidelines and standards

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Implementation of Digital ID	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The digital identity ecosystem is envisioned to spur innovation for the benefit of citizens and businesses as a Smart Nation in the age of Industrial Revolution 4.0. This project aims to build the ecosystem with a blockchain-based digital identity and digital citizen-centric e-services platform. This initiative is proposed to incorporate digital land transport services as its pilot project and revenue model via a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the Government via Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications and a private organization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The linkage between Digital ID and Public sector governance to support the idea of one data one owner, where data is to be shared and not replicated, as well as to support the ease of use for citizens.
Activities and Timelines	The timeline chart illustrates the progression of the Digital ID initiative from 2021 to 2025. The 'Milestone' track shows a 'Kickoff' in 2022, followed by 'Go-live' in 2023, and then 'Maintenance', 'Operational Support', and 'Revenue Collection' from 2024 onwards. The 'Dependency' track shows a 'Pending PPP Model' in 2021, 'Kickoff' in 2022, 'SP02.0 Govba' in 2022, 'Form Building' in 2023, and 'To support DT (Ministries)' from 2024 onwards.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Seamless end user experience - Policy reformation to adapt to Digital ID Quantitative: - No of applications utilising Digital ID
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) - KFA #4 (Development of holistic government policy framework for the internet and digital economy)

National Information Hub (NIH)	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

	The National Information Hub is a single repository database that utilises the National Centralised Database infrastructure for storing common data such as addresses, identity card numbers, names, etc. Data shared with other agencies via National Information Hub are subjected to the requirements and agreements between the relevant agencies.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The linkage between National Information Hub and Public sector governance to support the idea of 'one data, one owner' - where data is to be shared not replicated.
Activities and Timelines	YEAR 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 Milestone Kick Off 97% available Stabilization 70% available 6 Projects onboard 13 Forecasted identified Projects 1. National Information Hub 2. PSC Recruitment 3. e-Zakat 4. Application Development Platform 5. Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) 6. ASLAN Summit 7. Survey Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) - Tech refresh 8. RBPF Mobile App 9. LabourMarket Information System (LMIS) 10. Housing Development Department (HDD) 11. Hala Certification 12. BruHIMSE Enhancement (MOHA) 13. Electronic Property Tax (MOHA) 14. National Business Services Platform (MOFE) 15. Online Housing Application & Finance Billing System (MOD) 16. National Education Management System (MOE) 17. Document Digitization - AGC 18. iLearn - IPA 19. Centralised EDMS - Ministries
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Standardized data format that can be used throughout with all stakeholders. Quantitative: - Number of agencies providing data - Number of systems integrated to use data in National Information Hub
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) - KFA #4 (Development of holistic government policy framework for the internet and digital economy) - KFA #5 (Promoting coherence and cooperation of regulatory approaches affecting the internet and digital economy)

Personal Data Protection Order for Private Sectors	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. A strong personal data protection framework will support the growth of data processing capabilities and digitisation in industry sectors in Brunei Darussalam, and the establishment of an environment of trust amongst individuals, organisations and society at large. It will also promote the legitimate use of personal data by businesses and cross-border data flows in a sustainable and accountable way. As part of advancing Brunei's digital economy as a trusted data hub, there are future plans to develop a voluntary certification scheme. The aim is to recognise organisations that demonstrate accountability in their data protection practices, help businesses increase their competitive advantage and build trust with their customers and stakeholders. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

	There are plans to develop a Competency Framework to define the role/responsibilities, expertise, skills and competencies of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) to ensure that they perform the necessary functions effectively. This includes defining a Training Roadmap to help DPOs achieve the necessary proficiency to carry out their jobs.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure
Activities and Timelines	Anticipate the law to be enacted sometime in late 2022. Upon enactment, there will be a two (2) years' sunrise period, during which, the law will not be enforced yet. To give organisations time to understand their obligations under the new PDP law, the focus in the sunrise period will be on awareness building and educational programmes for individuals and organisations.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Strengthen international perception of Brunei's economic competitiveness (with a data protection law in place)
	Quantitative: - Awareness amongst 20 percent of the target audience in the first year of the law being enacted - Support from organisations and encourage at least 10 percent of enterprises to initiate the processes to comply with the requirements under the law
APEC cross-fora alignment	Digital Economy Steering Group under the APEC Privacy Framework.

Creating Policy and Standards for Education Big Data	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Data standards ensure utilisation of best available technology for data management practices of the Ministry of Education. The expected impact is a culture shift towards becoming a technology and data-driven Ministry. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. Data protection policies prevent unauthorised disclosure of sensitive personal data such as race, social / economic status and physical / mental health condition, which may be used for discriminatory practices and thus, narrowing socio-economic disparities in Brunei Darussalam.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Supplementary structural reforms The initiative entails a systematic and guided approach to produce data policies and supplementary documents centred on ethics, protection of data and protection of intellectual property and a stocktake of existing economy-wide and international data policies, standards and procedures is to be conducted first, followed by the development, endorsement and finally the implementation of the data policies, standards and procedures.
Activities and Timelines	1. Development of Data Policies: • Stocktake of existing economy-wide and international policies: November 2021 – June 2022

- Development and implementation of Data Policies: November 2021 – December 2023
2. Development of Data Standards and Procedures:
- Stocktake of existing Data Standards and Procedures: November 2021 – June 2022
 - Development and implementation of Data Standards and Procedures: November 2021 – December 2023

* Please refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

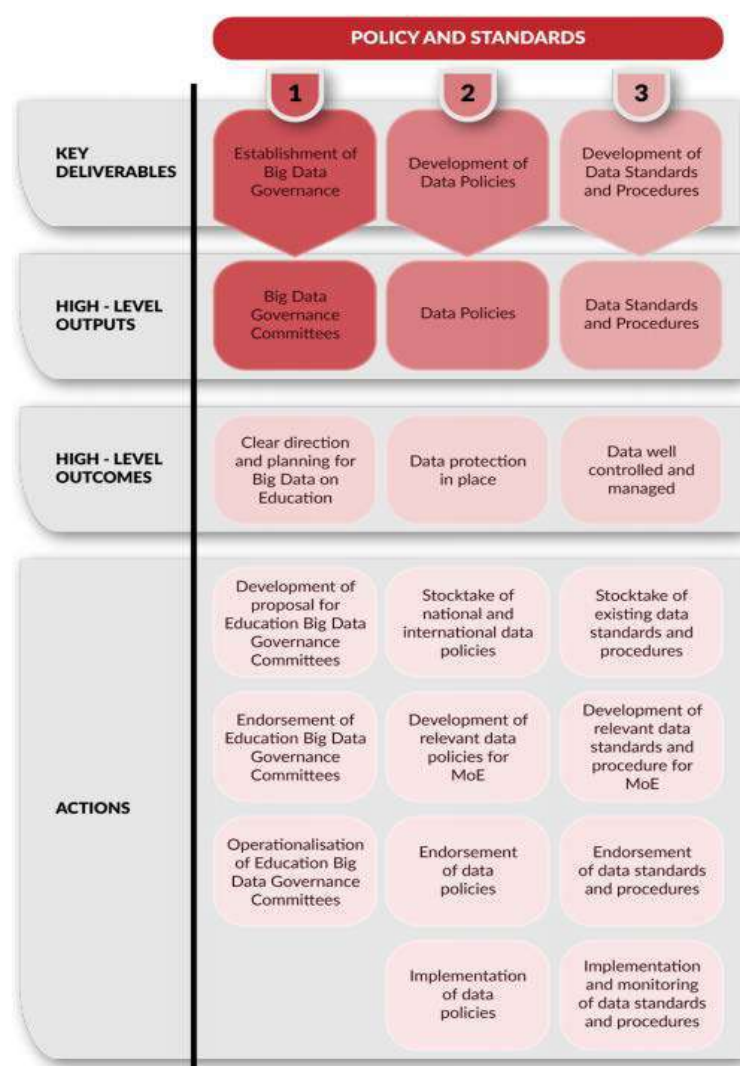
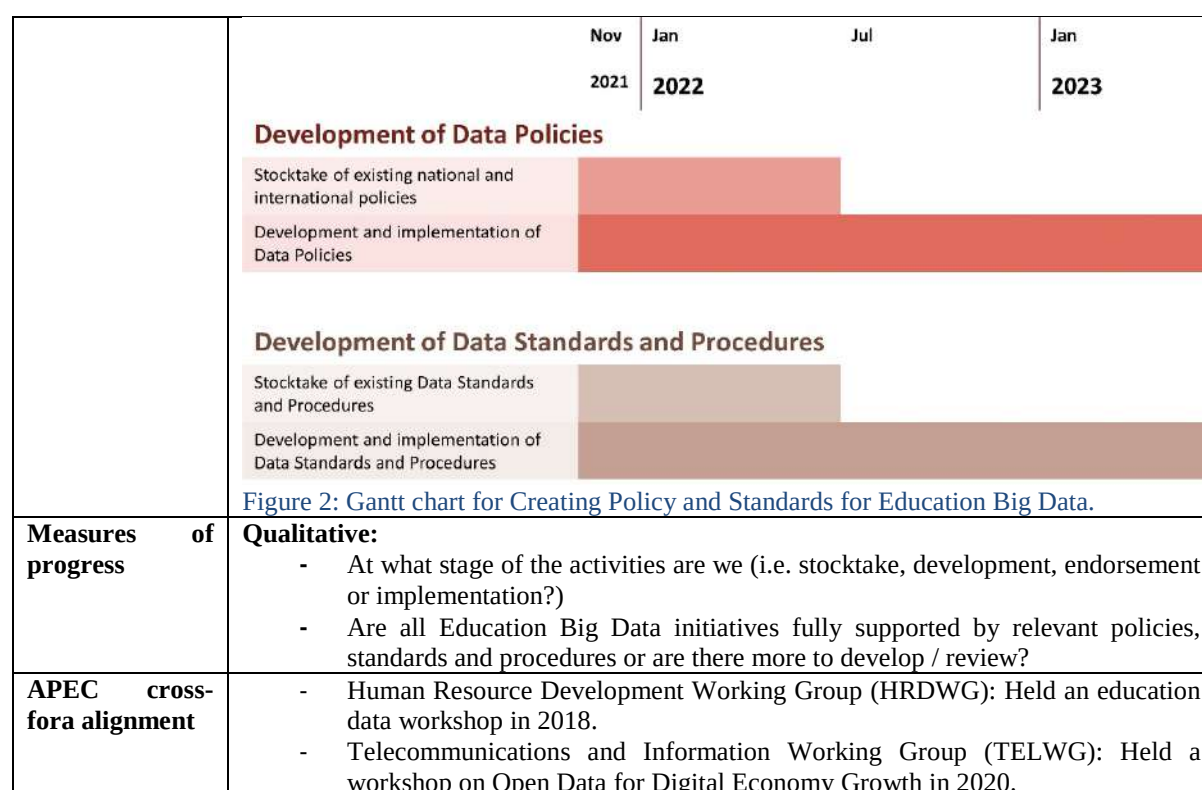


Figure 1: Action items for Creating Policy and Standards for Education Big Data.



TRADE FACILITATION

1. Introduction

Brunei Darussalam practises an open foreign trade policy, which, among others, is reflected by the economy's liberal tariff regimes, with 95 percent of its product lines being tariff-free.

Established with the goal of facilitating trade and attracting FDI, the Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) intends to further simplify customs clearance through a single point by allowing the submission of standardized information and documents to meet legal import, export and customs-transit requirements.

Since its implementation in 2013, the BDNSW has expanded its functionality by enabling various trade documents preparation such as Certificate of Origin (COO), Import/Export Permit from 20 government agencies that regulate the inflow/outflow of various types of goods, Customs Declaration, online duty payment and Ports Clearance Certificate.

This system is continuously being enhanced, with recent updates including the implementation of BDNSW2 that allows for "Red and Green Channel" for rezoning activity, risk profiling and duty payments prior to the submission of customs declaration. Following this, Brunei is targeting the implementation of a "transit module" into the system by 2022. Currently, transit declaration, payment of service charges and customs transit clearance are still processed manually and at the counter of customs control post. With the transit module in place, all customs transit formalities can be carried out online which allows for declaration and payment to be submitted in advance rather than upon entry at the customs control post.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

This continuous enhancement of this initiative will promote trade competitiveness and regional trade connectivity whilst contributing significantly to the ease of doing business in Brunei Darussalam.

To enhance trade facilitation through Single Window	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The establishment of Brunei Darussalam National Single Window (BDNSW) is to help facilitate trade by simplifying customs clearance through a single point by submission of standardized information and documents that meet legal and administrative requirements for import, export and customs-transit.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The main objective is to regulate the movement of goods imported into, exported from, and transiting through Brunei Darussalam. Establishment of the BDNSW does not only simplify customs procedure and facilitate movement of goods, it also safeguards the possible risks to society through border control. The single window also reduces time, cost and complications and is a “one stop shop” for approvals and clearances. This significantly reduces the time taken for obtaining customs approvals as well as clearances needed by investors, entrepreneurs and businesses in Brunei.
Activities and Timelines	To continue to enhance the functions of BDNSW. Brunei is targeting the implementation of a “transit module” into the system by 2022. Currently, transit and service charge for commodity are still processed manually.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Improve legal frameworks for existing reforms on Customs Procedures to align with recommended best practices in ASEAN • Enhance compliance with rules and regulations • Improve transparency and governance and reduce corruption • Improve efficiency in resource allocation
	Quantitative: • Increase in effective custom revenue collection • Reduce clearance times
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative is closely aligned with the Cebu Action Plan and contributes to the plan’s objectives to facilitate trade and investment in the region and in pursuit of good governance, fiscal reforms and sound fiscal policies.

MANPOWER

1. Introduction

With the mandate to address unemployment-related issues effectively and efficiently, the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) modelled its strategic plan to encompass three main pillars; Supply, Demand and Enablers, with nine focus areas and thirty-one key deliverables. In this context, this document will focus on two of the key deliverables that shall continue to progress, which are as follows:

I. To complement industry demand with suitable manpower supply through sectoral manpower planning

The ‘Demand’ pillar focuses on identifying job opportunities, employment and close partnerships with industry players. One of the key deliverables under this pillar is the establishment of the Manpower Industry Steering Committee (MISC). The MISC supports the MPEC’s vision in ensuring effective manpower planning aligned to employability and employment, by focusing on gainful and sustainable jobs towards reducing unemployment in Brunei Darussalam.

The committee acts as a platform and steering body to enable tripartite collaboration between industry players, regulators and education/training institutions towards aligning the industry needs (job demands, qualifications, experience and skills) with the right manpower supply, at the right time. Currently, the MISC covers five identified critical sectors which are Hospitality and Tourism; Information and Communication Technology; Marine; Energy; and Construction, at which sectoral MISC Working Groups (MISC-WG) have also been set up and are led by industry players and regulators.

There are two sub-working groups under the MISC, namely the Workforce Development Planning Group (WDPG) and the Competency Development Technical Group (CDTG). The WDPG focuses on the manpower planning aspect of the respective sector, where it has adopted the manpower forecast tool developed by the MPEC Secretariat. This tool was introduced in order to have a better understanding of the current and future manpower demand for better manpower planning in the short and medium term.

The WDPG then identifies the Critical Occupations that are to be prioritized by the MISC, in phases. Based on this data, the CDTG then develops relevant competency standards and programs for the respective job positions. These programmes and standards need to be accredited and endorsed by the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC) to ensure that the programmes and standards are recognized and are at par with the industry’s requirements both locally and internationally. To date, the MISC has achieved the following:

MISC-WG: Sector	No. of critical occupations identified that are high in demand and to be prioritized for locals	No. of competency frameworks developed
Energy	10	13
Construction	11	2
Marine	4	2
ICT	6	6

Hospitality & Tourism	15	5
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Other than that, the MISC has introduced training programmes, such as (i) the iSkill programme where 5 training courses are currently run for 4 out of 10 identified trade skills under the MISC-WG Energy which are also recognized under the Brunei National Occupational Skills Standards (BNOSS); and (ii) 2 training programmes under the Architect - Mechanical & Electrical - Civil & Structural (ARMECS) Bridging Program.

To address the manpower needs of the ever-changing economy, the focused sectors including its critical occupations and competency frameworks will be continuously reviewed from time to time.

II. Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Human Capital with Industry-Ready Capabilities

The Supply Pillar in the MPEC Strategic Plan mainly emphasizes on initiatives and key deliverables that will help to ensure the readiness of local workforce and to produce highly skilled locals as per the needs of industries. These initiatives involve STRONG COLLABORATION with training institutions. The Government through its National Development Plan has allocated funds to further invest into the development of its human capital by focusing on the following objectives:

- i. To create and continuously widen a competent talent pool
- ii. To provide opportunities for local labour force to stay relevant and develop future-ready capabilities

The Government's continuous investment on human capital development is a key enabler in our pursuit to build a marketable and employable manpower supply aligned with skills and qualifications that is relevant to the current needs of the dynamic economy.

To date, these efforts include the following programmes and initiatives:

- i. **i-Ready Apprenticeship Programme:** An 18-month programme that provides unemployed graduates an opportunity to gain experience and skills in a real working environment in order to increase their marketability and employability. It also acts as a platform to expose unemployed graduates to various industries in both the public and private sector with continuous mentoring, coaching and on-the-job trainings. In April 2020, the programme has been extended to graduates with Level 5 Diploma and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) qualifications. Prior to this, the program was only opened to those with Bachelor's Degree and above. In addition to this, a top-up incentive mechanism was also introduced where starting from the eleventh month of the apprenticeship period, i-Ready apprentices will be given top-up allowances by their host organisations. This extension and top-up mechanism only apply to the private sector with the objective to encourage graduates to work with companies in the private sector.
- ii. **SkillsPlus:** A programme that aims to inculcate the culture of lifelong learning. This programme is open to jobseekers and employees in the private sector, including

freelance workers and i-Ready apprentices, who wish to reskill and upskill themselves through short courses. To date, there are over 160 courses offered under the programme which covers various areas identified by the MPEC such as Hospitality and Tourism, data Science and Research; ICT; Management Skills; and etc.

- iii. **SPIN:** A programme that aims to create a pool of local professionals in various areas. For its first of many series, the MPEC has recently introduced SPIN in Accountancy that will enable locals to pursue professional certification in auditing, accounting and finance including certifications in Foundation in Accountancy (FIA), Certified Accountant Technicians (CAT) and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).
- iv. **CET Programme:** A collaborative effort between the MPEC, local training institutions and the industry with the aim to generate job-ready and competent local supply that are aligned to the industry's demand via short Continuous Education Training Programs leading to direct employment. The programme currently caters to those who wish to start their career in the Hospitality industry through two roles, namely Kitchen Assistant and Restaurant Attendants.

More programmes and initiatives will continue to be developed in response to the changing needs of the industry and economy.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Expand Competency Framework Development and Sectoral Manpower Planning to Address the Ever-Changing Economy and Manpower Needs	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. With the competency frameworks developed and put in place for all identified critical occupations, this shall better equip the local labour force with the necessary skills and knowledge in order for them to fill in the respective job demands.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The increasing number of employment and lesser number of mismatches are some of the factors that shall contribute to increased labour productivity. This shall then support the economic development of Brunei Darussalam.
Activities and Timelines	<u>Activities for Year 2022:</u> - Identifying other critical sectors. - Continuously identifying highly demanded jobs in the identified critical sectors to be filled by the local labour force.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

	- Consultation and engagement with stakeholders such as industry players, regulatory bodies and institutions on sectoral manpower planning and competency development. - Developing competency frameworks for the identified critical occupations. - Developing proposals for programme funding, where necessary.
Measures of progress	<u>Quantitative:</u> - Number of competency frameworks developed for the identified critical occupations - Number of local workers being trained - Percentage of trained and skilled local workers who are employed.
APEC cross-fora alignment	- Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG): Align with HRDWG's focus on developing education and training - Other APEC working groups such as Tourism Working Group (TWG): Align with one of the priorities under its Strategic Plan (2020-2024) i.e. human capital development

Expanding Programmes and Initiatives in Building Resilient and Sustainable Human Capital with Industry-Ready Capabilities	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The programmes and initiatives are formulated in an effort to equip locals with the relevant skills, qualifications and work experience which are aligned to the industry and economic needs, thus ensuring a marketable workforce. Embracing the need for an inclusive system and society, all programmes and initiatives focus exclusively on enhancing skills of the people, irrespective of their academic or professional background or abilities.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Supplementary structural reforms Investing in lifelong learning has a positive impact on the workforce knowledge and skills in response to an ever-changing labour market. Lifelong learning individuals are also able to adapt more easily to changes in the labour market and so are in a better position to face strong competition from the global economy. ☒ Supporting policies Funds have been made available by the Government through the National Development Plan to further invest into the development of human capital.
Activities and Timelines	<u>Activities for Year 2022:</u> - Develop more training that is aligned to the identified industry requirements. - Recognition and endorsement of the training not only from industry and regulators but also the central accreditation body. - Increasing the number of private training centres to provide various learning opportunities for the local workforce. - Engagement sessions with relevant agencies to develop new programmes to build our human capital. - Expansion of JobCentre Brunei (JCB) are in plans, which involves expanding JCB's presence in other districts, setting up mobile services, and extending its operations from five to six days a week.

Measures of progress	<u>Quantitative:</u> - Number of training programmes developed that are aligned with industry's requirements - Rate of labour underutilization - Number of new recruitments and local employment
APEC cross-fora alignment	- Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG): Align with HRDWG's focus on developing education and training - Other APEC working groups such as Tourism Working Group (TWG): Align with one of the priorities under its Strategic Plan (2020-2024) i.e. human capital development

SOCIAL MATTERS

1. Introduction

- I. Brunei Darussalam employs an economy-wide approach in its service delivery to all sectors of the community to ensure inclusivity and that no one is left behind, especially the vulnerable.

Policy directions and strategies for effective and quality service delivery are further strengthened and aligned with the establishment of a Social Blueprint, spearheaded by ministerial level multi-sectoral committee co-chaired by the Prime Minister's Office and the National Council of Social Issues. This Social Blueprint will serve as a reference for all stakeholders in ensuring that social development in Brunei Darussalam is integrated and aligned with the Brunei Vision 2035 Framework. As such, understanding socio-economic challenges through the environmental scanning approach will help in generating relevant information that serves as inferences in framing these policies. Data has shown that:

- i. In 2019, Monthly Welfare Assistance (MWA) recipients reached 5,812. This number decreased to 4,944 the following year. As of October 2021, the number further decreased to 4,165 MWA recipients – a reduction of 779 recipients from previous year;
 - ii. Survey on the Employment of PWDs conducted by Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports in 2019 identified that there were 75 PWDs employed in the Government Sector and 35 were employed in the private sector. Meanwhile, according to statistics from the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC), there were 44 PWDs employed in 2020 which increased to 49 in 2021; and
 - iii. Brunei Darussalam scored 65 percent overall in the Youth Development Index (YDI, 2018).
- II. To address and further improve these, Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports has adopted policies focusing on the community, mainly to empower the youth, people with disabilities, the poor and people earning low income (i.e. welfare recipients). These policies will pioneer the development of other key policies, further serving to ensure inclusivity of all members of the community. The policies are as follows:
- i. Plan of Action on Poverty (PoA) Eradication 2020-2024 under the National Council of Social Issues aims to ensure that all efforts to address poverty in Brunei Darussalam will be implemented more holistically to allow the poor and welfare recipients to attain self-sufficiency and become self-reliant. The PoA identifies 3 focus areas, 6 objectives, 14 deliverables, 41 activities and 37 initiatives/KPI that will contribute to the empowerment of self-sufficiency and the reduction of the target

group's dependence on assistance. The 3 focus areas are capacity, access and opportunities to generate income; capacity and access to education; and policies, acts and infrastructure while the 6 main objectives are as follows:

- 50 percent to undergo skills training that can increase marketability;
 - 5 percent to venture into entrepreneurship;
 - Facilitate and increase employment opportunities by increasing the number of proactive job-matching and the number of interviews held;
 - Increase in school attendance percentage of students in the Miftahun Naja'ah Scheme, reaching at least 85 percent of the school day;
 - 10 percent of the mindset change program participants to have a more positive mindset; and
 - Formulate and review policies and legislation to address the impact and factors that cause poverty.
- ii. The Plan of Action on PWDs 2020 – 2024 developed by the Special Committee on the Elderly and PWDs, under the National Council on Social Issues (MKIS) of Brunei Darussalam. This plan of action is an economy-wide approach that aims to create an enabling environment and strengthen mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation of initiatives on the interests of PWDs, promote their rights and ensure their effective participation in the community. The strategic directions of the Brunei Darussalam Plan of Action on PWDs was developed in alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Incheon Strategy and the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan.

The plan of action has three core strategies which are to increase the quality of life; ensure equal rights; and empower PWDs and their families through greater inclusivity. There are four focus areas namely health and education; income generation; supporting environment; and PWD participation and advocacy. 12 objectives have also been formulated to contribute towards improving the self-sufficiency of PWDs as well as efforts towards their equitable development, increasing accessibility and inclusive participation in all development activities.

PWDs are provided with disability allowances through the Old Age Pension and Disability Allowances Act while the Person with Disabilities Order, 2021 includes provisions for the definition of PWDs, the requirement for PWD registration and specific protection for PWDs against abuse and neglect.

To ensure the welfare and well-being of PWDs in Brunei Darussalam, several provisions in the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act, Chapter 18 has been amended to strengthen the care of PWDs and ensure the provision of allowances to those who are entitled to it. The amendments include revisions on eligibility criteria to receive Old Age Pensions and Disability Allowances as well as the provision of Care Provider Allowance. The Person with Disabilities Order, 2021 has also been enacted to ensure that persons with different abilities are accorded due recognition and protection.

- iii. The National Youth Policy and Strategy 2020-2035, an overarching living document that provides Brunei Darussalam with a clear strategy and a comprehensive plan of action in producing world class, inclusive, resilient and competitive youth. It outlines

four core strategies, 16 policy initiatives and more than 100 youth-related programmes and activities. The four core strategies are economy-wide collaboration; culture of oneness; education, employability and decent work; and youth empowerment.

To ensure the comprehensiveness and relevancy of the National Youth Policy and Strategy 2020-2035 and its action plans towards addressing future developments, alignment was made with aspirations of other policies and strategies at the central level, in particular:

- Brunei Vision 2035;
- Digital Economy Master Plan 2025;
- National Climate Change Policy; and
- Manpower and Employment Council (MPEC) Strategic Plan.

The main objectives of the policy are measured by the progress made in Youth Development Index whose overall score covering 8 domains are aimed to higher than 75 percent and to be ranked amongst the Top 10 in Commonwealth countries. In ensuring inclusivity it is aimed to be ranked amongst top 20 (advanced economy) ranking in the Inclusive Development Index (inclusion domain) by World Economic Forum.

III. Major achievements through the economy-wide implementation of the action plans above include:

- i. A comprehensive and integrated artificial intelligence systems approach in synergizing policies and programs via digital transformation through the National Welfare System (SKN);
- ii. National Framework on Child Protection (NFCP): A multi-sectoral framework that will guide Brunei Darussalam in further developing the existing child protection ecosystem. It sets the strategies for addressing key priorities on child protection through a economy-wide and whole-of-government approach. The objectives of NFCP, among others, are to ensure that all children and young persons who need or may need protection are not left behind; and to set out effective preventive measures, interventions and programs on child protection;
- iii. Registry of Children and Young Person in Need of Protection (RCYPNP), a centralised database of children and young person in need of protection and acts as an inter-agency coordination on child protection and case management;
- iv. Digitalisation of Registration of Orphans;
- v. Digitalisation of application and payment of Old Age Pensions;
- vi. E-commerce activities through corporate social responsibility initiatives by building a virtual marketplace for products made by vulnerable groups, such as the Community for Brunei platform initiated by Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) in collaboration with several ministries and government departments that promote different social and charitable causes in Brunei Darussalam;
- vii. The introduction of *Mengalinga*, a centralized volunteer digital platform aiming to provide easy access to volunteering opportunities provided by organisations, movements and agencies;
- viii. Enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Order 2021 on 1st October 2021 which included several provisions on the welfare and protection of PWDs, including the

- definition of PWDs; registration of PWDs; the issuance of PWD cards, as well as protection for PWDs from offences such as abuse and neglect;
- ix. The digitalisation of national registry of PWDs which will ensure database and statistics are properly recorded. Under this initiative is also the introduction and distribution of PWD Cards verified by the Ministry of Health; and
 - x. An online service called YSNet which serves as a portal for online registration for youth and sports activities.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Formulate and review policies to address the impact and factors that cause poverty	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This is in line with the 6 main objectives of the Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication (2020-2024)
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies To allow the poor and welfare recipients to attain self-sufficiency and become self-reliant will support inclusive growth
Activities and Timelines	<u>In line with the Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication (2020-2024):</u> - Development and implementation employment opportunities development and planning strategy - Provision of life skills programmes - Provision of access to employment opportunities - Development and implementation of entrepreneurship opportunities development and planning strategy - Provision of mindset-change programmes
Measures of progress	<u>Quantitative:</u> - No. of MWA recipients attending life skills programmes - No. of MWA recipients employed - Percentage access to economy-wide vacancy information - Reduction of MWA recipients - No. of MWA recipients attending entrepreneurship programme - No. of MWA recipients starting business - No. of MWA recipients attending mindset-change programmes
APEC cross-fora alignment	- APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region

Ensuring a comprehensive social security system for Persons with Different Abilities (PWDs)	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This is in line with the 3 core strategies of the Plan of Action on PWDs (2020-2024)
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies An enabling environment and strengthened mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation of initiatives on the interests of PWDs, promote their rights and ensure their effective participation in the community will support inclusive growth through rising productivity of PWDs.
Activities and Timelines	<u>In line with the Plan of Action on PWDs (2020-2024):</u> - Establishment of National Registry for PWDs - Issuance of PWD Identification cards - Ensuring sustainability of employment for PWD - Improving the quality of skills training (skill sets) to maximise the employability and marketability of PWDs
Measures of progress	- No. of PWDs receiving disability allowances - No. of PWDs registered under the National Registry for PWDs - No. of PWDs able to self-care are provided with daily living skills - No. of PWDs engaged in employment - No. of PWDs venturing into entrepreneurship activities
APEC cross-fora alignment	- APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC region

To produce value-driven world-class youth who are future-ready agents of change for development, rooted in inclusivity	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This is in line with the 4 core strategies of the National Youth Policy and Strategy 2020-2035: - Economy-wide Collaboration - Culture of Oneness - Education, Employability, and Decent Work and - Youth Empowerment
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform

Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies A clear strategy and a comprehensive plan of action in producing world class, inclusive, resilient and competitive youth will spur economic growth by expanding employment and the number of entrepreneurs. In recent years, a number of youth-led enterprises and businesses have been given continuous support through micro grants awards and subsidised facilities offered by the ministry as part of a continuous effort to support emerging young entrepreneurs.
Activities and Timelines	<u>In line with the National Youth Policy and Strategy 2020-2035:</u> - Improving the scores in the 5 key areas of the Youth Development Index by 2023 - Conducting life skills and capacity building programmes for youth, including vulnerable groups - Provide assistance for youth in business start-ups and in maintaining business sustainability - Implementation of the Youth Entrepreneurship and Economy Programme - Provision of grant for volunteerism activities - Creation of a National Youth Council - Optimising regional and international cooperation and networking
Measures of progress	- Improved scores in YDI 2023 as follows: - o 75 percent in Self-development; - o 70 percent in Job Opportunity; - o 60 percent in Political Integration; - o 60 percent in Community Integration; - o 60 percent in Leisure Activities - 100 percent programmes initiated through collaboration and strategic partnerships - 40 percent increase in youth-led initiatives - 40 percent increase in volunteerism activities - 30 percent increase on the number of youth-led start-ups enterprises - Increasing the number of youth participation in various activities (including vulnerable groups)
APEC cross-fora alignment	- APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC region

OPEN MARKET

1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of having an efficient, open, and competitive market to be able to address the significant temporary demand and supply shock. Lack of players in the market - which could also translate to a lack of competitiveness and a low level of production of goods and services, hence the inefficient allocation of resources - could amplify an economy's vulnerability to any adversity. Insufficient supplies of goods and services have a direct impact on consumer welfare, and overall jeopardise the economy.

Unfortunately, Brunei Darussalam is not an exception to these unfavourable situations, which signals that there is still much to be improved in the effort to ensure key sectors are efficient, productive and competitive, especially in laying the ground for a resilient and sustainable economy for the long-term. Restoring effective competition in the medium- to long-term is also key to ensuring that the recovery is rapid and consistent.

In enabling an open, transparent, and competitive market, an effective and relevant regulatory framework is one of the key tools to provide business supportive governance, eliminate barriers into the market, create more opportunities for new entrants, promote business growth through efficiency, and to attract quality investments. On this note, the implementation and enforcement of the Competition Order, 2015 and the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order, 2011 have been crucial tools to create a conducive and healthy environment for businesses and investment, as aspired to under the economic pillar of Wawasan Brunei 2035. Effective implementation and enforcement of both competition and consumer protection laws will pave the way towards economic growth through a well-functioning business environment where players in the market are efficient, fair, and innovative and to create better choices and more competitively priced products for the consumers. More importantly, this will also attract investments so targeted sector growth can be achieved.

An effective consumer protection regime, on the other hand, disciplines businesses to practice ethical conduct and empowers consumers to make informed purchase decisions, which are essential to help boost strong domestic consumption. Since its enactment, the Competition Order, 2015 has been advocated to numerous relevant key stakeholders across 10 different sectors, covering over 100 different entities via the engagement sessions conducted, as well as through the media publications. The Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam (CCBD) – the body responsible for the enforcement of Competition Order, 2015 - has long placed its priority not just in advocacy, but also in ensuring effective regulatory and policy frameworks through the issuance of guidelines, regulations and policy advisories. To date, 5 guidelines have been published, 4 regulations have been gazetted and 10 policy advisories have been issued. These are aimed to promote compliance to the Order by building competition culture amongst the key stakeholders including policymakers, businesses, professional associations, and the general public, and also to effectively implement the Competition Order, 2015, pertinent to current market conditions.

As globalisation and digitalisation are increasingly becoming more prominent in today's market, ensuring that both the Competition Order, 2015 and Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order, 2011 are relevant to the changing market appears even more vital. Hence, providing business supportive governance goes beyond enforcement work but a timely review of both of these pieces of legislation as well as effective issuance of transparent guidelines to provide business certainty, continuous advocacy to promote compliance, and policy advisories to ensure policy coherence to the competition principles are core priorities towards achieving an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Provide business supportive governance through a relevant regulatory framework	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. With timely review of outdated legislation and regulations as well as appropriate amendment of the regulatory framework of specific sectors, it is hoped that the business environment would be more open and transparent and hence, be more conducive to competitive markets that cater for wealth and job creation as well as consumer welfare.

Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Ensuring the regulatory framework is relevant to the current economic context with long-term economic development goals in mind will address anti-competitive business conduct and unfair trade practices and hence, build a resilient market and consumer confidence.
Activities and Timelines	1. Law amendments/ review introduction of new regulations/ review of existing regulations namely: a. Competition Order (beyond 2025) b. Consumer Protection Order (2022-2024) – timeframe is aligned to resource availability 2. Issuance of guidelines to provide business certainty on how the laws are applied/ interpreted. 3. Issuance of Policy advisories on competition and consumer protection matters e.g advisories to improve efficiency of a specific sector.
Measures of progress	The progress can be measured through: 1. # Issuance of policy advisories. This is targeting at policy makers to ensure policy/ regulations are aligned to achieve pro-competitive market outcomes and an enhanced consumer welfare. 2. # Issuance/review of regulations and business guidelines. This is targeting at the key stakeholders, primarily businesses, on how the laws (competition & consumer protection law) will be applied/ interpreted / implemented by the regulator(s) (DCCA/ CCBD). The objective is to ensure transparency, legal certainty and of course to promote voluntary compliance.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG)

RESILIENT SOCIETY

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced The One Village One Product (1K1P) program in 1993 to activate *Mukims* and Villages in actively helping the community towards improving well-being and socio-economy. The objectives of 1K1P are to provide employment opportunities and improve community self-sufficiency, strengthen the unity and spirit of “*gotong-royong*” (communal work) among the community, enhance innovation and creativity of the community, and optimize the use of local resources.

The targeted economic activities are in the form of products or services led by any Mukim Consultative Council (MPM)/Village Consultative Council (MPK) that meet one of the three (3) methods namely produced by MPM/MPK members themselves; obtained by MPM/MPK from private entrepreneurs; or produced through collaboration with any individual or private company.

Most of the 1K1P projects were still developed at a small scale. Several challenges have been identified that hinder the progress of the 1K1P program in Brunei Darussalam especially the limitation of production capacity and diversification as well as lack of innovation in the business strategies and management.

To address these challenges, the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) as the course operator has provided a training program specifically in 2020 for 1K1P entrepreneurs, namely Transformation 1K1P. It aimed to improve the management of existing 1K1P projects to the level of a real business entity, including having corporate governance, compensation plans, and organized business documentation as well as producing quality products and has premium packaging as well as brands in the market. In addition, the course also provides exposure to digital technology innovations in assisting business development and online product marketing as well as the use of smart concept payment systems.

The Transformation 1K1P course is divided into five (5) main phases as follows:

- i. Phase I - Transformation of 1K1P Bootcamp was held from 27 July to 30 July 2020 with the participation of 35 1K1P entrepreneurs. In this boot camp, course participants were exposed to various knowledge and training to improve skills in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of their products including the use of SWOT Analysis and CAPEX and OPEX requirements in preparing a more organized Business Planning Plan.
- ii. Phase II - 1K1P Transformation Workshop was held from 3 August to 7 August 2020. In this course, participants were exposed to knowledge and skills in making business financial planning, knowledge about business opportunities under BIBD SME 360, preparing marketing strategies and product sales, branding, packaging, and product labeling as well as product redevelopment training.
- iii. Phase III - 1K1P Product Innovation Workshop was held from 2 to 3 September 2020 with the participation of 19 participants. Participants were exposed to a selection of quality packaging and label appropriate to their respective products. Activation and use of social media have also been made to increase the market and promotion of 1K1P products in the market.
- iv. Phase IV - 1K1P Classic & Premium Product Launching Ceremony was held on 10 December 2020 where the Ministry introduced 1K1P Classic & Premium Product in the market. 1K1P Classic Products are the original products of entrepreneurs that have been made improvements including in terms of taste, color and design according to current demand (trendy) with the target of purchase for daily use (daily use) and fast sale (fast sale) in the market. While 1K1P Premium Products are products that exceed the level of 1K1P Classic Products including in terms of unique taste, more prestigious product colors, and the use of better-quality product packaging as well as meet the certifications and standards for the international market.
- v. Phase V - Sale of Classic and Premium 1K1P products was held in conjunction with the Souq Al-Qudwah Event organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs

from 29 July to 1 August 2020. A total of 8 1K1P entrepreneurs and more than 30 types of Classic products and Premium 1K1P were sold directly to the public.

Through these training programs, on average, participants reported an increase in total sales of 107percent after attending the 1K1P Transformation Course. In addition, a total of 35 types of 1K1P Classic Products and 30 types of 1K1P Premium Products have been produced by the participants of the 1K1P Cohort 1 Transformation Course. Following these achievements, more programs will be introduced for 1K1P to meet the overall objectives of the project.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

To Improve the One Village One Product (1K1P) program to ensure resilient community	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Targeting different groups to join the training program will increase knowledge in terms of entrepreneurship, product diversification skills, and marketing targets for their respective products.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The training program complements economy-wide efforts to ensure inclusivity and that no one is left behind.
Activities and Timelines	<u>Activities for Year 2022:</u> 1) 1K1P Cohort 2 Transformation Program - Especially for 1K1P group entrepreneurs • Entrepreneurship Bootcamp - January • 1K1P Research and Development Workshop - February/March • Classic and Premium 1K1P Showcase - April 2) 1K1P Cohort 3 Transformation Program - Especially for Youth Entrepreneurs under MPK. • Entrepreneurship Bootcamp - June • 1K1P Research and Development Workshop - July/August • Classic and Premium 1K1P Showcase - September
Measures of progress	<u>Quantitative:</u> - No. of products produced - Percentage increase in total sales
APEC cross-fora alignment	SMEWG Strategic Plan for 2021–2024: Align with priorities on “entrepreneurship, innovation and start-ups” in fostering innovation in SMEs to strengthen business competitiveness and also “inclusive capability development towards digitalization” in improving business skills in the digital economy.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTA)

1. Introduction

Over the years, Brunei Darussalam has been actively engaged in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) through its membership in ASEAN as well as on bilateral basis. Brunei Darussalam sees FTAs as an important part of its foreign trade policy to maximise the benefits of free and open trade for its people through ensuring the continued access to global markets.

To date, Brunei Darussalam, through ASEAN, has concluded FTAs with Australia & New Zealand; China; India; Japan; Hong Kong, China; and Korea. On 11 October 2021, Brunei Darussalam ratified the Region Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) which is currently the world's largest free trade agreement. Brunei Darussalam is also engaged in negotiations to "upgrade" existing ASEAN FTA agreements such as the ASEAN-China FTA and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA). Furthermore, ASEAN and Canada have just launched the negotiations for a possible ASEAN-Canada FTA and exploratory efforts are also on-going on a possible future ASEAN FTA with the United Kingdom.

Bilaterally, Brunei Darussalam has concluded an Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan (the Brunei-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement or "BJEPA") in 2007.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam strongly believes that active engagement on FTAs with a number of key strategic partners will promote economic diversification through trade and investment opportunities in overseas market, new supply chain networks and greater transparency for businesses and consumers. These agreements not only promote open and free trade but are also a catalyst for structural reforms.

In light of the current global pandemic, FTAs play an important role in building the region's resilience through inclusive and sustainable post-pandemic economic recovery process.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Improving market access and trade liberalisation	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners are continuing to make progress in facilitating trade, investment, and other economic relations in ASEAN and the rest of the region. <u>ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA)</u> Efforts will be made to effectively implement the ACFTA and the remaining elements in the Future Work Program under the ACFTA Upgrading Protocol and to also expeditiously conduct a Joint Feasibility Study to identify other areas of possible inclusion in further enhancing the ACFTA, including by creating more trade opportunities in the digital economy and fostering new sources of growth for cooperation, working towards a more inclusive, modern, comprehensive, and mutually beneficial ACFTA. <u>ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)</u>

	The negotiations to upgrade the AANZFTA Agreement are currently ongoing by all Parties and are targeted to be completed by September 2022. Parties aim to modernise the AANZFTA to take into account the changing global business and trade practices and the evolving regional economic architecture. This also includes exploring cross-sectoral areas of cooperation such as Trade and Sustainable Development and MSMEs as well as critical areas for post-pandemic recovery such as supply chain connectivity amongst others. <u>RCEP</u> Following its signing on 15 November 2021, the RCEP Agreement will enter into force 60 days after six (6) ASEAN Member States and three (3) ASEAN FTA Partners have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary General of ASEAN, as the designated Depository for the RCEP Agreement. The RCEP Agreement is targeted to enter in force on 1 January 2022. <u>ASEAN-Canada</u> The Reference Paper for an ASEAN-Canada FTA has been endorsed and Parties agreed to launch the negotiations for an ASEAN-Canada FTA.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Besides promoting trade liberalisation, FTAs also provide an impetus for Brunei Darussalam to undertake structural reforms such as lowering of trade and investment barriers, harmonisation of standards, promotion of domestic competition and encouraging technology development and innovation through the promotion of technology transfer For instance, under RCEP, the Competition Chapter includes obligations for the Parties to adopt or maintain competition laws and regulations that proscribe anti-competitive activities and to establish or maintain authorities to implement its competition laws, while recognising the rights of each Party to develop and enforce its own competition laws and policies and allowing for exclusion or exemptions based on grounds of public policy or public interest. Recognising the increasing digitalisation of trade, a Chapter on Electronic Commerce (e-Commerce) is also included under RCEP. This Chapter requires the Parties to adopt or maintain a legal framework which creates a conducive environment for e-commerce development including protection of personal information of e-commerce users and provides protection for consumers using electronic commerce. In terms of enhancing the capacities of ASEAN Member States, a majority of the above-mentioned FTAs (under Key Initiative linkage to EAASR) includes provisions that will ensure that economies with different levels of development, businesses of differing sizes, and the broader stakeholders can all benefit from these Agreements. In addition, it also includes technical cooperation and capacity building that will be made available to support the implementation of commitments made under the various FTAs.
Activities and Timelines	<u>AANZFTA</u> The upgrade negotiations are expected to be concluded in September 2022. <u>RCEP</u> Targeted to enter into force on 1 January 2022.
Measures of progress	<u>Qualitative:</u> <u>AANZFTA</u> The AANZFTA upgrade can be a pathway for ASEAN to consider a higher level of ambition and synergize with other newer and more comprehensive FTAs such as the RCEP agreement, which can enhance the value of the AANZFTA over the next 10 years.

	<u>RCEP</u> In accordance with Article 20.6 of the RCEP Agreement, RCEP will enter into force 60 days after the date on which at least six ASEAN Member signatory States and three signatories other than ASEAN Member States have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, or approval with the Depository (the Secretary-General of ASEAN). <u>Quantitative:</u> <u>AANZFTA</u> Since AANZFTA was implemented in 2010, two-way trade between ASEAN and Australia has increased particularly between 2010 – 2019. However, due to the to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total two-way trade between ASEAN and Australia has contracted by 17.7 percent in 2020, from USD 84.8 billion in 2019 to USD 69.8 billion in 2020, based on Australia’s data. While total two-way trade between New Zealand and ASEAN has contracted by 10.68 percent from USD 12.6 billion in 2019 to USD 11.3 billion in 2020, based on New Zealand’s data. According to Australia’s and New Zealand’s data, Australia’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) outflow to ASEAN in 2020 accounted at USD 1.82 billion, while New Zealand’s FDI outflow to ASEAN for the same year was valued at USD 371.8 million. <u>RCEP</u> A study carried out by ASEAN suggests that by 2025, the RCEP Agreement is projected to boost its members' exports by over 10 percent and by 2030 add around 0.2 percent to GDP growth in the region. <u>ASEAN-Canada</u> It is expected that the ASEAN-Canada FTA, once finalised, will have a positive impact and boost bilateral trade and investment between ASEAN and Canada. Being the first FTA with North America, it is reported that it will contribute to ASEAN's GDP by US\$39.4 billion (1.6 percent) and Canada's GDP by US\$5.1 billion (0.3 percent). The FTA will also give ASEAN access to a market of 38 million people with the GDP of US\$1.64 trillion.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Besides existing APEC initiatives, the RCEP Agreement will support the ‘Boracay Action Agenda’ as the SMEs Chapter agreement seek to promote information sharing and cooperation. The Chapter also obliges the Parties to promote sharing of RCEP-related information relevant to SMEs by establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible information platform. This Chapter also aims to strengthen cooperation in the areas of e-commerce, intellectual property rights, access to markets, and innovation, among others.

CANADA

1. Introduction

Canada's 2021–2025 Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform Individual Action Plan (EAASR IAP) outlines a structural reform plan for the next five years that seeks to address a range of structural reform challenges facing our economy. Some of them relate to the lasting effects of the ongoing pandemic, while others relate to Canada's long-term goals of creating a greener, more innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy.

More specifically, some of the structural reform challenges that our IAP is targeted at include the following:

- *Rebuilding from the pandemic:* To date, Canada has provided a historical amount of support, amounting to \$512 billion or more than 23 percent of our GDP, to bridge our workers and businesses through the COVID-19 crisis and stabilize the economy. Looking ahead to the next few years, we have a variety of reform initiatives planned to boost business recovery and enhance resiliency against future shocks. This includes initiatives targeted at supporting the rebound of our small and medium-sized enterprises and actions to support other groups that have been particularly hard-hit, including women, young people, low-wage workers and racialized Canadians.
- *Investing in innovation:* Canada is looking to enhance its innovation, digital transformation and economic infrastructure to support productivity growth and ensure that our economy remains dynamic and future-ready. This is all the more important in the context of the accelerated digital shift brought on by the pandemic. Over the next few years, Canada is planning reforms to support our growth in innovative sectors such as bio-manufacturing and life sciences, automotive, aerospace, agriculture, and artificial intelligence.
- *Building a green economy:* To respond to the challenges of climate change and other environmental threats, Canada is working on structural reforms to assist in a green transition for our economy and to support the growth of green jobs. This includes actions to accelerate the energy transition that we have underway by encouraging both the demand for and supply of more sustainable, greener energy solutions.
- *Supporting well-being:* Canada is looking to build an economy and society that keeps quality of life and well-being at their core. Over the next few years, we will be working on reforms to ensure that these goals are at the centre of our policy-making, and advancing initiatives that address issues such as inequality and affordability.

Note: Since many of the programs below are still being defined, more precise indicators for measurement of progress will be forthcoming.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Renewed Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Strong venture capital funding will allow for more inclusive growth, while supporting businesses to scale up and invest in innovation.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Accessing credit is one of the core indicators in the third Ease of Doing Business Action Plan. Further, boosting the ability of entrepreneurs and businesses to secure venture capital supports other existing structural reforms including those aimed at removing barriers to those with untapped economic potential, including women's access to labour markets, finance, and capital.
Activities and Timelines	Canada is planning to renew and enhance its Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative to make available up to \$450 million over five years, to increase venture capital funding. This will support the continued growth of Canada's innovative companies, and will include streams to support life science technologies and those companies owned by underrepresented groups, such as women and racialized communities.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the Cebu Action Plan's (CAP) initiative 1A) Promote an enabling financing environment for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), including trade, supply chain and alternative financing mechanisms.

Key Initiative: Building Infrastructure to Boost Trade	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Well-functioning trade infrastructure (both physical and digital) will allow Canadians to compete in key global markets and trade more efficiently with partners.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business

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Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies These reforms aim to strengthen economic infrastructure and improve the ease of doing business by improving Canada's trade infrastructure and helping preserve the security and integrity of Canada's borders.
Activities and Timelines	Canada is planning to invest more than \$10 billion over ten years in trade and transportation projects, to enhance the flow of goods along trade corridors, modernize transportation systems, improve information systems, ensure ocean protection, and guard against climate risks. In addition, Canada is planning to spend \$656.1 million over five years for the Canada Border Services Agency to improve border-crossing processes and strengthen border integrity.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later. Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the CAP's initiatives 4E) Long-term investment in infrastructure and 4G) Regional connectivity.

Key Initiative: Making It Easier to Do Business in Canada	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Canada is working to enhance competition to protect consumers, lower prices, and spur innovation.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Strengthening competition policy, enhancing consumer protection and advocating on behalf of small businesses are key elements in this area.
Activities and Timelines	Canada announced an additional \$96 million over five years to enhance the Competition Bureau's enforcement capacity and equip it with the necessary digital tools to help ensure a competitive marketplace that Canadians can trust.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later. Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the pillar of "innovation and digitalization" under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Enhancing the Canada Small Business Financing Program	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This program helps provide small businesses with the capital they need to recover, innovate, and grow in the long-term.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative will include amendments to the <i>Canada Small Business Financing Act</i> and its regulations, increases in small businesses' access to credit and extended loan coverage periods.
Activities and Timelines	Canada intends to improve the Canada Small Business Financing Program through amendments to the <i>Canada Small Business Financing Act</i> and its regulations. The amendments will help increase access to financing for small businesses by introducing lending against intellectual property and start-up assets and expenses. Changes are also being made to increase the maximum amount businesses can borrow from financial institutions under the program, expand eligibility to include non-profit and charitable social enterprises, and introduce a new line of credit product. These amendments are projected to increase annual financing by \$560 million, supporting approximately 2,900 additional small businesses each year.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the CAP's initiative 1A) Promote an enabling financing environment for MSMEs, including trade, supply chain and alternative financing mechanisms. It also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of "trade and investment" under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Supporting Business Investments	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative helps businesses invest in new technologies and move forward with capital projects that can accelerate economic recovery.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms,	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform

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Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative will seek to further incentivize businesses to transition to a more productive, knowledge-intensive economy.
Activities and Timelines	Canada intends to introduce immediate expensing of up to \$1.5 million of eligible capital investments made by Canadian-controlled private corporations on or after 19 April 2021 and that becomes available for use before 1 January 2024. Immediate expensing allows businesses to deduct the cost of eligible capital investments for income tax purposes in the first year the property is available for use, providing a time value of money benefit to firms and making it more attractive for them to invest in assets that drive growth and create jobs. Eligible investments will cover over 60 percent of capital investments typically made by these private corporations, and could include investments in a broad range of assets, such as digital assets and intellectual property.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later. Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the CAP's initiative 1A) Promote an enabling financing environment for MSMEs, including trade, supply chain and alternative financing mechanisms. It also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of "trade and investment" under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Canada's New Quality-of-Life Framework	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Quality of Life Framework helps better integrate well-being related considerations into Canada's decision making and federal budgeting, to build toward a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable recovery.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Consideration of how each federal budget proposal can be viewed through the rubric of the Quality of Life Framework, to achieve Canada's overall objectives and to inform decisions and actions is a defining feature of Canada's public sector governance.
Activities and Timelines	Canada is working on better integrating quality of life considerations into its policy and budgetary decision making. Under our new Quality of Life Framework, all policies proposed for the federal budget will undergo an assessment of how they would impact the prosperity, health, environment, social cohesion, and good governance for Canadians. This will assist policymakers in thinking about policy impacts in a "beyond GDP" manner. Moving forward, the framework will also underpin how Canada monitors its progress in "building back better" to improve Canadians' quality of life now and into the future.

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Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to the pillar of “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Inclusive Support to Canada’s Entrepreneurs	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. These initiatives help make sure that all Canadian entrepreneurs have an equal chance to succeed and contribute to economic recovery and growth.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies These reforms relate to strengthening economic infrastructure and improving the ease of doing business and will seek to provide affordable financing, increase data availability, and strengthen capacity within the entrepreneurship ecosystem.
Activities and Timelines	To support those groups of entrepreneurs who are important to Canada’s economic success, but face barriers to starting and growing a business, Canada intends to provide more than \$450 million over the next couple of years to support women, Black and Indigenous entrepreneurs. This includes improving their access to funding and capital, providing mentorship, financial planning services, and training.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the CAP’s initiative 1A) Promote an enabling financing environment for MSMEs, including trade, supply chain and alternative financing mechanisms. It also contributes to the pillar of “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Canada’s New Early Learning and Child Care Plan	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The new Canada-wide early learning and child care plan will help parents, especially women, who have been particularly hit hard during the pandemic due to child care duties, to participate fully in the economy.

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Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Through key, targeted reforms, Canada will seek to expand affordable child care spaces to provide more flexibility for working parents.
Activities and Timelines	Canada is planning new investments, totalling up to \$30 billion over the next five years, and \$8.3 billion ongoing to support high-quality early learning and affordable child care. This will bring down the average fees of regulated early learning and child care by 50 percent in all provinces outside of Québec to an average of \$10 a day by 2025–2026. This also includes funding for Indigenous early learning and childcare to ensure that Indigenous families have access to high quality programming.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to the pillar of “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Valuing Canada’s Workers	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Improving working wages and addressing income inequality will help with economic recovery from the pandemic. These measures will lift more Canadians out of poverty, improve the lives of workers, and protect the resilience of Canada’s workforce well into the future.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies To support low-wage workers in the federally regulated private sector, Canada introduced a \$15 per hour federal minimum wage, which took effect on 29 December 2021 and will rise with inflation annually.
Activities and Timelines	The various measures planned to support workers include establishing a \$15 federal minimum wage, expanding the Canada Workers Benefit by increasing the tax refund for low-income workers, and making legislative changes to improve labour protection for gig workers.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.
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Key Initiative: Growing Canada’s Net-Zero Economy	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. These initiatives would help Canada build towards a green recovery to create jobs, transition towards a clean economy, and fight and protect against climate change.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies These initiatives seek to position local economies for long-term growth by transitioning to a greener, more inclusive recovery, enhancing competitiveness, improving access to credit and creating jobs in every corner of the economy.
Activities and Timelines	The initiatives to support Canada’s clean technology development in the next few years include funding and tax incentives to encourage the manufacturing, investments in, commercial scale-up, industry adoption and export of clean technologies and investment in energy efficient equipment.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Investing in Skills and Training	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. These initiatives help Canadians adapt to the changing nature of work as economy reopens – including new technologies, industries, and ways of working – by providing training and upskilling opportunities.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance

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Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies As the economy recovers from COVID-19, there is a need to adapt to the changing nature of work—including new technologies, industries, and ways of working. These initiatives will focus on ensuring that workers have the skills they need for good jobs in growing fields.
Activities and Timelines	The various initiatives Canada is planning over the next few years include supporting the provision of more training relevant to the needs of businesses, apprenticeships in the construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades, training and work placements with high potential growth organizations, and literacy/soft/digital/coding skills development to young and adult Canadians. Many of these initiatives also aim to improve diversity, for example, by incentivizing employers to hire from the underrepresented groups, including women, racialized Canadians, persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later. Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of “innovation and digitalization” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Supporting Innovation and Industrial Transformation	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. These initiatives help Canada capitalize on its research and innovation strengths, and build a thriving digital future that is key to Canada’s economic recovery, growth, and prosperity.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies These initiatives aim to spur innovation to ensure that Canada remains a competitive force in a technology-driven global market place.
Activities and Timelines	Canada intends to provide significant funding in the next few years through its Strategic Innovation Fund to support innovative projects across the economy, including in the life sciences, automotive, aerospace, clean technologies, and agriculture sectors. We are also planning significant support for innovations and research in artificial intelligence, quantum science and technologies, and genomics, including commercialization and attraction of academic talents.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later. Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to supporting economic recovery from the pandemic, and the pillar of “innovation and digitalization” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Canada Digital Adoption Program	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative helps SMEs keep pace with the digital transformation underway across the economy through adopting new technologies and digitizing their operations to meet customer needs, take advantage of e-commerce opportunities and stay competitive. The initiative also provides training and work opportunities for young Canadians by using their expertise to support SMEs in implementing these new digital solutions.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Innovative and competitive SMEs support a strong and growing economy. To do this, they need well-trained employees, accessible financing, and support to help them keep up with the digitization of Canada's economy. Canada plans on helping small businesses grow and expand their digital presence and capabilities to meet the demands of the digital economy. These investments will encourage small businesses to hire more workers, and embrace new technologies that make them more productive and competitive.
Activities and Timelines	Canada is launching the Canada Digital Adoption Program and intends to provide \$1.4 billion over four years to help SMEs with technology adoption. This includes providing training and work opportunities, advisory services, micro grants, etc. In addition, Canada intends to provide \$2.6 billion (cash basis) over four years to the Business Development Bank of Canada to help SMEs finance technology adoption.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also supports the CAP's initiative 1A) Promote an enabling financing environment for MSMEs, including trade, supply chain and alternative financing mechanisms. In addition, it helps contribute to the pillar of "innovation and digitalization" under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Initiative: Accelerating Broadband for Everyone	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The investment will expand access to high-speed internet for Canadians and Canadian businesses, so they can keep pace with the digital transformation brought on by the pandemic and participate equally in the economy.

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Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Canada wants to strengthen economic infrastructure and improve the ease with which online business is conducted by improving access to the internet. This will ensure that all Canadians and Canadian businesses, especially those in rural and remote communities, have access to high-speed and reliable internet, so that they can participate equally in the economy and adapt to the digital transformations brought on by the pandemic.
Activities and Timelines	Building on the \$6.2 billion made available for universal broadband since 2015, Canada intends to provide an additional \$1 billion over six years to support a more rapid rollout of broadband projects, with a focus on rural and remote communities.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
	Quantitative: Various implementation milestones to be specified later.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This measure also contributes to the pillars of “innovation and digitalization” and “strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth” under the Putrajaya Vision 2040.

CHILE

1. Introduction

Along with the adoption of strong sanitary control policies because of COVID-19 pandemic, Chile has been aiming to recover the economy in a strong, green and inclusive way. Chile's path to recovery has been challenging since the pandemic but has shown progress in terms of productivity and employment, which could boost outcomes for 2022 and beyond 2025. The GDP decreased 5.8 percent between 2019 and 2020, but fortunately, expected growth for 2021 is 9.5 percent of GDP, which is defensive compared to market and Central Bank expectations. In addition, an increase of 2.5 percent of GDP is expected through 2022. Currently Chile's productivity level is above pre-pandemic numbers. The main force behind the rapid economic recovery has been an expansionary fiscal policy that provided resources for households and firms; mainly through the Emergency Fiscal Income. In addition, a vaccination campaign with more than 80 percent of the people vaccinated has boosted business recovery.

Enabling recovery through a green and sustainable finance approach is crucial for the years to come. Consistent with Chile's Financial Strategy on Climate Change, sovereign green bonds were issued in 2019. In 2019, the Chilean government proposed adopting a carbon neutrality goal no later than 2050, following the recommendations of the Paris Agreement. This goal materialized in Chile's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the recently approved Framework Law on Climate Change. Chile is also working on various initiatives linked to the evaluation of climate public spending; the development of a metric that allows measuring natural capital; and the development of a classification system for sustainable economic activities that allows standardization of what is considered a green economic activity. Thematic bonds have become central to Chile's financing, and are an integral part of the debt strategy. Proceeds of the issuance of green bonds primarily financed clean transportation projects, contributing to the decarbonization of the energy matrix, green buildings and advancing the economy's Paris Agreement commitments. These instruments have allowed more competitive borrowing terms and diversification of the funding base. Chile has taken a leadership role in ESG issues:

- In 2019, Chile became the first economy in South America to issue green bonds.
- In 2022, Chile issued its first Sustainability-Linked Bond. This format increased the interest of investors, becoming the first Sustainability-Linked Bond in the world issued by a government. The transaction opened a new path for other economies that want to link their financing activities in the capital markets with their ESG goals.

Separately, the government has incorporated green criteria in the public investment pipeline in the ongoing recovery. More than 30 percent of the additional public investment scheduled in the recovery plan for 2020–2022 has green criteria, in line with certified standards. Furthermore, improving the budgetary frameworks while ensuring fiscal responsibility for new green approaches is key. The government has worked on a fiscal methodological framework

that adequately identifies and measures climate budgeting. For the current 2021 Budget Bill, the obligation to publish public spending on climate change has been incorporated.

Regarding other policies that could add resilience against future shocks, in 2019 the Law N° 21.148 came into effect, which created the Autonomous Fiscal Council as a technical and advisory council with more capacities to strengthen further fiscal policies. The Council's objective is to contribute to the responsible management of the government's fiscal policy—an important matter during crisis periods. The value of the CFA is that they offer an independent view of the conduct of the country's fiscal policy.

When it comes to international trade, the supply of essential goods (including vaccines) in Chile proved the importance of having strong regulations, allowing trade openness for a rapid recovery after the economic crisis. Policies during the pandemic allowed Chile's commercial exchange to grow by almost 40 percent compared to 2020. Both exports and imports registered record values, rising by 30 percent and 50 percent respectively. To keep this path, Chile has focused policies on modernizing its Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) network, beginning negotiating with new potential trade partners and including new disciplines aligned with SDGs, among others. Chile pioneered trade and gender chapters into FTAs and signed landmark agreements like the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement, which will boost opportunities for women entrepreneurs, work that Chile also carried out within APEC with “The La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth”, one of the main deliverables of Chile's hosting of APEC in 2019.

In addition, as the roadmap about Digital Financial Inclusion promoted by Chile and with the collaboration of the OECD suggested, the government issued a bill that will promote a solid framework to supervise Fintech companies and promote open finance and digitalization. The Fintech and Open Banking Bill seeks to update financial regulation, promote competition, innovation and financial inclusion. This bill can reduce costs and frictions, increase efficiency and competition, and expand access to financial services.

Finally, it is always challenging to improve private sector confidence and investment, taking in consideration the global uncertainty and volatility, but Chile has the appropriate regulations to face this challenge and to work on it.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Fintech and Open Banking Bill <i>The Bill aims to innovate financial regulation, recognizing Fintech as an emerging business model and promoting competition and inclusion through the implementation of an open banking system. Through these pillars, the Bill seeks to improve the welfare of consumers by offering solutions to individuals and companies to access credit, savings, investment, and insurance alternatives, among others, that complement and improve the current offer of financial services.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	The Bill is still under discussion in Congress. Its approval is expected this year (2022).
Measures of progress	
	Qualitative: Improvements in access and financial conditions.
	Quantitative: Number of new financial institutions subject to supervision besides Banks. Financial conditions overall.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The APEC Roadmap on Digital Financial Inclusion, an initiative led by Chile developed with the support of the OECD.

Key Initiative: Taxonomy Roadmap for Chile <i>Creating an economy-wide taxonomy can serve as a blueprint for making Chile's economy greener. Establishing clear green definitions could give Chile an advantage compared to other economies in the region to increase capital flows for sustainable projects. The roadmap describes several applications of the taxonomy, as well as opportunities and challenges for sustainable finance.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies

Supporting Policies	
Activities and Timelines	Following the pathway and actions recommended by The Climate Bonds initiatives with the collaboration of Inter-American Development Bank among others. https://www.climatebonds.net/2021/05/taxonomy-roadmap-chile
Measures of progress	Analyse progress about how international taxonomies will suit the local context in Chile. This would ensure harmonisation with international taxonomies as well as alignment with local needs and conditions, while trying to minimize the risks of adopting hard to manage thresholds.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: Trade and Gender Chapters into Free Trade Agreements.

The Administrative Commission of the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Canada is seeking the implementation of a gender and trade chapter. In this regard, a 24-month work plan was implemented.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	The Administrative Commission of the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and Canada is seeking the implementation of a gender and trade chapter. In this regard, a 24-month work plan was implemented.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The activities of the work plan will be guided by the following principles, as far as possible: - Gender balance - Responsibility - Transparency - Flexibility and pragmatism - Openness to participation and considering the experience of civil society - A commitment to the "best efforts", being proactive and results-oriented. Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	Chile pioneered trade and gender chapters into FTAs and signed landmark agreements like the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement, which will boost opportunities for women entrepreneurs, work we also carry out within APEC with "The La Serena Road Map on Women and Inclusive Growth", one of the main deliverables of Chile's APEC hosting.

Key Initiative: Digitize your SME <i>Given the growing interest and need of smaller companies to get on the digitalization path, this initiative guides and accompanies SMEs through a digital transformation process, offering a wide range of events, workshops, training and tools, as well as a network of allies with whom to articulate initiatives for the adoption of digital technologies.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	Online and in-person activities
Measures of progress	Qualitative: 1. Understanding: responses to Initiatives to know the benefits of digitizing your business. 2. Learning: Analyse the results of focusing on the acquisition of digital skills and tools. 3. Adopting: success on implementation of technological solutions in SMEs production processes. Quantitative: Number of benefits given by the program. Number of new Digital SMEs.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: Office of Productivity and National Entrepreneurship <i>The Office of National Productivity and Entrepreneurship (OPEN) is a permanent institution that seeks to increase productivity, free competition, facilitate entrepreneurship, and reduce entry and exit barriers.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	Permanent.

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	Creation of the Chilean Guide for Good Regulation. The main objective of the Guide is to be a reference for regulators in the economy, accompanying them in the different stages of the process of creating new regulations. In this, a new methodology is proposed to carry out Regulatory Impact Reports (IIR).
Measures of progress	
	Qualitative: The Guide comes with Preliminary Evaluation, which must be completed for all regulatory proposals and will determine if an additional analysis is required and in what depth.
	Quantitative: Evolution in economy-wide productivity levels, number of new companies engaged in R&D, expenditure in R&D, among others.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The APEC Roadmap on Digital Financial Inclusion, an initiative led by Chile developed with the support of the OECD.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. Introduction

After years of rapid growth and continuous transformation and upgrading, China's economy has entered a new stage of high-quality development. In 2020, China's gross domestic product (GDP) exceeded the 100-trillion-yuan threshold, reaching 101.6 trillion yuan with per capita GDP exceeding \$10,000. The contribution of consumption to economic growth keeps increasing, and residents' income grows basically in step with economic growth. China has achieved the poverty alleviation goal set on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, which also means the completion of the CPC's First Centenary Goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Amid growing external challenges and threats from COVID-19, China was the first to put the epidemic under control, resume work and production, and achieve positive growth, demonstrating the strong resilience and shock resistance of its economy. China's achievements in economic development rely both on its own hard work and the support of the international community. However, it is observed that China's development remains unbalanced and insufficient, with declined potential economic growth, capacity for innovation to be strengthened, disparities in development between urban and rural areas and between regions, and income gaps. Economic security, especially in energy and food industries, faces challenges. There is a long way to go for China to protect the environment, promote low-carbon development, and improve public wellbeing and social governance. Therefore, there is an urgent need to achieve higher-quality development through deepening structural reforms.

The pursuit of development never ends. The period 2021-2025 is the first five years of China embarking on a new journey of building a modern socialist economy in all aspects. The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035 of the People's Republic of China (14th Five-Year Plan) issued in 2021 clearly states that China will take promoting high-quality development as the primary goal, deepening supply-side structural reforms as the main task, reform and innovation as the fundamental driving force, and meeting the people's growing needs for a better life as the ultimate objective. China will also modernize the system and capacity of governance. Since 2021, China has expressed its principle of supporting structural reform on many international occasions and its willingness to deeply integrate into the global economy by joining high-level economic and trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), which demonstrates China's firm determination to promote structural reforms.

At present, China is accelerating high-quality economic development. In accordance with the 14th Five-Year Plan, China will continue to follow the new development philosophy to promote innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, and build a new pattern of development that focuses on domestic economic flows and features positive interplay between domestic and international flows. China will promote innovative growth and the development of the digital economy, improve the socialist market economic system, build a new system for higher-level open economy, and accelerate inclusive and sustainable development. At the same time, China will work together with APEC economies to promote anti-epidemic cooperation and economic recovery, implement the APEC Putrajaya Vision

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2040, support to build an open Asia-Pacific economy, and an open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

2. Key Plans for Structural Reform

Key Plan 1: Building a more competitive and inclusive digital economy	
Relevance to the four pillars of the EAASR (2021-2025)	New economic drivers such as platform economy and smart economy bring new challenges to fair competition in the market. Digitization is playing a unique role in enhancing the resilience of the industrial supply chain. Digital skills and new infrastructure help different groups with the access to digital dividends. Data factors are becoming increasingly important for improving economic development and social governance. Therefore, this plan is highly related to all the four pillars of EAASR.
Relationship with the priorities of structural reform in APEC economies	To implement the key plan, it is necessary to improve the competition policy for the platform economy, improve the laws and regulations on data factors, and strengthen the supporting policies for digital transformation to empower Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development and social governance.
Major actions	During the period 2021-2025, China will: Strengthen the innovative application of key digital technologies. Encourage the growth of the core digital economy industries, accelerate the digital transformation of industries, and carry out 5G pilot and demonstration projects in key areas such as transportation, logistics, energy and medical care. Press ahead with cloud-based big data and AI initiatives to improve digital enterprises, digitized industrial chain and digital ecosystem. Optimize the digital government, smart cities, digital villages and the digital society. Enhance responsible digital innovation. Establish sound ethical norms and standard systems for the new generation of information technology represented by artificial intelligence, guiding the suitable use of digital technology in green and low-carbon areas, social services and public governance. Strengthen digital skills education and training for all people and improve information accessibility to narrow the digital divide. Refine anti-monopoly regulations and specify reasonable responsibilities of platforms in the digital economy. Adopt an appropriate forward-thinking plan for new infrastructure development. Strengthen the construction of information infrastructure, integration infrastructure and innovation infrastructure, optimizing the spatial layout and supply structure, and mobilizing market entities to participate broadly. Refine policies and regulations. Improve the digital economy governance rules in key links such as data opening and trading, and in key areas such as data ownership and security. Actively participate in global multilateral digital economy governance, and promote the orderly alignment of domestic rules with international ones. Implement the action plan for digitalization and greenization collaborative transformation. Encourage and support international cooperation in promoting green and low-carbon development of the digital industry, and greenization of traditional industries enabled by digital technology.

Indicators to measure reform progress	Qualitative indicators: A number of industrial Internet platforms and digital transformation promotion centers up to international standards are built in key industries and regions. The level of resources digitalization, openness and sharing of public service institutions are improved. The <i>Data Security Law</i> and the <i>Personal Information Protection Law</i> are issued as supporting provisions, the <i>Regulations on the Management of Online Data Security</i> and the <i>Ethical Norms for New Generation Artificial Intelligence</i> are issued as institutional norms. The governance efficiency of the digital economy improves continuously. Further participate in multilateral governance and international cooperation in the digital economy. The new infrastructure is continuously improved with higher efficiency, better connectivity, greener and low-carbon development, and safer operation. Quantitative indicators: In 2025, the added value of core digital economy industries is expected to account for 10 percent of GDP (7.8 percent in 2020). (Relevant data will be released by the National Bureau of Statistics.) In 2025, the numerical control rate of key processes, the digital penetration rate of operation and management as well as the usage rate of digital R&D and design tools of China's industrial enterprises are expected to reach 68 percent, 80 percent, and 85 percent (54.6 percent, 69.8 percent, and 74.2 percent respectively in 2020). (Relevant data will be released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.)
Consistency with other APEC platforms	The objectives of this plan are consistent with those in the <i>APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap</i> and conducive to the implementation of the <i>APEC Connectivity Blueprint</i> and the <i>APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap</i>.

Key Plan 2: Launching the Pilot Program on EoDB Innovation	
Relevance to the four pillars of the EAASR (2021-2025)	The <i>Opinions on Launching the Pilot Program on EoDB Innovation</i> (the <i>Opinions</i>), issued by the State Council of China, propose clearly to accelerate building EoDB systems in line with the international practice in Beijing and other five cities, in order to improve market-based international business environment that respects the rule of law. It is in line with the objectives in Pillar One.
Relationship with the priorities of structural reform in APEC economies	The Chinese government attaches great importance to building a favorable EoDB environment. The <i>Opinions</i> propose measures taken by the government to improve EoDB and focus on building a highland of institutional innovation, which is directly related to APEC EoDB practices.
Major actions	The <i>Opinions</i> propose that the first group of pilot cities are Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen. The connectivity between the innovation pilot program and the economy-wide efforts to improve EoDB will be enhanced, which means that good practice will be applied economy-wide as appropriate with the approval of relevant government agencies. Key tasks include: Further eliminate unreasonable restrictions such as regional segmentation and local protection. Build a more open, transparent, standardized and efficient access and exit system for

	market entities. Continuously improve investment and construction facilitation. Give stronger support to the innovative development of business entities. Continuously improve cross-border trade facilitation. Optimize the management of foreign investment and international human resource services. Further strengthen and creating new methods of regulation. Protect the property rights, legitimate rights and interests of various market entities according to law.
Indicators to measure reform progress	Qualitative indicators: In three to five years, the pilot cities take the lead in building a first-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and internationalized. The efficiency of public governance is improved in all aspects. The ability to concentrate and allocate various resources and production factors around the world is significantly enhanced. The activity and development quality of market entities is remarkably improved. China's international competitiveness is further enhanced. A series of institutional innovation achievements that can be replicated and promoted is formed. The pilot cities make important demonstration for enhancing EoDB. Quantitative indicators: In 2022, SMEs applying for an electricity load of 160 KW and below in urban areas and 100 KW and below in rural areas will enjoy "zero investment". The application processing time for the low-voltage non-resident power users which enjoy "zero visit, zero approval and zero investment" service will be reduced to 20 working days. In 2022, 74 government services such as production license application for industrial products, and social security card application will be processed in places other than the place of residence.
Consistency with other APEC platforms	This plan is consistent with the objectives of APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Plan 3: Promoting the market-based allocation of production factors

Relevance to the four pillars of the EAASR (2021-2025)	The market-based allocation of production factors objectively needs a fully competitive, fair and orderly market. It will facilitate various business entities to share development achievements through participation in the market. The efficient flow of technology and data factors will accelerate the realization of innovation-driven development.
Relationship with the priorities of structural reform in APEC economies	To promote the market-based allocation of production factors requires further improving the economic and legal infrastructure. Given that enterprises are important market participants in the use of production factors, promoting corporate governance is also highly relevant to this plan.

Major actions	During the period 2021-2025, China will take measures in the following areas: Labor force. Deepen the reform of household registration system. Establish a mechanism to link basic public services with permanent population. Facilitate the flow of workforce and human resources. Improve technical skills assessment, and making more efforts appealing to human resources. Capital. Improve the basic system of the stock market and the multi-level capital market system. Promote the sound development of the bond market. Vigorously develop inclusive finance, and push forward to the opening-up of the financial industry in an active and orderly way. Technology. Deepen the reform of the ownership system of scientific and technological outcomes. Implement the three-year action plan for the reform of the scientific and technological system. Strengthen the implementation of scientific and technological outcomes and the construction of pilot bases.
Indicators to measure reform progress	Qualitative indicators: The comprehensive reform pilot program of market-based allocation of production factors is launched and positive progress is achieved. The restrictions on household registration are lifted or reduced except in certain mega cities. The restrictions on access to China's financial services sector are gradually lifted for foreign investors. Quantitative indicators: The registration system is fully implemented for all stock issuance.
Consistency with other APEC platforms	This plan does not involve works of other APEC platforms.

Key Plan 4: Reaching peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030	
Relevance to the four pillars of the EAASR (2021-2025)	Pillar Four clearly champions structural reform initiatives that promote environmentally sustainable policies, including those leveraging green and digital technologies to enhance energy and resource efficiency. The <i>Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peaking Before 2030</i> (hereinafter referred to as “ <i>Action Plan</i> ”), promulgated by the State Council of China, represents an overall plan for realizing the goal by 2030 with concrete indicators and tasks.
Relationship with the priorities of structural reform in APEC economies	Reaching peak carbon dioxide emissions is a milestone in the green and low-carbon transition of an economy. Although the <i>Action Plan</i> promulgated by the Chinese government does not directly fall into the four pillars, it is a macro policy that drives green transition and environmentally sustainable development, and a key structural reform policy with an overarching impact.
Major actions	The goal to reach peak carbon emissions permeates the whole process and every aspect of economic and social development. Particular focus will be placed on implementation of ten major actions as follows. The action for green and low-carbon energy transition. Promote coal substitution as well as transformation and upgrading, vigorously develop new energy resources, and develop hydro power according to local conditions, etc..

	The action for energy saving, carbon emission mitigation and efficiency improvement. Improve capacity for managing energy conservation. Implement key energy conservation and carbon reduction projects. Advance better energy saving performance and higher efficiency of major energy consuming equipment. Strengthen energy conservation and carbon reduction in new types of infrastructure, etc.. The action for reaching peak carbon emissions in industry sector. Push key industries, i.e., steel, non-ferrous metals, building materials, and petrochemical, to reach peak carbon emissions. Firmly control the irrational expansion of energy-intensive and high-emission projects, etc.. The action for reaching peak carbon emissions in urban and rural construction. Promote green and low-carbon transformation in urban and rural development. Accelerate the optimization of building energy consumption structure. Promote a low-carbon transition in rural development and energy consumption, etc.. The action for promoting green and low-carbon transportation. Promote low-carbon transformation of transportation vehicles and equipment. Develop green, high efficiency transportation systems, and accelerate construction of green transport infrastructure, etc.. The action for promoting circular economy in carbon mitigation purpose. Push industrial parks to develop in a circular manner. Strengthen the comprehensive use of bulk solid waste. Refine systems for resource recycling, and vigorously promote to reduce and recycle household waste.. The action for advancing green and low-carbon technology innovation. Improve innovation mechanisms and systems. Enhance innovation capability and personnel training. Boost application-oriented basic research, and accelerate the R&D and wider application of advanced practical technologies, etc.. The action for consolidating and enhancing carbon sink. Enhance the carbon sink capacity of ecosystems. Strengthen the foundation for ecological system carbon sinks, and promote carbon emissions reduction and carbon sequestration in agriculture and rural areas, etc.. The action for green and low-carbon society. Strengthen publicity and education for eco-civilization system. Advocate green and low-carbon lifestyles and encourage enterprises to fulfill social responsibilities, and strengthen training for officials. The action for promoting all regions to reach peak carbon emissions orderly. Set sound, systematic targets, promote green and low-carbon development according to local conditions. Formulate local carbon peaking plans through coordination between central and local authorities, and carry out piloting projects.
Indicators to measure reform progress	Qualitative indicators: During 2021-2025, significant progress is achieved in adjusting and optimizing the industrial structure and energy mix. The energy efficiency of key industries is greatly improved. The growth of coal consumption is strictly controlled. The development of new power systems is accelerated. New breakthroughs are achieved in the R&D, promotion, and application of green and low-carbon technologies. Green production and lifestyles are popularized. The policy system that supports green, low-carbon, and circular development is further refined.
	Quantitative indicators: In 2025, the proportion of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption is about 20 percent; energy consumption per unit of GDP is 13.5 percent lower than that in 2020; CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP is 18 percent lower than that in 2020, laying a solid

	foundation for reaching peak carbon emissions.
Consistency with other APEC platforms	This plan is consistent with the objectives of APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Key Plan 5: Driving inclusive growth	
Relevance to the four pillars of the EAASR (2021-2025)	Driving inclusive growth can help improve shared benefits in economic and social development, promote common prosperity, narrow the regional, urban-rural and income gaps, and allow people to enjoy a greater sense of fulfilment, happiness and security. It is in line with the objectives of Pillar Three.
Relationship with the priorities of structural reform in APEC economies	To promote inclusive growth requires further improving market regulation and public sector management so as to develop economic and legal mechanisms that channel more resources to vulnerable groups.
Major actions	During 2021-2025, China will: Encourage entrepreneurship as a way to create jobs. Focus on the employment of major groups including college graduates and migrant workers, and roll out specific initiatives such as employment driven by mass entrepreneurship and innovation in the field of social services, “open day” at universities and enterprises for college graduates, collaborative innovation among large, medium, and small enterprises, etc. Secure the rights and interests of key groups. Eliminate gender discrimination at workplace, continuously improve education and overall capabilities of women, and take measures for bolstering women’s participation in innovation and entrepreneurship. Advance the development of children-friendly cities, implement the <i>Enhanced Action Plan for Promoting Children’s Health</i>, and constantly improve the elderly-care system and system of assistance for the disabled. Strengthen the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of participants in the gig economy and employers in the platform economy, and promote flexible work arrangements. Enhance support for special regions. Deepen rural revitalization. Boost development in border areas and improve the local living standards. Promote institutional cooperation such as transfer payments and ecological compensation. Improve the income distribution structure. Refine mechanisms for wage-setting and growing. Secure the payment, and increase the income of low-and middle-income groups through various methods. Launching an initiative to increase the middle-incomers. Make more intense and accurate adjustments to taxation, social security, and transfer payments. Make use of the charity in the third distribution.
Indicators to measure reform progress	Qualitative indicators: Women enjoy more rights in health, education, economic and political areas. Children’s rights to health, safety, education, welfare, family, environment, and legal protection are further realized. The service system and health support system for the elder are more integrated, and the home-based elderly care system is further improved.

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	The rank of middle-incomer is expanded.
	Quantitative indicators: In 2025, the proportion of general hospitals at level II and above with geriatric departments exceeds 60 percent. (Relevant data will be released by the National Health Commission.) In 2025, the coverage of basic rehabilitation services for the disabled exceeds 85 percent. (Relevant data will be released by National Health Commission and other relevant authorities.)
Consistency with other APEC platforms	This plan is consistent with the objectives of APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the La Serena Roadmap.

HONG KONG, CHINA

1. Introduction

As an externally-oriented and free market economy, Hong Kong, China (HKC) has been formulating its structural reform policies to keep pace with the changing global economic landscape. Amidst the persistent challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, HKC pledges staunch support for APEC's structural reform efforts in strengthening economic and legal infrastructure, reducing behind-the-border barriers, improving access to digital infrastructure and technologies, promoting inclusive economic participation of vulnerable groups, as well as addressing environmental challenges for sustainable growth.

To this end, HKC has included the following six key initiatives in our individual action plan, contributing to all the four pillars under the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR) for 2021--2025:

- (i) To support and strengthen the rule of law through enhancing community understanding;
- (ii) To promote the development and adoption of law technologies;
- (iii) To drive the development of financial technologies (Fintech) through implementing the "Fintech 2025" strategy;
- (iv) To set up a full-fledged Trade Single Window;
- (v) To continue to launch special employment programmes for enhancing the employability of various disadvantaged groups; and
- (vi) To promote the smart use of energy in different sectors.

In line with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the 2021 APEC Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement, the key initiatives above seek to contribute to APEC's structural reform efforts in reducing behind-the-border barriers and promoting strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Through the collective implementation of the EAASR, HKC looks forward to working with APEC member economies to achieve APEC's vision to build an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: To support and strengthen the rule of law through enhancing community understanding.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. By further strengthening the rule of law, the Key Initiative aims to build business and consumer confidence as well as to deliver a stable business environment underpinned by the rule of law.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Key Initiative comprises an array of measures to equip HKC for advancing the rule of law, including public education, capacity building for the legal sector and studying various elements of the rule of law through research.
Activities and Timelines	The rule of law is a core value and the cornerstone of HKC's success. On top of the solid foundation, HKC will continue to strive for the upholding of the rule of law by undertaking various measures. The Department of Justice (DoJ) of HKC has launched the 10-year initiative Vision 2030 for Rule of Law (Vision 2030) to enhance the community's proper understanding and practice of the rule of law through public education and strengthening capacity building for legal professionals. Among others, a rule of law database with objective data will be set up, which aims to provide an objective assessment of the practice of the rule of law in HKC as well as to facilitate research and capacity building.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Evaluation by collecting feedback on the capacity building activities from stakeholders and participants through surveys and questionnaires, as well as responses and comments from the target audience of various public education activities and the institutions involved, to measure the increase in rule of law awareness by the target audience. Quantitative: Number of conferences, capacity building activities and educational projects under Vision 2030, including DoJ's 3Es projects, namely "Engagement", "Empowerment" and "Enrichment" targeted at the general public, schools and professionals respectively, and number of target audience reached.
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

Key Initiative: To promote the development and adoption of law technologies.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative aims to harness modern technology in the provision of quality, cost-effective and efficient legal and dispute resolution services to businesses, in particular MSMEs, as well as to enhance the legal and dispute resolution sector.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Under this Key Initiative, HKC will promote the use of technology in the provision of legal services, including to endeavour to strengthen the development and adoption of online dispute resolution (ODR), and provide subsidies to encourage the use of legal cloud services.
Activities and Timelines	HKC has been promoting the use of law technologies (LawTech), particularly in the fields of ODR and legal cloud, and enhancing the capability of the legal profession to harness modern technology, along with the following new measures – (i) Making available speedy and cost-effective ODR services to the general public and businesses, in particular MSMEs, under the COVID-19 ODR Scheme; (ii) Supporting the development of procedural rules for ODR in line with the APEC ODR procedural rules under the APEC Collaborative Framework for ODR of Cross-Border Business to Business Disputes (APEC ODR Framework), such as for eBRAM Centre’s ODR platform; (iii) Subsidising local legal and dispute resolution professionals to subscribe to the Hong Kong Legal Cloud services through the Hong Kong Legal Cloud Fund set up in 2021; and (iv) Setting up the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform for Online Dispute Resolution (iGLIP on ODR), in collaboration with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), to keep track of the latest developments in the ODR landscape and explore and/or develop innovative legal tools to address potential issues.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Evaluation of the progress of the above initiatives, including through quarterly reports submitted to HKC by the relevant service providers, which will include information regarding feedback from stakeholders and promotional work undertaken. Quantitative: Data on outreach and number of stakeholders benefitted from the above initiatives, including through quarterly reports submitted to HKC by the relevant service providers, which will include information regarding the scale and number of promotional activities undertaken in relation to the implementation of the above initiatives.
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

Key Initiative: To drive the development of financial technology (Fintech) through implementing the “Fintech 2025” strategy.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative aims to encourage the financial sector to adopt technology comprehensively and to promote the provision of fair and efficient financial services.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Key Initiative comprises an array of measures to promote the development and adoption of Fintech in HKC, including conducting a Tech Baseline Assessment, enhancing the existing regulatory sandbox, sharpening data infrastructure, nurturing talent and formulating supportive policies.
Activities and Timelines	The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) will implement the Fintech 2025 strategy to encourage the financial sector to adopt technology comprehensively by 2025. The strategy comprises the following five focus areas: (i) All banks go Fintech HKMA aims to promote the all-round adoption of Fintech by banks in HKC. To support banks in this journey, it rolled out a Tech Baseline Assessment to take stock of banks’ current and planned adoption of Fintech in the coming years to identify Fintech business areas or specific technology types which may be underdeveloped and will benefit from HKMA’s support. (ii) Future-proofing HKC for Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) HKMA will strengthen its research work to increase HKC’s readiness in issuing CBDCs at both wholesale and retail levels. It will also explore e-HKD and the cross-boundary applications of e-CNY. (iii) Creating the next-generation data infrastructure HKMA will strive to enhance the existing data infrastructure and build new ones, including the Commercial Data Interchange, digital corporate identity and distributed ledger technology (DLT)-based credit data sharing platform. (iv) Expanding the Fintech-savvy workforce HKMA aims to groom all-round Fintech talent through various initiatives, including developing Fintech-specific training programmes and qualifications, and promoting joint projects between the industry and the academia. In this connection, HKMA has launched a new module on Fintech under the Enhanced Competency Framework (ECF) for Banking Practitioners in December 2021 to build up a Fintech talent pipeline and enhance the professional competence of Fintech practitioners in the banking industry. (v) Nurturing the ecosystem with funding and policies HKMA will enhance the existing Fintech Supervisory Sandbox and explore the possibility of providing funding support to Fintech projects.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: (i) “All banks go Fintech”

	• HKMA is currently reviewing the results of the Tech Baseline Assessment and aims to publish a report within the first half of 2022. As part of this, it will conduct benchmarking with overseas markets and consider whether there is a need for HKMA to introduce measures/policies to further promote Fintech developments. Should such measures/policies be deemed necessary, indicators (both quantitative and qualitative) for assessing their progress of implementation may be set at a later stage as appropriate. (ii) Future-proofing HKC for Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) • The conduct of various wholesale CBDC (wCBDC) and retail CBDC (rCBDC) research projects to increase HKC's readiness in issuing CBDCs, in the event that the economy decides to do so in the future. • Close communication and collaboration with the central banking community as well as international organisations in studying both wCBDC and rCBDC. • HKMA is supporting the Digital Currency Institute of the People's Bank of China (PBoC) on technical pilot testing of using e-CNY for cross-boundary payments. The testing conducted in December 2020 was smooth, covering the use of related App, system connectivity and certain use cases such as cross-boundary purchases. • As RMB is already in use in HKC and the status of e-CNY is the same as cash in circulation, it will bring even greater convenience to HKC and People's Republic of China tourists. Furthermore, it will offer an additional safe, convenient and innovative means of cross-boundary retail payments to residents in HKC and People's Republic of China. It will also enhance the efficiency and user experience of cross-boundary payments, and help promote the interconnection of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. (iii) Creating the next-generation data infrastructure • The ongoing conduct of the pilot of the Commercial Data Interchange (CDI). • The conduct of proof-of-concept (PoC) studies to explore use cases of the CDI. • The successful official launch of the CDI. • The development of a governance framework to facilitate data sharing under the CDI regime. (iv) Expanding the Fintech-savvy workforce • The ongoing implementation of the Fintech Career Accelerator Scheme (FCAS). • The ongoing implementation of the pilot of the Industry Project Masters Network (IPMN). • The establishment of partnership with Fintech/technology sector to enrich the IPMN. • The successful official launch of the IPMN. • The establishment of strategic partnership with local universities to foster collaboration. • The effectiveness of the training programmes under the ECF on Fintech in building up a Fintech talent pipeline and enhancing the professional competence of Fintech practitioners in the banking industry. (v) Nurturing the ecosystem with funding and policies • The ongoing implementation of the Fintech Supervisory Sandbox (FSS) 3.0. • The regular review of FSS 3.0 arrangements and related refinements. Quantitative: (i) All banks go Fintech • Please see Qualitative above. (ii) Future-proofing HKC for Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) • N/A (iii) Creating the next-generation data infrastructure • Number of pairs of banks and data providers participating in the pilot of the CDI. • Numbers showing participating institutions' use of the CDI platform. (iv) Expanding the Fintech-savvy workforce
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	• Number of students, banks, universities, etc. participating in the FCAS and IPMN. • Number of local universities and Fintech/technology firms that established strategic partnership with HKMA. • Number of banking practitioners who have attained the relevant ECF on Fintech certifications. (v) Nurturing the ecosystem with funding and policies • Number of enquiries received. • Number of applications received. • Number of Letters of Support issued.
APEC cross-fora alignment	This Key Initiative contributes to APEC's efforts in the implementation of the APEC Cebu Action Plan by enhancing financial inclusion.

Key Initiative: To set up a fully-fledged Trade Single Window.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative is expected to improve the efficiency of business-to-government trade document processing and cargo customs clearance, through putting in place a single information technology system for the one-stop lodging of all trade documents, as well as streamlining and rationalising relevant procedures.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The Key Initiative aims to facilitate trade declaration and customs clearance for businesses.
Activities and Timelines	HKC has been pressing ahead with the development of the Trade Single Window (TSW) in three phases to provide a one-stop electronic platform for the lodging of over 40 types of import and export trade documents with the Government for trade declaration and customs clearance purposes. The new system is designed to be accessible to the trade round the clock. In addition, existing requirements for trade declaration and cargo information will also be streamlined and rationalised. Phase 1 has been fully implemented and currently provides e-services for 14 types of trade documents. The industry's feedback has been positive, considering that it helps save time and cost. Phase 2 will extend the platform to cover 28 more types of documents and is planned for roll-out from 2023 onwards by batches. For Phase 3, HKC will further consult the industry to finalise the implementation details. In the longer run, the TSW, when fully implemented, is expected to have the technical capability to connect with the single windows of other jurisdictions should the need arise, enhancing cross-border customs cooperation between HKC and trading partners.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Implementation of the TSW comprises three phases. Phase 1 has been implemented since 2018. Actions are being taken to take forward the implementation of Phases 2 and 3, including developing the IT system of Phase 2 to extend the coverage of the TSW for roll-

	out from 2023 onwards and finalising the implementation details of Phase 3 with a view to seeking funding approval from the Legislative Council in 2022-23.
	Quantitative: N/A
APEC cross-fora alignment	By promoting the application of TSW and the interoperability between TSWs, the Key Initiative can contribute to APEC's efforts in enhancing institutional connectivity as a pillar of the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025.

Key Initiative: To continue to launch special employment programmes for enhancing the employability of various disadvantaged groups.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative aims to enhance disadvantaged groups' access to employment opportunities and participation in the economy.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Key Initiative aims to render dedicated employment support services to disadvantaged groups and to encourage employers to hire them through provision of financial incentives.
Activities and Timelines	HKC will continue to implement and timely enhance various special employment programmes to better serve the employment needs of disadvantaged groups. (i) Timely enhancements of special employment programmes HKC implements and introduces timely enhancements to different special employment programmes to raise the employability of job seekers who have special needs or difficulties in employment, and to provide incentives to encourage employers to hire them. To further encourage employers to hire the elderly and middle-aged, young people and persons with disabilities and provide them with on-the-job training (OJT), HKC raised the ceiling of OJT allowance payable to employers under various special employment programmes in September 2020. In the same month, HKC also launched a pilot programme to encourage eligible elderly persons, young people and persons with disabilities to undergo and complete OJT under these employment programmes through the provision of a retention allowance, thereby stabilising employment. HKC will continue to explore ways to promote greater participation in and enhancement of these programmes. (ii) Racial Diversity Employment Programme (RDEP) HKC has commissioned two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement the RDEP on a pilot basis in November 2020 to provide one-stop employment support services for ethnic minority (EM) job seekers in a case management approach. The NGOs are responsible for canvassing vacancies suitable for EMs, providing support in their job search and offering post-placement follow-up services for EMs and their employers.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: (i) Timely enhancements of special employment programmes

	• Middle-aged and mature persons: Surveys on the retention status of placed job seekers to evaluate the effectiveness of OJT under the Employment Programme for the Elderly and Middle-aged (EPEM). • Persons with disabilities: Annual survey to collect feedback from employers. • Young people: Annual development survey on young people who have enrolled in the special programme and completed the service period. (ii) Racial Diversity Employment Programme (RDEP) • HKC reviews the effectiveness of the RDEP on a continuous basis in tandem with its implementation. As the programme was only launched in November 2020, a final review of the programme is yet to be conducted. Quantitative: (i) Timely enhancements of special employment programmes • Middle-aged and mature persons: Number of middle-aged and mature persons placed under the EPEM. Current situation: 2,260 in 2020. • Persons with disabilities: Number of placements secured under the programme. Current situation: 809 in 2020. • Young people: Number of young people enrolled under the programme for pre-employment and on-the-job training services. Current situation: 3,418 from September 2019 to August 2020. (ii) Racial Diversity Employment Programme (RDEP) • Number of EM job seekers participated in the RDEP. Current situation: 525 from November 2020 to November 2021. • Number of EM job seekers placed under the RDEP. Current situation: 256 from November 2020 to November 2021, of which 55 were placed via referrals of the NGOs concerned.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The Key Initiative is part of our endeavour to implement the APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region.

Key Initiative: To promote the smart use of energy in different sectors.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative aims to drive a more sustainable and resilient recovery through the smart use of energy.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Key Initiative aims to decarbonise the economy, such as by phasing out the use of conventional fossil fuels, promoting new energy and reducing energy demand, to foster green economic development.
Activities and Timelines	HKC has launched the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 in October 2021 with an array of proactive measures to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050, including the smart use of energy in the following areas:

	(i) Net-zero electricity generation HKC will strive to achieve the target of net-zero electricity generation before 2050 by phasing out coal for daily electricity generation by 2035 and increasing zero-carbon electricity supply through developing renewable energy, exploring new energy sources and enhancing regional cooperation. (ii) Green buildings and energy saving HKC will promote green buildings, improve building energy efficiency and promote a low-carbon lifestyle to reduce the overall electricity consumption of commercial and residential buildings. (iii) Green transport HKC will decarbonise the transport system through the electrification of vehicles and ferries, development of new-energy transport and measures to improve traffic management. In particular, HKC will cease the new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars by 2035, promote electric buses and commercial vehicles, and test out hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and heavy vehicles in the next three years. (iv) Waste-to-energy HKC will strive to develop adequate and more advanced waste-to-energy facilities by 2035.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: (i) The Government has implemented the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610) since 2012 which regulates the energy efficiency standards of four key types of central building services installations (i.e. air-conditioning, lighting, electrical installations, lifts and escalators, etc.) in various types of buildings. The Government has reviewed and upgraded the standards once every three years. (ii) The Government has implemented the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) since 2009, which currently covers eight types of electrical products including room air conditioners and televisions. The Government has extended the coverage of MEELS by phases and tightened the grading standards from time to time. (iii) The design and construction of HKC's first waste-to-energy facility turning municipal solid waste into electricity was kick-started at the end of 2017. Its operation will commence in 2025. More waste-to-energy facilities in HKC are being explored. (iv) The Government has launched a HKD2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) in 2020 to subsidise installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings. (v) The Government has injected additional HKD800 million to the New Energy Transport Fund in 2020 to help the transport sector reduce carbon emission. (vi) The Government has allocated a budget of HKD350 million to subsidise four local ferry operators to construct and operate four electric ferries. Quantitative: (i) Under the Energy Saving Plan 2015~2025+, HKC sets the energy intensity reduction target of 40 percent by 2025 using 2005 as the base. (ii) Under the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+, HKC sets the target of reducing carbon emissions by 26 percent to 36 percent before 2030 as compared to the 2005 level. (iii) Under the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, HKC sets the target of reducing carbon emissions by 50 percent before 2035 as compared to the 2005 level and achieving carbon neutrality before 2050. (iv) To expedite the transformation to low-carbon energy, HKC is committed to increasing the share of renewable energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation from less than 1 percent at present to 7.5 percent to 10 percent by 2035. (v) As of end December 2021, more than 540 applications have been received under the EHSS which cover more than 113,000 parking spaces. This is 88 percent higher than the original target of 60,000 parking spaces. (vi) Under the New Energy Transport Fund, eligible transport trades are subsidised the cost difference between the conventional counterparts or 50 percent for trying out

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	different green innovative transport technologies that can help reduce carbon emission. The Government has approved about 230 trials since 2011 covering different types of electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles and ferries. (vii) As of end December 2021, three of the local ferry operators have signed a subsidy agreement with the Government, and will invite tenders for the construction of electric ferries accordingly. The trial of electric ferries is tentatively scheduled for commencement in 2023.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The Key Initiative aligns with APEC's energy goals to reduce energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035 with 2005 as the baseline year, and to double the share of renewables in the energy mix by 2030 from 2010 levels.

INDONESIA

1. Introduction

Indonesia's economic growth in 2020 and 2021 faced a tremendous challenge of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy is contracting while unemployment and poverty are also increasing. Moreover, the COVID-19 new variants may create long-term pandemic conditions and unprecedented challenges.

The Indonesian government had been implementing several measures to mitigate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government issued regulatory and monetary policies, budgetary and fiscal policies, legal policies, strengthening the testing-tracing-treatment system, and vaccination programs in the economic sector. The focus on flattening the epidemic curve has had negative consequences for Indonesian jobs and livelihoods, putting a particularly severe load on the most vulnerable members of society, such as women, and increasing poverty. To control the pandemic and assist recovery efforts, a coordinated government policy framework combining key public health measures with innovative economic strategies is essential, while structural reforms will be required in the post-COVID-19 era.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic is also a catalyst to transform Indonesia into a robust, green and sustainable economy. Increasing productivity and competitiveness will be critical to improve the medium-term economic outlook, including opportunities for investment and decent jobs. Regulatory bottlenecks, lengthy licensing and permitting processes, and overlapping regulations would be addressed to create a more enabling business climate. Improving access to credit, particularly for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), would be crucial for equitable growth. Deeper structural reforms to reinvigorate a stagnant manufacturing sector and produce a more varied range of productive industries would promote quality and equitable job creation while also allowing for greater value-added products and services production. Recognizing the need of increasing Indonesia's competitiveness and attractiveness as an investment destination, as part of its COVID-19 economic recovery initiative, the government has begun major reforms of the enabling business climate and structural transformation of the economy.

Indonesia also utilizes the COVID-19 recovery to reposition its economy toward a more strategic low-carbon path, while also addressing underlying vulnerabilities and increasing community and climate and disaster resilience. As an archipelagic economy and home to large coastal cities in active seismic region, Indonesia's food security and infrastructure are vulnerable to drastic climate anomalies such as changing rainfall and temperature patterns. As such, the nature and type of future growth that Indonesia pursues will be critical in determining its long-term sustainable economic goals. To that end, Indonesia Mid-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020-2024 has put Green Economy as part of the onset of Indonesia's future development, providing economic benefits with better social outcomes and less stress on Indonesia's environment and natural capital.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Creative Economy and Digital Economy Improvement <i>President instruction regarding digital transformation in the pandemic (details in activities)</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Facilitating economic recovery (and other measures) addresses the most common issue: recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The creative economy and digital economy sectors provide job opportunities amidst the pandemic. This key initiative is in line with pillar 1 in strengthening economic competitiveness. It is also in line with pillar 2 by promoting recovery for MSMEs and transforming them into sustainable business entities. It is in line with pillars 3 and 4 to promote inclusive growth, including economic empowerment for women and vulnerable groups by utilizing digital technology.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The program ensures all citizens and business entities—including women, vulnerable and marginalized groups, and people in remote areas—have equal opportunities to participate in the economy through creativity and innovation.
Activities and Timelines	1. To accelerate the internet coverage, development of digital infrastructure, and provision of internet services 2. To develop a Roadmap of Digital Transformation 3. To accelerate the integration of the National Data Center 4. To prepare digital talent: improving digital literacy and digital skills 5. To develop regulations and access to finance for digital transformation
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • The Development of National Data Centers in the Greater Jakarta area and Batam. The program is in the initial stage (funding stage). • The Development of National Strategy for Digital Economy. The program is in the initial stage (setting up the Project Management Office).
	Quantitative: • Logistic Performance Index Score (3.2 – 2020) • Foreign Direct Investment (Digital Sector⁴) – USD 2,26 B (Q3 2021) • Internet Economy Value Projections (Google Temasek) – USD 70 B (2021) • Number of MSMEs that utilize digital technology – 15.3 million MSMEs / 24 percent (2021) • Pre-employment card (kartu prakerja) participant – 5.93 million (2021)
APEC cross-fora alignment	These key initiatives are in line with AIDER, concerning cooperation to improve digital infrastructure, improve the inclusiveness of the Internet and the Digital Economy, and support the transformation of traditional businesses to take advantage of digital platforms. It is also in line with the Putrajaya Vision Economic Driver 2, Innovation and Digitalisation. This initiative is also relevant to PPWE work that focuses on enhancing

⁴ Digital sector: telecommunications, information services activities, programming activities, computer consulting, broadcasting and programming activities, computer, electronic goods and optical industries.

	women's economic empowerment and access to markets and SMEWG Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 that focuses on encouraging the growth of entrepreneurship, innovation, and start-ups.
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Key Initiative: MSMEs development and financial inclusion	
<i>National strategy for financial inclusion</i> <i>In 2020, The Government had approved The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion, which aims to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and shape prosperity through an inclusive financial system.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven the urgent need for economic and financial inclusion of all segments of society. This initiative aligns with all pillars of EAASR especially pillars 3 and 4. It aligns with pillar 3, which focuses on enabling all segments of society to have equal access needed to participate equally in economic activity. Moreover, this initiative is also relevant with pillar 4, which promotes innovation to achieve the goals.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative aligns with the work of Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure, Regulatory Reform, and Corporate Law and Governance Friends of the Chair (FoTC) groups which focuses on improvements to institutional frameworks, regulations, and government policies so that the efficient functioning of markets is supported. Financial inclusion will support the development of MSMEs and eliminate the barriers to entry for any business entity.
Activities and Timelines	Several of the key initiatives are as follows: 1. To improve access to formal financial services 2. To improve consumer literacy and consumer protection 3. To expand the coverage of the financial services 4. To strengthen the access to capital and to business development to support MSMEs 5. To improve digital financial products and services 6. To strengthen the integration of economic activities and inclusive finance
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Mentoring program to increase SME export financing in priority sectors (food, fisheries, livestock and creative economy) • To improve coordination among stakeholders in implementing the program related to MSMEs' development and financial inclusion. • To improve financial products and services. Quantitative: • To increase the utilization of formal financial institutions (i.e., Bank) products and services (81.4 percent - 2021) • To increase the number of people applying and opening a financial account (i.e., Bank) (61.7 percent - 2021) • To increase access to finance for MSMEs (24.40 percent - 2020)

	• To increase Micro Credit disbursement (KUR) for MSMEs – IDR 271.28 T (2021) • To increase entrepreneurial growth (-7.7 percent - 2020)
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative aligns with Putrajaya Vision Economic Driver 2, Innovation and Digitalisation and Economic Driver 3, Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. Improving financial inclusion is similar to empowering people to participate in the global economy and build a resilient and sustainable economy as a whole. This initiative is also relevant to the DESG focus area to enhance the inclusiveness of the internet and digital economy and PPWE key pillar to improve women's economic empowerment and SMEWG priority to support the growth of access to finance and alternative financial solutions.

Key Initiative: Bureaucratic and regulatory reform	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. As a core sector in structural reform, regulatory reform strongly aligns with all EAASR pillars. Improving regulatory reform will enable open, transparent, and competitive markets (Pillar 1). It will also boost productivity (pillar 3) and foster a more friendly, sustainable and resilient business climate (pillar 2).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies As regulatory reform applies to any sector, this initiative is cross-cutting all core structural reform sectors. It aligns with the work of Regulatory Reform FotC, which focuses on promoting the Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Framework in APEC's economies, which will contribute to structural reform. The initiative also aligns with the Ease of Doing Business FotC work, which focuses on improving the effectiveness of the business process.
Activities and Timelines	1. To further implement Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) 2. To further implement Cost and Benefit Analysis (CBA) 3. To reduce overlapping regulations 4. To develop objective-oriented and quality-oriented regulations 5. To simplify licensing procedures 6. To increase and improve e-government services and 7. Public service reform to support export, import, and customs
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • To implement risk-based approach licensing and Omnibus Law (evaluation stage - 2021)
	Quantitative: • To simplify procedures to start a business (World Bank Doing Business indicator – 12.6 days (2019)) • World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index – rank 57 in 2019 • To Improve E-Government Development Index (88th – 2020)

	- To improve Electronic Based Government System Maturity Index (1.98 – 2018) - To reduce dwelling time (3.8 days – 2018)
APEC cross-fora alignment	This initiative aligns with Putrajaya Vision Economic Driver 2, Innovation and Digitalisation, with the objective: “We will pursue structural reforms and sound economic policies to promote innovation as well as improve productivity and dynamism.” It also aligns with Aotearoa Action Plan on Economic Driver 2 with collective action to promote good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation. This initiative also aligns with Market Access Group that focuses on eliminating trade barriers in order to meet APEC's Bogor Goals for free and open trade and investment in Asia-Pacific and the SMEWG priority on SME access to international markets and global value chains (GVCs).

Green Growth and Green Economy	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The green economy is one of Indonesia's economic transformation strategies that puts forward a development model that synergizes economic growth and improving environmental quality with the benefits of creating new job opportunities (green jobs) and new investments (green investments), encouraging low-carbon economic growth, and increasing the capacity of natural resources and the environment.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	- Developing web-application for reporting, monitoring and evaluation low carbon activities that are transparent, accurate, complete, consistent and integrated. - Accelerate value-added enhancement on agriculture and fisheries, maritime, energy, and the tourism industry.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Implementation of Green Industry Standard/SNI/ISO 14001 for industry and the tourism sector to support sustainability programs
	Quantitative: - Numbers of business Certified Green Industry Standard (28 – 2019) - Percentage of renewable energy power plants (11.2 percent - 2020) - To reduce economic cost caused by the impact of climate change by 1.15 percent to GDP in 2024
APEC cross-fora alignment	The green economy and green growth are cross-fora issues. It is closely aligned with Putrajaya Vision Third Economic Driver, Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and the Aotearoa Action Plan, with the objective “We will promote economic policies, cooperation and growth, which will support global efforts to comprehensively address all environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters, for a sustainable planet”.

JAPAN

1. Introduction

The Government of Japan is doing its utmost to rebuild the economy damaged by COVID-19 and realize a new form of capitalism based on the concept of a "virtuous cycle of growth and distribution" and the "development of a new society after COVID-19" thereby achieving autonomous economic growth. Through using the fruits of such growth as a source of funds for distribution, the government will raise the income of the people and realize further growth.

To achieve this goal, the government will promote a growth strategy for a post COVID-19 society. Specifically, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 46 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the government will review various restrictions to maximize the introduction of renewable energy while pushing forward with bold investments in the field of clean energy. Furthermore, in order to create an economic and social structure suitable for the digital age, the government will promote concentrated investment in and implementation of digitalization. The government will create an environment necessary for such digitalization including the development of a common infrastructure for the digital society, strengthening of digital human resource development, and revisiting regulations, systems and administrative procedures. In addition, in order to promote innovation, the government will work to boost firm growth and create an environment conducive to this including support for start-ups.

At the same time, as a distribution strategy, the government will strengthen its investment in people, the driving force that brings economic affluence, by investing in human capital, reforming working styles, and promoting support for child rearing.

Also, based on the idea that strengthening the free and open international economic system is the cornerstone of Japan's prosperity, the government will promote a rules-based multilateral trading system and take the lead in new rule-making.

The government will achieve economic growth through bold investment in such growth areas as green and digital technologies, promotion of innovation by boosting firm growth, strengthening investment in people, and strengthening and expanding the economic partnerships.

Such efforts are consistent with the four pillars listed in EAASR, and the Japanese government will continue to implement structural reforms in line with the EAASR plan.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Concentrated Investment and Implementation of Digitalization and Creating its Environment	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Promoting digitization, developing rules for digital marketing, revisiting regulations in light of digital technology, and using new digital technologies will especially contribute to the first, the second, and the forth pillars.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Japanese government aims to achieve digitization through policy instruments related to the above.
Activities and Timelines	• Promotion of digitization with a focus on the Digital Agency, established in Y2021 (Promotion of a digital government from the people's perspective, development of a common infrastructure for a digital society and digital human resources, etc.) • Early economy-wide deployment of 5G, promotion of post-5G • Lowering of mobile phone rates • Development of rules for the digital platforms and digital advertising markets • Revisiting regulations in light of digital technology • Use of new digital technologies such as blockchain • Promotion of smart agriculture, forestry and fisheries
Measures of progress	Together with the drafting of implementation schedule, set up KPIs for three years from FY2021 and for the period after FY2024. Continuously follow up the implementation status of the strategy and review contents and fields.
	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: • By FY2025: Reduce system upgrade expenses under the operation and maintenance expenses of the government information system by 30 per cent compared to FY2020 • By Y2030: Aim to become the No.1 among the G20 economies in Doing Business ranking by the World Bank • By FY2030: Exceed 20 trillion yen in sales by Japanese companies in the area of DX market • By FY2025: Create 50 unlisted and venture companies(unicorn) or listed venture companies with more than \$1 billion in corporate value or market capitalization • Increase labor productivity by over 2 percent per year in the manufacturing industry • By FY2023: Deploy 5G platform in almost all areas • By FY2025: Almost all people involved in agriculture will engage in data-driven farming
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Growth of the Green Sector and Creating its Environment	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Realizing net-zero GHG emissions by FY2050, through promoting R&D and investment in green sectors, making renewable energy a primary power source, using carbon pricing to contribute to growth and transition to a circular economy, will especially contribute to the third and the fourth pillars.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Japanese government aims to realize growth of the green sector through policy instruments related to the above.
Activities and Timelines	• Stimulating private investment and innovation through Green Growth Strategy • Making renewable energy a primary power source • Use of carbon pricing to contribute to economic growth • Transition to a circular economy, and its international expansion and cooperation led by private business
Measures of progress	Together with the drafting of implementation schedule, set up KPIs for three years from FY2021 and for the period after FY2024. Continuously follow up the implementation status of the strategy and review contents and fields. Qualitative: Quantitative: • By Y2050: Realize carbon neutrality • In FY2030: Reduce GHG emissions by 46 percent compared to FY2013 and continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50 percent • Set up KPIs in 14 priority fields (offshore wind, hydrogen, storage battery, etc.) - By FY2030: Increase offshore wind power generation projects in the general sea area to five zones or more - By Y2030: Expand the market size of stationary storage batteries to over 80 billion yen - By Y2025: Prepare about 320 commercial hydrogen stations • By FY2030: Double the ratio of renewable energy in the entire general power generation from about 18 percent in 2019 • By Y2030: Realize decarbonization in at least over 100 pilot areas • By Y2030: Expand the market size of circular economy businesses to over 80 trillion yen • By FY2025: Increase the export of recycling facilities, etc. by 30 percent compared to FY2020
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Strengthening Investment in People	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Realizing various and new ways of working, promoting diversity in employment such as female or foreign workers and developing digital human resources will especially contribute to the first, the third, and the forth pillars.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Japanese government aims to strengthen investment in people through policy instruments related to the above.
Activities and Timelines	• Improving the environment for the freelance and establishing telework • Realizing various and new ways of working (lifting the ban on second and side jobs, promoting the introduction of short-time working regular employees and securing employment opportunities until the age of 70) • Promoting diversity, including the appointment of women, non-Japanese, and mid-career hires • Facilitating labor mobility (the promotion of recurrent education, etc.) • Developing human resources required in the digital age
Measures of progress	Together with the drafting of implementation schedule, set up KPIs for three years from FY2021 and for the period after FY2024. Continuously follow up the implementation status of the strategy and review contents and fields.
	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: • In Y2025: Achieve employment rate at 51.6 percent for people aged 65 to 69 • In Y2025: Achieve employment rate at 82 percent for women aged 25 to 44 • In Y2025: Achieve female share at 18 percent in the entire managerial position in private companies • From FY2021 to FY2024: Prepare vacancies in nursery schools for about 140,000 infants • In Y2025: Achieve 30 percent of male workers taking paternity leave • By FY2025: Achieve 50 percent of international students (except for those who domestically advanced to higher education) graduating higher education institutions in Japan to find jobs in Japan
APEC cross-fora alignment	This key Initiative contributes to improve women's labor force participation and increase their income, which aligns with and supports La Serena Roadmap.

Strengthening Firm Growth and Creating its Environment	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Strengthening the growth of firms including start-ups and creating its environment, implementing corporate governance reform and promoting investment in innovation will especially contribute to the first, the second, and the fourth pillars.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Japanese government aims to strengthen firm growth and create its environment through policy instruments related to the above.
Activities and Timelines	• Creating an environment that creates and scales up start-ups. • Creating an environment for business restructuring and revitalization • Increasing labor productivity through the growth of SMEs (their global expansion, the expansion of scales and digitalization, etc.) • Appropriating transactions between large companies and SMEs (appropriating subcontracting transactions, etc.) • Implementing corporate governance reform • Strengthening investment in innovation (accelerating R&D of cutting-edge technologies, university reform through the creation of university endowment fund and promoting intellectual property strategy etc.)
Measures of progress	Together with the drafting of implementation schedule, set up KPIs for three years from FY2021 and for the period after FY2024. Continuously follow up the implementation status of the strategy and review contents and fields.
	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: • By FY2025: Create 50 unlisted private companies (unicorns) with a corporate value or market capitalization at over \$1 billion or listed ventures • Increase SMEs' total factor productivity by 5 percent within five years (until 2025) • Achieve the entry rate at 10 percent • By Y2025: Raise ROA of TOPIX500 companies to a standard equivalent to Western companies • Invest 120 trillion yen in total in R&D from FY 2021 to 2025 in public and private sectors
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Strengthening and expanding the economic Partnerships, and taking in overseas markets through them	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Deeper trade relationships with other economies will contribute to the development of other economies. It especially relates to the first, the second and the third pillars.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Japanese government aims to take in overseas markets through policy instruments related to the above.
Activities and Timelines	• Maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system • Promoting economic partnership negotiations, and conclusion of investment-related agreements and tax agreements • Promoting infrastructure system overseas • Promoting direct investment in Japan • Promoting the SDGs • Promoting Cool Japan
Measures of progress	Together with the drafting of implementation schedule, set up KPIs for three years from FY2021 and for the period after FY2024. Continuously follow up the implementation status of the strategy and review contents and fields. Qualitative: • Leading discussions on maintaining the high standard and on the steady implementation of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement) • Ensuring the full implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement Quantitative: • In Y2025: Realize infrastructural system orders from overseas reaching about 34 trillion yen • In Y2030: Achieve the outstanding balance of foreign direct investment at 80 trillion yen, or 12 percent of GDP • By FY2025: Increase broadcasting contents sold outside Japan to five thousand items
APEC cross-fora alignment	

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Introduction

In the first half of 2020, the Korean economy shrank considerably due to the unprecedented shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, Korea's real GDP decreased by 0.9 percent in 2020. However, as goods exports and investment picked up, the Korean economy has recovered rapidly. According to the OECD, Korea's real GDP is expected to grow by 4.0 percent in 2021, exceeding its pre-pandemic level. This quick recovery of the Korean economy can be attributed to the rapid return of global trade and Korea's efforts to foster an open economic environment including through the implementation of the Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (RAASR) during the past five years.

In spite of this rapid recovery, the pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities of a weak social safety net. A structural reform needs to be pursued concurrently with policies aimed at increasing employment and job quality, especially for women and vulnerable groups who are the most affected by the crisis. The response to the COVID-19 crisis has added momentum for the strengthening of the social safety net.

In order for Korea to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, it is necessary to resolve these structural vulnerabilities and enhance economic resilience so as to address future shocks. In this context, the Korean government has introduced the Korean New Deal, an economy-wide development strategy for 2020-2025 aimed at supporting the economy's recovery from the pandemic and transforming Korea into a smart, green, and safe economy. The Korean New Deal has 2 main policies — the Digital New Deal and the Green New Deal — and an overarching policy to the social safety net. The Digital New Deal aims to further strengthen Korea's digital capacity. At the same time, the Green New Deal aims to achieve net-zero emissions and accelerate the transition towards a green economy.

Because the goals of the EAASR correspond to those of the Korea New Deal, Korea's implementation of the EAASR will be greatly helpful in achieving the objectives of the Korean New Deal. As for the EAASR implementation, Korea has developed 6 Key Initiatives, which succeed those under the RAASR, encompassing the pillars of the EAASR: (1) Promoting proactive response to the changing trade environment, (2) Boosting competitiveness of service industries, (3) Encouraging skills development and employment opportunities for women, (4) Supporting the work-life balance of working women, (5) Narrowing the gap between regular workers and non-regular workers, and (6) Strengthening the social safety net through outreach programs for health and welfare.

These Key Initiatives are designed to facilitate trade, promote competitiveness of the Korean economy, and strengthen economic and financial inclusion of all groups in society. In order to promote a more open environment and boost competitiveness, Korea will proactively respond to newly-emerging trade issues and foster key emerging service industries, such as health-care, content, and logistics, etc. In addition, Korea will improve employment and job quality of women and vulnerable groups and implement outreach social safety net programs to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

In this way, Korea's Key Initiatives are expected to contribute not only to the structural reform of the Korean economy, but also to a more open and integrated APEC region. Korea will work

hard to implement these Key Initiatives for a successful structural reform and monitor the progress in 2025.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Promoting proactive response to the changing trade environment	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Please briefly describe how the Key Initiative relates to your selection: This Key Initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 1: Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. This Key Initiative has been designed to facilitate trade liberalization looking ahead to and beyond 2025. Also, it aims at contributing to global discussions that deal with newly-emerging trade issues, such as the environment, labour, the digital economy and health.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Increasing openness and responsiveness to the changing trade environment will serve as a groundwork for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and sustainable, inclusive development. This will eventually lead to a stronger, more open, and integrated economic infrastructure, not only for Korea but also for the APEC region as a whole.
Activities and Timelines	Activities in multilateral or plurilateral settings related to the Key Initiative
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Korea's participation in multilateral/regional/bilateral initiatives aimed at promoting trade liberalization and tackling new trade issues Quantitative: - The number of free trade agreements in effect: (as of <u>2021</u>) 17 agreements, with 57 economies
APEC cross-fora alignment	This Key Initiative is aligned with APEC initiatives in the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) to liberalize trade and facilitate a more open environment for investment, including the work on the FTAAP agenda.

Key Initiative: Boosting competitiveness of service industries	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 1: Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets, and Pillar 4: Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative has been basically designed to seek a fundamental growth opportunity ahead to and beyond 2025. Actions following this initiative will contribute not only to Korea's own economic growth and increased competitiveness but also to a more open and integrated APEC region.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	- Investment in service industry infrastructure such as R&D, standardization, and human capital - Promotion of key emerging service industries as a new growth engine; health-care, content, logistics, etc. - Enactment of the Framework Act on Service Sector Development
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Structural reforms of the service industry by supporting digital transformation of service providers - More innovative environment that promotes industry convergence – within service industries or with different sectors (i.e. manufacturing and service) - Improvements in laws and regulations (* the Framework Act on Service Sector Development) to foster service sectors in a more comprehensive and systemic manner Quantitative: - Services, Value added (% of GDP): (2020) 62.4 percent → (2025) 65 percent - Creation of 300,000 new decent jobs in key service industries - Government expenditure on service R&D: (2016-2020) 4 trillion won → (2021-2025) 7 trillion won
APEC cross-fora alignment	-

Key Initiative: Encouraging skills development and employment opportunities for women	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Key Initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 3: Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth and greater well-being. Encouraging skills development and employment opportunities for women will help increase women's economic participation and narrow the gender gap in the labour market.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	• Disclosing the survey findings of the gender pay gap in listed firms and public organizations (September) • Providing comprehensive support, such as career counselling, vocational training, internships, job-matching, and follow-up services, to women experiencing career interruption through the Women's Reemployment Centers.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Quantitative: • Satisfaction with the Centers - Center users: (2020) 84.1 points - Employers: (2020) 93.6 points • Gender pay gap: (2020) 35.9 percent • The number of the Center users who found a job: (as of Nov. 2021) 171,000
APEC cross-fora alignment	The Key Initiative will contribute to the implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth for greater participation of women in the labour market by conducting a fact-finding survey aimed at closing the gender pay gap and supporting women's skills development.

Key Initiative: Supporting the work-life balance of working women	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This key initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 3: Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. The right to rest will be guaranteed by institutionally supporting the work-life balance of working women, and the equal access to employment opportunities for them will be provided with policy support. Eventually, ensuring equal employment opportunities and supporting the work-life balance of working women will contribute to increasing the employment rate and creating a family-friendly environment at work.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	• Establishing the 7th work-life balance action plan (between 2023 and 2027) • Helping women with career breaks and others to smoothly re-enter the labour market and supporting their work-life balance to maintain their employment
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Establishment of the 7th work-life balance action plan Quantitative: • The number of participants in the Saeil Center (Career Development Center for Women)'s group counselling program: (2021) 25,529 • The number of participants in the Women's Career Gap Training of KOREA POLYTECHNICS: (2021) 1,200 → (2022) 1,700 • The reduction of working hours scheme is extended to all workplaces, going beyond those with more than 30 employees. • The number of those eligible for incentives for the work-life balance: (2021) 10,000 → (2022) 13,000
APEC cross-fora alignment	-

Key Initiative: Narrowing the gap between regular workers and non-regular workers	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This Key Initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 1: Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets, and Pillar 3: Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. As we bridge the gaps in working conditions with policy support, such as the enactment or amendment of laws and the improvement of institutions, all groups in society including non-regular workers will be guaranteed equal access to opportunities, and eventually a competitive market will be created.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	• Working on the transition to regular employment and improvement of labour conditions in line with the guideline on turning all temporary workers in the public sector into permanent positions to create a fair and non-discriminatory workplaces • Improving unfair and discriminatory labour conditions depending on the types of employment
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • The degree of compliance with a guidance on public personnel administration • Establishment of the standard for reasonable wages and benefits as a ground for the actual condition survey and analysis, such as wages • The quality of the workplace instruction • Inspection of unreasonable discrimination according to the types of employment • The quality of consulting services for the improvement in the employment structure in the workplace
	Quantitative: -
APEC cross-fora alignment	-

Key Initiative: Strengthening the social safety net through outreach programs for health and welfare	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This Key Initiative will contribute to the implementation of Pillar 3: Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. The government directly reaches out and provides consultations to the unreached that are unable to receive social security benefits, and supports them to get the service they need, shielding the rights of the unreached to live a decent life, while realizing an integrated social security system.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	- Identifying unreached places and people and continue to expand the workforce for the provision of welfare to provide adequate support - Implementing outreach programs for health and welfare by seeking the unreached through local community service centres, providing consultations and referring them to the necessary services
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Quantitative: The number of cases where the unreached was referred to a service scheme through the outreach programs for health and welfare: (<u>2020</u>) 4.8 million cases
APEC cross-fora alignment	-

MALAYSIA

1. Introduction

In achieving prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Malaysia, various reforms will be undertaken through the implementation of current development plans such as the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021–2025) (Twelfth Plan), Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and National 4IR Policy.

Twelfth Malaysia Plan

The next five years presents both challenges and opportunities for the Malaysian economy. The pace of economic recovery is contingent on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) as well as the effectiveness of measures under the stimulus packages. The increase in the debt and fiscal deficit to finance the stimulus packages will affect fiscal sustainability unless accompanied by medium-term fiscal consolidation efforts. Sustaining growth in the medium term will also hinge on the ability to increase the pace of structural transformation and transition into the production of higher value-added products and services in all economic sectors. This will require effective policies and strategies to address skill and talent gaps, accelerating R&D&C&I and increasing preparedness to embrace new technologies arising from the 4IR.

The Twelfth Plan is critical given the current global and domestic challenges. The Twelfth Plan is expected to rejuvenate and reposition Malaysia in the global economy. It will catalyse growth, ensure economic recovery and rebuild the economy to achieve prosperity, inclusivity and sustainability. Economic growth will be accompanied by more equitable wealth distribution to narrow disparities across income groups, ethnicities and geographic regions while ensuring environmental sustainability. The Twelfth Plan will also focus on upholding Malaysia's security and sovereignty as well as solidifying unity.

Whilst it builds on the previous plans, the Twelfth Plan injects fundamental reforms in realising the spirit of Malaysian Family that will truly transform the development trajectory to achieve a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Malaysia. Various game-changing and radical initiatives will be implemented. These include programmes to alleviate poverty and uplift the standard of living of Malaysians. Specific focus will be given to the hardcore poor and poor in the bottom 10 percent household income decile group (B1). The Twelfth Plan will address the plight of all Malaysians, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and location. Malaysia's development path over the next 10 years will be guided by the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV2030), which aims to transform Malaysia into a united, prosperous and dignified economy. The Malaysian economy registered a high growth rate at 6.2 percent per annum between 1971 and 2015. Although the growth rate moderated to 2.7 percent per annum between 2016 and 2020, Malaysia still fared better than most emerging markets and developing economies. The relatively high economic growth resulted in the improved wellbeing of the Malaysians and narrowed income inequality.

The Twelfth Plan is anchored on three key themes, namely resetting the economy, strengthening security, wellbeing and inclusivity as well as advancing sustainability. Four catalytic policy enablers, namely developing future talent, accelerating technology adoption and innovation, enhancing connectivity and transport infrastructure as well as strengthening

the public service will support the achievement of these themes. These policy enablers will form the foundation and building blocks of Malaysia's development over the next five years and beyond. The successful implementation of the Twelfth Plan will result in shared prosperity, enhance inclusivity and pave the way for a more sustainable Malaysia for future generations. This will restore the wellbeing of the Malaysian Family in the long-term.

MyDIGITAL

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic that commenced in 2020 significantly altered business operations and social interaction. The COVID-19 pandemic amplifies importance of the digital economy to ensure continuity in economic activities. In 2021, Malaysia introduced MyDIGITAL; an economy-wide initiative that symbolises the government's aspiration to transform Malaysia into a digitally-enabled and technology-driven high-income economy, and a regional lead in digital economy. To realise the aspirations of MyDIGITAL, the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and National 4IR Policy were formulated to set the direction, outline the strategies, initiatives and targets in building the foundation to drive the growth of the digital economy and advanced technology including narrowing the digital divide.

Gig Economy

New forms of employment have been emerging in various occupations and sectors, such as the gig economy. Emir Research pointed out, about 26 percent of the Malaysian labour force, equivalent to four million people, had already been full-time gig workers as of 2020, which is consistent with the estimate of the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, workers in the gig economy have come under the spotlight due to concerns about their welfare. These workers face high risk of accidents and even losing their job. Nonetheless, compared to traditional employment, social protection for gig workers is limited and has certain criteria in legislation in order to be eligible for the coverage.

Based on the decent work agenda by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), work is considered decent when it pays a fair income, guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions. Since gig economy has been part of the sources of economic growth in Malaysia that also contributes to post-COVID-19 recovery, the social security scheme for the gig workers needs to be enhanced, to be in accordance with the pillars of decent work agenda.

In addition, the gig economy is able to provide employment and income generation opportunities with a high degree of flexibility. A lack of skills training can be detrimental to gig workers' prospects. Due to the emergence of new technologies that require new skills and knowledge, skills training programs should be established to support gig workers in diversifying their skills.

In this regard, to achieve greater economic growth post-COVID-19 and promote well-being among workers including gig workers, Malaysia undertakes robust and ambitious structural reforms in developing an enhanced legislation for gig workers, including preparing future talent in the gig economy.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative 1: Strengthening Service Delivery Mechanism	
<i>The service delivery mechanism will be strengthened by enhancing the delivery system, improving poverty measurement and policy implementation as well as exploring new funding mechanisms. Service delivery will be strengthened through a comprehensive action plan and clear exit policy to improve efficiency and optimise resources. Policies and initiatives will be streamlined, while an integrated approach will be adopted in providing assistance to various target groups.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This key initiative emphasises strengthening the service delivery mechanism to address poverty and inclusivity consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind, achieving a decent standard of living and ensuring social justice. The efforts in nation-building and creating a more conducive environment for economic activities as well as a safe and harmonious living for Malaysians will be emphasised under this key initiative.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies • Transformational leadership involving all levels of government. • Monitoring of progress at the economy-wide level and problem-solving intervention. • Citizen-first policy embedded into socioeconomic planning. • Whole-of-economy mobilisation in pursuing goals. • Strengthening the governance ecosystem. • Political buy-in to ensure successful fundamental change. • Enhancing collaboration among government agencies, private sector, academia, CSOs and Malaysians.
Activities and Timelines	Between 2021 – 2025, the following activities will be undertaken: • Transforming the approach in eradicating hardcore poverty. • Establishing dedicated poverty units at Federal and district levels. • Formulating poverty policies based on a data-driven approach. • Integrating and centralising the database on poverty. • Enhancing bottom-up approach programmes. • Localising poverty solution at the grassroots level. • Exploring the possibility of introducing dedicated tax as a financing source for poverty alleviation programmes. Zakat and waqf as well as contributions from GLC, private entities and individuals will be considered.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Decent standard of living for all Malaysians irrespective of gender, ethnicity and location, and reduced inequality among Malaysians. Quantitative:

	Zero hardcore poverty by 2025, Multidimensional Poverty Index, re-categorise income group.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) and the Finance Ministers' Process (FMP).

Key Initiative 2: Narrowing Household Income Inequality

Narrowing household income inequality is pertinent in achieving equitable distribution. Initiatives to reduce inequality include addressing the rising cost of living and increasing purchasing power. In this regard, enforcement of price control on goods and services will be enhanced to address price manipulation. The Food Bank initiative and corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes will help reduce the financial burden of poor households.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This key initiative emphasises narrowing household income inequality to address poverty and inclusivity consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind, achieving a decent standard of living and ensuring social justice. The efforts in creating a more conducive environment for economic activities as well as a safe and harmonious living for Malaysians will be emphasised under this key initiative.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies • Transformational leadership involving all levels of government. • Monitoring of progress at the economy-wide level and problem-solving intervention. • Citizen-first policy embedded into socioeconomic planning. • Whole-of-economy mobilisation in pursuing goals. • Strengthening governance ecosystem. • Political buy-in to ensure successful fundamental change. • Enhancing collaboration among government agencies, private sector, academia, CSOs and Malaysians.
Activities and Timelines	• Addressing the rising cost of living and increasing purchasing power. • Strengthening social protection for all. • Empowering specific target groups. • Boosting income of the M40. • Providing early childhood care and education assistance. • Promoting health and employment insurance. • Facilitating the ownership of affordable homes.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Decent standard of living for all Malaysians irrespective of gender, ethnicity and location, reduced inequality among Malaysians. Quantitative:

	Reduced Gini coefficient, Low absolute and relative poverty incidence, increase of the share of income of B40 from overall household income.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), Finance Ministers' Process (FMP) and the Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG).

Key Initiative 3: Ensuring Equitable Access to Internet

Malaysia has gazetted telecommunication services as a public utility on 3rd June 2021 in the effort to ensure access to telecommunication services for every individual, particularly the access to internet. This initiative will contribute in narrowing digital divide between the people and also businesses, allowing citizens to embrace and experience the emerging technologies and preparing the youth to be digitally ready. This will also enable the participation of every individual to digital economy activities and to connect the unconnected.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This key initiative is aligned with the Twelfth Plan, particularly in ensuring equitable access, facilitating adoption of emerging and alternative technology and providing enabling environment for digitalisation. The National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan (NFCP), which was launched in 2019 was subsequently reviewed and known as <i>Pelan Jalanan Digital Negara</i> (JENDELA) in 2020. JENDELA will enable the development of a sustainable, inclusive and high-quality digital infrastructure as well as a wider fifth generation technology standard (5G) coverage. In addition, policies on digital infrastructure planning and provisioning by both the Federal and state governments will be realigned to facilitate investment in state-of-the-art digital infrastructure for optimum deployment. Rules and regulations will also be streamlined to facilitate crowding-in private investment and the creation of new network infrastructure.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The government focuses on the provision of digital infrastructure in rural areas to address challenges in digital inclusion particularly for socioeconomic activities.
Activities and Timelines	i. Ensuring equitable access (2021 – 2025) - Accelerate the provision of digital infrastructure through the implementation of JENDELA. - Realign policies on the planning and provision of digital infrastructure by both the Federal and state governments to facilitate investment in state-of-the-art digital infrastructure and to ensure its optimum deployment. - Introduce digital-by-default laws to enable the provision of digital services, protect consumers and promote innovation and competition. - Introduce innovative funding mechanisms by both commercial banks and government agencies to encourage more investment in the development of digital infrastructure. ii. Facilitating adoption of emerging and alternative technology (2021 – 2025)

	a. Innovate and adopt emerging and alternative technologies in the development and provision of digital infrastructure. iii. Providing enabling environment for digitalisation (2021 – 2025) a. Expedite the approval process at all levels in addition to soliciting cooperation from industry players to ensure effective implementation of digital infrastructure projects. b. Encourage investments in submarine cable landing stations to improve fixed broadband services and promote the establishment of high-end data centres.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable Quantitative: The successful implementation of the Key Initiatives mentioned will enable Malaysia to have: i. 100 percent 4G coverage in populated areas. ii. Wider 5G coverage. iii. Speed of mobile broadband more than 100 Mbps. iv. 100 percent of households subscribing to internet. v. Nine million premises passed for fixed broadband service. vi. All Federal and state legislation and regulations relating to digital infrastructure development are reviewed.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG) and Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG).

Key Initiative 4: Expanding Digitalisation

The expansion of digitalisation will broaden socioeconomic development and ensure digital inclusion. The emphasis will be on facilitating digital opportunities and creating more online business ventures as well as narrowing the digital divide by enabling every individual to participate and reap the benefits of the digital economy.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Malaysia is actively promoting digital economy in the effort to narrow the income and wealth gaps, especially among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The initiatives focusing on digital training, e-commerce onboarding and cross-border trade as well as providing physical platforms in rural areas, equipped with internet connectivity and digital devices to assist the vulnerable groups. Malaysia also encourages the adoption of digital technology among the MSMEs by providing incentives and grants. As at September 2021, more than 700,00 MSMEs from the 875,000 targeted MSMEs have adopted the e-commerce platform. In the effort to further improve digital governance for inclusive digitalisation, data integration and privacy will be improved to increase service delivery. An initiative to synchronise and share data among stakeholders will be undertaken to promote data-driven activities as well as reduce inclusion and exclusion errors, especially involving the targeted assistance programmes.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms,	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform

Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiatives involved the provision of budget and non-budget assistance to further strengthen the digital economy ecosystem.
Activities and Timelines	i. Creating More Online Business Ventures (2021 – 2025) - Develop a one-stop online platform through integration of existing platforms, designated for vulnerable groups such as the B40, women and people with disabilities to obtain information and resources to grow their online businesses. - Improve coverage and effectiveness of the current <i>eRezeki</i> and <i>eUsahawan</i> programmes to increase the digital skills and opportunities for the targeted groups, including those involved in the sharing economy. - Provide access to assistance or information in facilitating entrepreneurship among vulnerable groups through an online platform. - Pusat Ekonomi Digital Keluarga Malaysia (PEDi) was established to focus on efforts to emphasize income generation in the rural areas. Quality broadband infrastructure and training will be provided to uplift people's economy through e-commerce platform as well as strategic partnerships with several government and private agencies. ii. Improving Data Integration and Privacy for Efficient Service Delivery (2021 – 2025) - Integrate relevant data on vulnerable groups into a single database to facilitate the targeted mechanisms for socioeconomic programmes as well as reduce inclusion and exclusion errors.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable Quantitative: The successful implementation of the Key Initiatives mentioned will enable Malaysia to have: - MSMEs' contribution to GDP increased to 45 percent. 10.5 percent contribution of eCommerce to GDP. 875,000 MSMEs onboard eCommerce. - A single database on socioeconomic programmes for vulnerable groups established.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with SOM Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG), Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG), Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) and Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG).

Key Initiative 5: Reducing Regulatory Burdens and Barriers to Starting Businesses

The strategies to boost economic competitiveness outlined in the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and National 4IR Policy include digitalisation, streamlining regulatory requirements as well as encouraging innovative approaches through automation and advanced technology.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The strategies to boost economic competitiveness outlined in the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and National 4IR Policy include digitalisation, streamlining
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EAASR: Individual Action Plans

	regulatory requirements as well as encouraging innovative approached through automation and advanced technology.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative involved reviewing and updating regulations to meet the needs of the digital economy. Existing policies and competition laws will be reviewed in relation to promoting fair competition and responsible digital economy growth.
Activities and Timelines	1. Adopt an agile regulatory approach to meet the needs of digital economy businesses, 2021 - 2025 2. Streamline pro-competition measures with digital economy policy to promote fair competition, 2021 – 2023.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Reviewed competition laws by 2023 and competition impact assessment framework included in the regulatory impact assessment process in the formulation of laws and policies. Quantitative: Contribute to the creation of at least 5,000 start-ups by 2025.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG), Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG).

Key Initiative 6: Providing an Enabling Environment for the Growth of the Digital Economy	
<i>Focusses on streamlining digital governance, accelerating trade through e-commerce, expanding the sharing economy and strengthening cyber security.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This key initiative outlined in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan and Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint focusses on streamlining digital governance, accelerating trade through e-commerce, expanding the sharing economy and strengthening cyber security.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Digital Economy and 4IR Council was established to streamline digital governance by ensuring a coordinated approach in planning, implementation and monitoring

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

	digitalisation initiatives while optimising resources. Additionally, the Malaysian government will actively facilitate e-commerce adoption among MSMEs through incentives, training and grants, while efforts will be undertaken to increase participation in the sharing economy to create economic benefits for society. In order to create a safe, secure and reliable digital ecosystem, cyber security adoption will be encouraged through various initiatives.
Activities and Timelines	1. Implement the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint 2021-2025 2. Implement the National eCommerce Strategic Roadmap 2.0, 2021 – 2025 3. Accreditation of local sharing economy platforms with international sharing economy industry standards and certifications, 2021 – 2025 4. Implement Malaysia Cyber Security Strategy (MCSS), 2022-2024
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable Quantitative: 1. Digital Economy contributes 25.5 percent to GDP by 2025 2. e-commerce contributes 10.5 percent to GDP by 2025 3. 875,000 MSMEs onboard e-commerce by 2025 4. 90 percent of MSMEs to digitalise business operations
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG), Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) and the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG)

Key Initiative 7: Expanding Digitalisation Initiatives in Public Service Delivery	
<i>Strengthening digital governance structures and spurring growth of the digital economy in driving digitalisation in the public sector in line with the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12th MP) and Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint strategies and initiatives.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Strengthening digital governance structures and spurring growth of the digital economy in driving digitalisation in the public sector in line with the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12th MP) and Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint strategies and initiatives.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiatives focus on expanding end-to-end online services to provide greater accessibility and convenience to the public. Single sign-on initiatives will be accelerated to provide seamless online services, including through mobile platforms. Cyber security will be strengthened for all online transactions including cashless transactions to build trust. In addition, upskilling and reskilling of civil servants will be continuously undertaken to ensure efficient and quality public service delivery.
Activities and Timelines	• To expand end-to-end online Federal Government services to 80percent by 2025; • To ensure 100percent civil servants are digitally literate by 2025.

Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable
	Quantitative: 80 percent end-to-end online Federal Government services by 2025
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TELWG), Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) and Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG).

Key Initiative 8: Boosting Productivity Growth - Skills Development to Boost Productivity

Malaysia aims to boost productivity growth across all sectors in restoring the momentum of economic growth and enhancing the competitiveness of industries. Emphasis will be given to strengthening the planning, evaluation and monitoring mechanism, moving up the value chain and strengthening financial capability. In addition, measures will be undertaken to scale up successful initiatives of the Productivity Nexus.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Malaysia aims to boost productivity growth across all sectors in restoring the momentum of economic growth and enhancing the competitiveness of industries. Emphasis will be given to strengthening planning, evaluation and monitoring mechanisms, moving up the value chain and strengthening financial capability. In addition, measures will be undertaken to scale up successful initiatives of the Productivity Nexus.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The Productivity Nexus will bring changes in production system from labour intensive to high technology.
Activities and Timelines	Activities: At the economy-wide level, the planning mechanism will be strengthened, the successful initiatives under the Productivity Nexus will be scaled up and the productivity gap between large firms and MSMEs will be narrowed. In addition, various strategies at the sectoral level will be implemented to strengthen the ecosystem to increase productivity. Timeline: 2021 until 2025
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable
	Quantitative: Baseline Situation: 1.1percent labour productivity growth per annum (2015-2020) Quantitative Measure:

	3.6 percent labour productivity growth per annum (Macroeconomic Strategies and Multi-Dimensional Goals, 2021-2025)
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG), Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and the Finance Ministers Process.

Key Initiative 9: Regulatory Experimentation Programmes to Boost Malaysia's Competitiveness through Public-Private Sector Collaborative Innovation

Malaysian Government is committed to realising regulatory experimentation programmes that involve public and private stakeholders jointly assessing the efficiency and suitability of existing regulations; thus, proposing regulatory relaxation through agile regulatory approaches based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The implementation of this initiative is expected to assist in facilitating business matters such as the approval of construction permits and business operating licences at the federal and state levels. An international benchmark would also be made for economies identified as having a conducive business environment, especially in terms of digitalisation, efficient business models, market openness and the level of support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR

- ☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets.
- ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks.
- ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being.
- ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

The government's efforts to drive Malaysia's productivity and competitiveness by facilitating enhancements in policy and business governance initiatives can accelerate the transformation of the industry at the sectoral level and further into a higher value chain. To achieve this objective, a conducive business environment needs to be strengthened to spur productivity and Malaysia's competitiveness.

The implementation of regulations needs to be enhanced to cater for the current and future businesses to grow despite the disruption that came along with the emerging of new technology. The fast development of new technology required Malaysia to be updated with necessary regulations that meet the demand of businesses.

Malaysia Mudah (#MyMudah) program is one of Government's initiatives as a non-fiscal measure to support business recovery in the wake of COVID-19 crisis. The main objective of #MyMudah is to assist businesses from being burdened by unnecessary regulations and reduce the cost of doing business, while at the same time supporting job creation and stimulating economic growth. Through this programme, the policy makers and regulators will be recommended to temporarily or permanently abolish, modify, waive, or exempt any unnecessary regulations imposed on business.

In this vein, businesses and start-ups are urged to voice their regulatory concerns which hamper innovation due to unnecessary regulations through #MyMudah website. Companies registering their regulatory concerns are required to fill in the details of the issues faced and recommendation to address the issues.

Businesses in Malaysia are estimated to spend RM40 billion in regulatory compliance costs. Upon its implementation, #MyMudah is expected to reduce it by 25percent, generating around RM10 billion in savings for businesses, following the reduction in regulatory burden and compliance costs. This would mean more productive hours, better use of expenses and a more conducive business environment for economic growth.

Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Since 2007, Malaysia’s ongoing reforms under the Special Taskforce to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH) have represented a joint effort between the government and private sector to streamline regulatory frameworks, reduce business licensing requirements, and promote technology usage by government agencies. PEMUDAH consistently launches improvement initiatives and regulatory reforms that impact positively on the ease of doing business by promoting regulatory efficiency, productivity, and good governance. These initiatives are made possible by the continuous public and private sector members’ collaboration and commitment within the Technical Working Groups under PEMUDAH in improving Malaysia’s ease of doing business environment.												
Activities and Timelines	1. Regulators to give full commitment in realising regulatory experimentations and relaxations requested by industries. 2. Scaling-up Malaysia Mudah (#MyMudah) initiative through the establishment of #MyMudah Unit at all Ministries, Agencies, and Industry Associations, work together to resolve unnecessary regulatory burdens that hinder business growth. 3. Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) and PEMUDAH to facilitate regulatory experimentations and relaxations to boost Malaysia’s global competitiveness.												
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Global Competitiveness Report (GCR), ranked out of 141 economies <table><tr><td>YEAR</td><td>2015</td><td>2016</td><td>2017</td><td>2018</td><td>2019</td></tr><tr><td>RANKING</td><td>18</td><td>25</td><td>23</td><td>25</td><td>27</td></tr></table> *Target 2025: 20 Quantitative: Towards reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on business, #MyMudah Programme was initiated through Economic Action Council (EAC) meeting on 20 July 2020 chaired by the Prime Minister. By 15 October 2021, 524 issues received from businesses and only 51 issues resolved. Accelerating solutions to business regulatory issues necessitates Whole-of-Government approach.	YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	RANKING	18	25	23	25	27
YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019								
RANKING	18	25	23	25	27								
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaboration with SO Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE), Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group (SMEWG) and Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)												

Key Initiative 10: Provide Decent Work for Gig Workers

Reform to enhance wellbeing of the gig workers to be in-line with the decent work agenda.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Due to the growing numbers of gig workers in Malaysia, a development of legislation including a regulatory impact analysis, if necessary, will be conducted.
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Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative would identify the gaps to ensure that the government is equipped prior the establishment of an improved regulation for the gig workers.
Activities and Timelines	1. Development of draft of legislation and conduct a regulatory impact assessment (2022 - 2025) 2. Improving social security outreach for the gig workers (2024)
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Development of improved regulations for the gig workers Quantitative: Contribution of compensation of employees (CE) to Malaysia's gross domestic product increased to 40percent in 2025
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) under the following agenda: i. <u>2017 APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age</u> Asses new forms of work arising from increased digitalisation, including “gig economy” and its implications on the changing nature of work. ii. <u>APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap</u> Promote innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as develop new initiatives to progress work on the digital economy. iii. <u>APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040</u> This initiative is in-line with the economic drivers “Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”, in ensuring equity and inclusion in education and human resource development.

Key Initiative 11: Develop Talent in the Platform Economy	
<i>Reform to enhance skills development for platform workers in Malaysia.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Due to the burst in growth following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia, this initiative would upgrade the skills for more favourable employment in the platform economy, towards a more sustainable and resilient digital future.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies

	This initiative would involve government expenditure in providing funds for the skills development programme.
Activities and Timelines	Provide skills training fund for platform workers to improve skills towards more favourable employment (2022-2025).
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable
	Quantitative: Increase of monthly median salary to RM2,900 by 2025
APEC cross-fora alignment	Potential APEC cross-fora collaborations with Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) and Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) under the following agenda: i. <u>2017 APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age</u> Asses new forms of work arising from increased digitalisation, including “gig economy” and its implications on the changing nature of work. ii. <u>APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap</u> Promote innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as develop new initiatives to progress work on the digital economy. iii. <u>APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040</u> This initiative is in-line with the economic drivers “Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”, in ensuring equity and inclusion in education and human resource development.

NEW ZEALAND

1. Introduction

With strong institutions, clear legislation and effective regulation, New Zealand is ranked highly for ease of doing business. Despite this, over the last 30 years, New Zealand has experienced productivity growth that is low by international standards.

Much of our economic expansion has been based on unsustainable increases in house prices, high levels of population growth and increased volumes of production from our natural resources. While this growth has contributed to high wellbeing for New Zealanders overall, the benefits have been unevenly distributed and some growth has been at the expense of our environment. Some communities including Māori (New Zealand Indigenous) and Pacific peoples are faring worse on wellbeing indicators such as unemployment, income, health and educational attainment. Water quality has degraded and while greenhouse gas emissions per unit of GDP have decreased, total emissions have increased.

As outlined in our latest [Economic Plan](#), the New Zealand Government intends to build a more **productive, sustainable and inclusive economy**, which balances the four components of wellbeing – financial, human, natural and social capital. To achieve this, we must shift investment towards more productive assets including resilient and sustainable infrastructure, low-carbon technologies, our natural environment and the skills of our diverse people. A holistic approach is required which integrates structural reforms across several policy portfolios, as illustrated by the examples below.

i. Productivity

The creation of knowledge-intensive and scalable ‘frontier firms’ is vital to uplifting New Zealand’s productivity and wellbeing. However, parts of the business sector in New Zealand have become reliant on continued access to low skilled labour for expansion. There have been fewer incentives to increase productivity through investment in capital, skills and new technologies.

New Zealand’s Productivity Commission has identified creation and regulation of a **Consumer Data Right** to be a key reform which could encourage the growth of frontier firms and improve productivity. As the variety of digital goods and services has expanded, data about individuals, businesses and other entities has become an increasingly important economic resource. While this use of data can benefit consumers, it can also present challenges with respect to consumers’ control over that data. The right for consumers to control the data they generate and authorise its use by trusted third parties will increase access to this data and encourage technology adoption, innovation and productivity growth, particularly in the fintech sector and other digital businesses.

Only 1.4 percent of New Zealand’s GDP is invested in research and development, which is low compared to other small, advanced economies (~3 percent). We have set a goal of raising research and development (R&D) expenditure to 2 percent of GDP by 2027 and have already introduced measures such as an R&D Tax Incentive to encourage private sector investment. However, recent reports have identified areas for improvement in the design and funding of public research organisations, which can lead to precarity in organisational revenue and

unproductive competition. The Government has begun development of its **Future Pathways** program to better address these issues.

To build a cohort of frontier firms, the Government will need to focus more tightly on areas where New Zealand has existing or emerging strengths. Through Future Pathways we intend to establish research priorities for New Zealand, to ensure resources are allocated more effectively, for greater impact and adaptability to future opportunities.

iii. Sustainability and inclusion

New Zealand seeks to shift away from extractive industries, towards a more innovative and sustainable economy. In 2019, the Government amended the **Climate Change Response Act**, to include domestic emissions reduction targets of net zero greenhouse gases emissions (except biogenic methane) and reduction of biogenic methane to 24–47 percent below 2017 levels, by 2050. The amendment also established a system of risk assessments, economy-wide adaptation plans, and emissions budgets and required the Government to develop policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

To fulfil these requirements, in 2020 the Government published New Zealand’s first Climate Change Risk Assessment and has consulted in 2021 on proposals for inclusion in New Zealand’s first emissions reduction plan. The emissions reduction plan will be published in May 2022 and will form a coherent strategic package with a mutually supportive and balanced mix of targeted regulation, tailored sectoral policies and direct investment (public and private), supported by an effective emissions price.

Emissions reduction and climate adaption will be supported by replacement of our **Resource Management Act (RMA)**. The RMA 1991 has not delivered on its desired environmental or development outcomes, nor have RMA decisions consistently given effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti).⁵ The RMA has also been identified as one factor contributing to ongoing house price inflation. Current resource consent processes are unnecessarily complex and inefficient, presenting a barrier to sustainable urban development. New Zealand needs a resource management system that better addresses the housing and infrastructure needs of our growing population, while effectively protecting against environmental degradation.

The emissions reduction plan will also include policies to reduce emissions from key sectors, such as transport, energy and industry, building and construction, waste and fluorinated gases, agriculture and forestry. It may also propose the development of new strategies, for example on a circular and bioeconomy. The Government will work to support the regions and communities affected by the transition and ensure that it is as equitable as possible. The Government will also work with Māori to ensure Te Tiriti and mātauranga Māori principles are recognised in the emissions reduction plan.

Future Pathways is one of the initiatives that will be involved in implementing the emissions reduction plan. By setting research priorities, it could concentrate funding and research efforts to address large-scale long-term challenges, such as climate change. Future Pathways also seeks to improve inclusion of Māori (New Zealand Indigenous) peoples in the Research,

⁵ The Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) is an important agreement signed by representatives of the British Crown and Māori in 1840. The purpose of the Treaty was to enable the British settlers and the Māori people to live together in New Zealand under a common set of laws or agreements.

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Science and Innovation (RSI) system. Research priorities would be co-developed with Māori to give active effect to Te Tiriti.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Consumer data right <i>In July 2021, the Government decided to implement a new legislative framework for a consumer data right. This regime will require data holders, such as banks and electricity retailers, to safely and securely share data with third parties (like fintech companies) following consent from the customer.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The new legislative framework will give individuals, businesses and other entities access to a wider range of products and services, reduce search and switch costs, and facilitate competition. It will also strengthen existing privacy protections by giving consumers greater choice and control of their data. In doing so, it will support open, transparent and competitive markets (Pillar 1). By improving access to data, a consumer data right can open opportunities for digital businesses to devise new products and services, to encourage innovation, increase productivity and help build the digital economy (Pillar 4).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This is a regulatory reform which will promote competition between firms and strengthen the economic and legal infrastructure related to data access. The changes are intended to improve ease of doing business by allowing people and firms to access and use the data needed for their business activities, and they directly affect the way firms operate, representing a reform of corporate law and governance.
Activities and Timelines	August-October 2020: Consultation on discussion document on options for establishing a consumer data right in New Zealand. July 2021: The Government decided to implement a new legislative framework for a consumer data right. Early 2022: The Government will make further decisions about the implementation of the consumer data right. This will include decisions on which institutions have a role in implementation and developing rules and standards, and measures for enforcing the consumer data right. The Government will also consider which sectors should be assessed first for the potential application of the consumer data right. A Bill implementing the consumer data right will be introduced to Parliament in 2022.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Progress can be measured by passage of legislation and implementation of the consumer data right in accordance with the timeline above, i.e. - Decisions on which institutions have a role in implementation of the consumer data right - Consumer Data Right Bill passed and implemented - Following introduction of the Bill, steps taken to implement the consumer data right Quantitative:

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	Once the Bill has been implemented, the following indicators would be useful to determine if it is having the intended effect. As part of the policy development process, baselines and desired outcomes are still under consideration and will be updated in future iterations of this IAP. - Increased levels of data portability in the economy - Increased levels of innovation and competition within designated sectors Other more general measures of progress could include: - Overall productivity (Productivity statistics – Statistics New Zealand) - Fintech and Regtech readiness index (APEC Group on Services, in development).
APEC cross-fora alignment	The consumer data right aligns with the Finance Ministers' Process and the CTI agenda, particularly the Digital Economy Steering Group, which aims to facilitate the development of the internet and digital economy, including e-commerce and digital trade. It also aligns with the Group on Services – particularly the GOS APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap, by enhancing the competitiveness of the services sector through ensuring more open services markets and facilitating effective and inclusive financial markets.

Key Initiative: Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019

New Zealand has introduced legislation which sets emissions reduction targets of net zero long-lived greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and biogenic methane emissions are 24-47 percent below 2017 levels. It mandates that the Government set five-year emissions budgets to meet these targets and publishes emissions reduction plans (ERP), that outline the policies and strategies for meeting these targets. The first three emissions budgets and first ERP will be released in May 2022. The Act also mandates that the Government publish national adaptation plans (NAPs) every six years, the first of which will be published in August 2022, and establishes an adaptation reporting power for the Government and the Climate Change Commission to use to seek information about how organisations are identifying climate risks and preparing to adapt.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Through the Climate Change Response Act and associated emissions reduction plan and National Adaption Plan, the Government intends to address risks related to the impacts of climate change. It will encourage investment into sustainable infrastructure and innovation which can enhance productivity and generate new economic activity, boosting business recovery while at the same time building resilience against climate-related shocks (Pillar 2). The Government will work to ensure that the transition is equitable and that impacts on regions and communities are mitigated. It will also work with Māori to embed Te Tiriti principles in the emissions reduction plan actions and long-term strategic direction. Together, these steps will ensure changes are sustainable and that all groups in society have access to the opportunities and greater well-being (Pillar 3).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Emissions Reduction Plan and National Adaption Plan will include many interrelated reforms. Economic and legal infrastructure will be strengthened to encourage emissions reduction through the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme. Regulatory reforms are

	proposed for example in the form of amendments to the Resource Management Act and the Waste Management Act, and the introduction of the Climate Disclosures Bill. These changes will be complemented by reforms to public sector governance to improve coordination and monitoring, and supplementary reforms to ensure an equitable transition for groups and regions affected by the changes. Supporting strategies will guide emissions reduction in sectors and in cross-cutting areas, including those relating to energy and industry, transport, building and construction, and a circular and bioeconomy.
Activities and Timelines	August 2020: Climate Change Risk Assessment published, which identifies 43 priority risks and the 10 most significant risks that require urgent action in the next six years. It will inform the development of the National Adaptation Plan and set a baseline against which the effectiveness of adaptation actions can be measured. May 2021: The Climate Change Commission provided the Government with advice on the first three emissions budgets (2022–25, 2026–30, 2031–35). October 2021: Consulting on the emissions reduction plan begins. May 2022: The first emissions reduction plan will be published. 2022: The Ministry for the Environment will institute monitoring and public reporting of progress to track the implementation of the plan. August 2022: National Adaptation Plan is finalised 2024: The Climate Change Commission will produce the first monitoring report, which will independently assess progress against the 2050 target, the first emissions budget and the adequacy and implementation of the emissions reduction plan. They will also produce the first progress report evaluating the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan and its effectiveness.
Measures of progress	The Climate Change Commission will assess progress against the 2050 target, the first emissions budget and the emissions reduction plan. Their first monitoring report is due in 2024 and should be used to inform the mid-term review of this IAP as a source of qualitative and quantitative measures of progress. Qualitative: The following goals and targets have been proposed in the consultation document for our emissions reduction plan. - Publication of emissions reduction plan in May 2022 - Updates to the Waste Minimisation Act - Replacement of the Resource Management Act - Introduction of a National Adaptation Plan in 2022 - Development of tailored policy packages for emissions reduction across sectors including transport, energy and industry, building and construction, agriculture, waste and forestry - Development of a research and innovation strategy prioritising a transition to a low-emissions economy - Development of a strategy to move to a circular economy - Development of an equitable transitions strategy - Implementing farm-level pricing for agricultural emissions from 2025 The Climate Change Commission will also assess progress in implementing the National Adaptation Plan and its effectiveness. These progress reports are required to be produced every two years during the life of each national adaptation plan, with the first report due in 2024 (two years after publication of the National Adaptation Plan). Each progress report must include: - an assessment of the progress made towards implementing the strategies, policies, and proposals included in the National Adaptation Plan - an assessment of the degree to which the objectives of the Plan have been achieved and how well the plan responds to the most significant risks posed by climate change - an identification of any known barriers to the implementation and effectiveness of the current Plan, including recommendations for how those barriers might be addressed or overcome in future

	- any other relevant matters required to support the report. Quantitative: The primary quantitative measure of progress will be success in keeping net greenhouse gas emissions within our proposed five-year emissions budgets (292 MtCO₂e for the period 2022-25). Net emissions are reported annually by the Ministry for the Environment in New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The inventory provides data for specific gases and sectors, which can be used to track the progress against biogenic methane and sectoral targets within the Emissions Reduction Plan, e.g. - 10 percent reduction of biogenic methane emissions by 2030, and 24-47 percent reduction by 2050 - Reduction of biogenic methane emissions from waste to at least 40 percent below 2017 levels by 2035. The Ministry of Transport produces a sustainability monitoring report which can be used, along with data on the Ministry of Transport website, to assess progress against the four transport targets for 2035 proposed within the emissions reduction plan. - Reduce vehicle kilometres travelled light vehicles by 20 percent (through cheaper public transport and increased walking and cycling rates) - Increase zero-emissions vehicles to 30 percent of the light fleet - Reduce emissions from freight transport by 25 percent - Reduce the emissions intensity of transport fuel by 15 percent. There are several additional targets and measures of progress suggested for the emissions reduction plan. - 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030 (Energy in New Zealand – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) - Reduced waste volumes (Estimates of waste generated in Aotearoa New Zealand – Ministry for the Environment) - Improved emissions intensity in agriculture (Greenhouse gas emissions (industry and household) – Statistics New Zealand) - 1.2 million hectares of new forests (exotic and native) from 2022 to 2050 (New Zealand's Forest Statistics – Ministry for Primary Industries). - Improved environmental indicators – e.g. freshwater quality, coastal water quality, air quality, soil quality, biodiversity (Environment Statistics – Statistics New Zealand)
APEC cross-fora alignment	The reforms proposed under the Climate Change Response Act align with the strategic plan of the Energy Working Group (EWG), which includes work to lower the carbon intensity of energy supply and use across the region.

Key Initiative: Reform replacing the Resource Management Act

New Zealand plans to repeal the Resource Management Act 1991(RMA) as it has not delivered on its desired environmental or development outcomes, and replace it with three new pieces of legislation;

- Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA) to protect and restore the environment while better enabling development – this is intended to be the primary piece of legislation to replace the RMA*
- Strategic Planning Act (SPA) requiring the development of long-term regional spatial strategies to help coordinate and integrate decisions made under relevant legislation; and*
- Climate Adaptation Act (CAA) to address complex issues associated with managed retreat.*

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.
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	Proposed changes are intended to streamline resource consent processes, to facilitate the rapid large-scale development of infrastructure, housing and other projects needed to boost economic activity (Pillar 1 and 2) and to promote the wellbeing of all groups in society (Pillar 3). The three new pieces of legislation are together intended to promote long term management of natural and built environments which increases our resilience against future shocks and protects the well-being of all groups in society, including explicitly our Indigenous Māori people (Pillar 2 and 3). Reforms within the NBA will include a mandatory requirement for the Minister for the Environment to set environmental limits and will specify positive well-being outcomes for natural and built environments that decision-makers will be required to promote. The NBA will also better encapsulate Māori values and require decision makers to 'give effect' to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Meanwhile, the SPA will mandate a system of regional spatial strategies (RSSs) requiring local government, central government and Māori to work together on long-term spatial plans within each region, setting out where development should or should not take place and strategies for adaptation to climate change. The CAA will address complex issues associated with managed retreat in response to ocean level increases.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies By streamlining resource consent processes, the reforms are intended to enhance ease of doing business. Under the new legislation, over 100 RMA policy statements and regional and district plans would be consolidated into 14-16 Natural and Built Environment plans (one per region), simplifying and improving integration of the system. Consent processes should become faster, allowing development to proceed with less uncertainty. The changes represent major regulatory reform of our primary environmental and planning law, covering environmental protection, natural resource management and urban planning. The new legislation will clarify desired outcomes, environmental limits, and the allocation of regulatory roles for local and central government institutions in enforcement, monitoring and reporting against these targets.
Activities and Timelines	February 2021: The Government announced it would repeal the RMA and enact new legislation June 2021: Exposure draft of the NBA Published 2021 third quarter: Select committee inquiry into the partial Natural and Built Environments Act, public invited to make submissions on exposure draft. 2022 third quarter: NBA and the SPA to be introduced to Parliament and examined by select committee processes. Public invited to make submissions on the full bills. 2023 second quarter: Natural and Built Environments Act and Strategic Planning Act expected to be passed into law. 2023: CAA introduced to parliament. 2022-2032: Overall transition to a new system to be completed
Measures of progress	The following indicators may be used to track progress once the new legislation is passed. Qualitative:

	- Establishment of a National Planning Framework (NPF) to provide strategic and regulatory direction from central government on implementing the new system, setting limits and outcomes for natural and built environments. - Appointment of a joint planning committee for each region comprising representatives from local government (regional and territorial), central government (for the RSS only), and mana whenua (Māori representatives). - Consolidation of RMA policy statements into a National Planning Framework. - Development of regional Natural and Built Environment plans under the NBA - Development of regional spatial strategies (RSSs) under the SPA Quantitative: - Improved environmental indicators – e.g. freshwater quality, coastal water quality, air quality, soil quality, biodiversity (Environment Statistics – Statistics New Zealand) - Reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions (New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Ministry for the Environment) - Increased housing supply and affordability (Housing – Statistics NZ) - Increased productivity (Productivity statistics – Statistics New Zealand) - Faster processing time for resource consents (National Monitoring System – Ministry for Environment) - Iwi and hapū (Māori groups) participation within the resource management system (National Monitoring System – Ministry for Environment)
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

Key Initiative*: Reform of Research Science and Innovation (Future Pathways)

We are planning fundamental changes to the Research, Science and Innovation (RSI) system to address connectivity, fragmentation, and responsiveness to priorities.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Consultation on New Zealand's RSI system has revealed weak connectivity between organisations and weak responsiveness to Māori. Future Pathways seeks to address these issues so that all groups in society can participate effectively in the RSI system (Pillar 3). Proposed reforms include changes to the RSI funding system and to the structure of public research institutes to reduce precarity in organisational revenue and unproductive competition. Future Pathways also seeks to design a process for setting whole-of-system research priorities, to focus research activities and to concentrate resources meaningfully towards economy-wide challenges and opportunities, which may help support business recovery and resilience (Pillar 2). The intention is to build ecosystems of deep capabilities in which researchers and research-users can flourish, thus harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity (Pillar 4).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Future Pathways is investigating reforms to public research funding and the design and structure of public research organisations, representing a reform of public sector

	governance. The program will also likely involve supplementary structural reforms and supporting policies which incentivise greater connectivity and inclusiveness within the system.
Activities and Timelines	October 2021 – March 2022: Public consultation period for Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper. November 2021 – February 2022: Information collected through our first RSI workforce survey Early 2022: Submissions and survey results analysed. Ministers to take key decisions to cabinet followed by further consultation. This section will be updated as further decisions are made.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Future Pathways is still in the consultation phase, so initially progress will be indicated by key policy decisions by Ministers. - Decisions made on the role of whole-of-system research priorities, and the priority-setting process - Actions taken to honour Te Tiriti obligations and enable mātauranga Māori within the research system - Decisions made on how to reshape the RSI funding system (e.g. whether research organisations should be supported through a new base grant funding model) - Decisions made on how to design and shape public research institutions - Conclusions drawn from RSI workforce survey and actions taken to better support the research workforce - Decisions made on funding, governance and ownership arrangements for economy-wide research infrastructures Quantitative: Once reforms have been implemented, we can track quantitative indicators to monitor their effectiveness. New Zealand periodically publishes a research, science and innovation report which provides an overview of how the system is performing. The latest report was published in 2021 and includes a variety of relevant quantitative indicators, from the sources listed below. - R&D spend as a proportion of GDP, concentration of R&D in top spending companies (Research and development – Statistics New Zealand) - Proportion of businesses cooperating with research organisations for innovation, innovation that is new to New Zealand or new to the world (Business operations survey – Statistics New Zealand Infoshare) - Indicators of research productivity, quality, local connectivity and international connectivity e.g. Patents as a proportion of GDP, venture capital investments as a percent of GDP, ratio of patents and publications per researcher, ratio of publications to R&D expenditure, proportion of publications in top ten percent most-cited worldwide, proportion of publications and patents with international co-authorship, Proportion of business expenditure on R&D financed from overseas, proportion of firms co-operating on innovation activities with higher education or government institutions (OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Scoreboard – OECD). - Patents granted to resident inventors, and in foreign-oriented patent families (World Intellectual Property Organisation patent statistics) - Diversity of researchers at Tertiary Education Organisation – inclusion of more women. Māori and Pasifika (Researcher demographics – Tertiary Education Commission)

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	- Permanent/long-term migration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics professionals (Permanent & long-term migration by place of residence, occupation – Statistics New Zealand Infoshare) We can also monitor overall productivity as an indicator of progress, - Overall productivity (Productivity statistics – Statistics New Zealand).
APEC cross-fora alignment	These reforms align closely with APEC’s PPSTI strategic plan for 2016-2025, which aims to build science capacity, promote an enabling environment for innovation, and enhance regional science and technology connectivity. The program also aligns with the PPSTI statement on Building Resilience in STI, particularly the commitment to leverage diverse knowledge systems (e.g., from Indigenous peoples, women, early career researchers, etc.) for inclusive and sustainable growth.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. Introduction

Papua New Guinea aims to be globally competitive by 2050 as set out in the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP). This strategy underpins the government's commitment to responsible and sustainable economic growth for PNG. The SGP focuses on microeconomic reform to improve economic productivity and efficiency by:

- facilitating competition;
- protecting consumer welfare;
- enhancing the operation of markets;
- improving the effectiveness of government services relied upon by the private sector; and
- removing business impediments.

To further enhance economic efficiency, the government introduced several reforms consistent with the government's plan to connect PNG through better infrastructure such as roads, wharfs-jetties and airstrips in boosting economic activities, and ensuring that the key development aspirations of PNG are achieved. Those reforms are guided by the objectives of Vision 2050, National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (STaRs) and Papua New Guinea's Development Strategic Plan 2010 – 2030 (DSP). The implementation of most reforms has been delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on PNG's economy.

The government will continue to progress current reforms including new reform initiatives going forward to assist in economic recovery and development for a better PNG. The government is committed to address the underlying issues that affect service delivery and those that impede private sector investment and growth. The government will continue to refocus on accomplishing new service delivery standards by trimming excessive spending, resource wastage, and redirecting funds to key priority impact projects at all levels of government in the areas of health, education, infrastructure and law and order.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: ELECTRONIC TRANSACTION ACT (ETA) <i>The enactment of the ETA sets the foundation for the redevelopment of e-commerce and digital trade in PNG through an efficient and competitive domestic market. The legislation will ensure transparency, legal predictability, facilitate better connectivity to our local SME into the global market place and further grow PNG's internet and digital economy.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. ▪ The ETA sets the foundation and legal framework/platform for the other necessary and related laws and policies in PNG to be aligned to create a conducive environment for an open, transparent and competitive market. ▪ The ETA creates the platform that will support MSMEs/SMEs to conduct their business faster and cheaper both domestically and internationally within the region during and post COVID-19 pandemic. ▪ The ETA is also linked to Pillars 3 and 4 of EAASR as e-commerce is a cross-cutting model that contributes to all broad sectors of society.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies ▪ The introduction of the ETA will enhance the competitive market environment by setting a platform for innovation and efficiency in the market by improving the way businesses are conducted. Though it does not fall under the one of the core structural reforms, it is a critical enabler. ▪ With the ETA platform MSMEs/SMEs will be able to do business faster, efficiently and effectively making the business environment user friendly.
Activities and Timelines	Over the course of next five years, the PNG government through the National Trade Office will develop an implementation plan that will serve as an overarching guide to implement ETA in collaboration with other departments and agencies with respect to policies and laws relating to the e-transaction and e-commerce.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The KPIs of the ETA are Firstly, to give confidence to SMEs and PNG citizens that do business on-line, Secondly, if there are any issues with doing business on-line or commerce then there is evidence that they can act upon to handle the case or remedy the situation, link to e-signature and documents online to be used as proof/evidence. Lastly, it is a pathway for related laws to be enacted to complement the ETA, such as data privacy laws, customer services and usage laws.
	Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	The ETA compliments and aligns to other initiatives in APEC such as those in the SMEWG, Fintech initiatives, Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG), Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) and others.

Key Initiative: THE HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION REFORM ACT (HTERA) 2020 <i>Reform to significantly enhance the higher education quality assurance system in PNG. This will set the foundation to encourage cross-border education, academic mobility and improved educational pathways.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Under the HTERA 2020, all Higher Education Institutes both public and private, will now be required to operate under a single qualification framework (PNG National Qualifications Framework), which is benchmarked across the APEC region. This will set the foundation to encourage cross-border education, academic mobility and improved educational pathways, and hence it contributes to increased labor mobility.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This reform initiative (HTERA 2020) is linked to the pillars above (esp. 4) as it improves regulation of higher education services in PNG and also encourages strong industry collaboration that improves skills development to boost productivity.
Activities and Timelines	The reforms in terms of transfer of higher education institutions under one regulatory body will be implemented in the next 2-3 years in accordance with the timeframes highlighted in the National Higher and Technical Education Plan.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Stability within Governing Councils of Higher Education Institutes (HEI). - Annual submission of governance and management report to Department of Higher Education Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) - All government supported institutions submitting and publishing annual audited financial and performance statements on websites. - Periodic Governance KPI Review against Key Legislative Requirements under the amended Higher Education General Provisions Act. - Quality assurance frameworks embedded and continuous quality improvement KPIs bench-marked for each HEI sub-sector and in each HEI.
	Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	The activities that are currently being implemented by DHERST are related to enhancing competencies and increasing employment as identified in the APEC Education Strategy.

Key Initiative: DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MSME POLICY 2022 AND MSME MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MTDP) 2022-2026. <i>Reform to create an enabling environment for all to have equal access to opportunities for greater participation and sustainable growth in the MSME sector.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. - Under the new MSME Policy 2022 and MSME MTDP 2022-2026, the PNG government will be working on five main policy focus areas to address and improve: Governance; MSME Constraints; Equitable Inclusive and greater citizen's participation in the MSME sector; Basic safeguards and Business continuity policies; and Specific micro economic, commercial and special MSME development policies. Improvements in those areas will foster a conducive environment for MSMEs to flourish. - These focus areas have programs or initiatives that are aligned to the MTDP III MSME sector development program categories; 1) Agriculture Financing, 2) Credit Guarantee and 3) Business Incubation.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies - Creation of Business Incubation Centers will reduce regulatory burdens and barriers to starting and expanding businesses. This in turn boosts ease of doing business. - SME Agriculture financing helps contribute to enhancing financial inclusion by increasing the number of MSME owners to access and use financial products and services.
Activities and Timelines	The MSME MTDP will be implemented from 2022 to 2026.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Start- up and MSME Guarantee Loan: More people in rural areas access financial products through micro banks. - Infrastructure Development: Build Three more regional incubation centers by 2026. Quantitative: - Training and Development: To have trained 6112000 MSMEs throughout the 6112 Wards of Papua New Guinea by 2026.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Yes, it is aligned to other APEC initiatives such as Fintech, FMP (Financial Inclusion)

Key Initiative: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY PROFILING AND PNG MARKET CONDITION SURVEY. <i>Government project to gather relevant information that will be marketable to potential investors hence creating more opportunities and also assist the Government to plan for future business disruptions and shocks in the economy.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Investment Opportunity Profiling is linked to Pillar 2 as local MSMEs will be able to connect with FDIs and explore business opportunities. The aim of this project is for the Government through its Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) to identify and package investment ready projects (private business proposals that are viable and ready) and promote them online through UNIDO web portal and its international network partners. The Market Condition Survey aligns with the Fourth Pillar given the need to deploy technology and build a business database to assist government plan and support business during shocks and disruptions. This will be an interesting project as we explore use of artificial intelligence (AI) to facilitate data management and business modelling.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Investment Opportunity Profiling is to identify local businesses and investment opportunities that need to partner with source FDIs and private investment funds to scale up their business process. While PNG Market Condition Survey is basically to collaborate with PNG Business Council and private sector to develop credible market conditions data. Both projects are not structural reform however, it supports the government's broad agenda by making available useful information for the government to drive its objectives of creating more business opportunities.
Activities and Timelines	Investment Opportunity Profiling is a three-year project commencing in 2021 and ends in 2023. The implementation is slow at the moment given the challenges of COVID-19 disruptions. The Market Condition Survey is planned to be an ongoing work and we anticipate this to be implemented in next five to six years depending on its feasibility and relevance.
Measures of progress	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: Both initiatives identified above are at quantitative levels where number of businesses will be identified and supported through the period of the programs. The government intends to see how many local MSMEs have benefited through these programs and are able to recover and will scale on further up the value chain.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The first initiative aligns with the APEC priority on harnessing inclusive opportunities where local MSMEs in the export sector (agriculture, tourism, fisheries) can connect with global markets. The second initiative very much embraces the digital future (digital economy) in terms of AI and automation.

Key Initiative: AMENDMENTS TO HARBORS ACT. <i>Reform to improve economic regulation of shipping ports in PNG.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Amendments to the Harbors Act to widen the scope for economic regulation of shipping ports in PNG to not just 'declared ports' but 'undeclared ports' as well. This would allow the PNG's Independent Consumer & Competition Commission (ICCC) to regulate ports wherever economic regulation is required.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The initiative is linked to the pillar as it will allow the ICCC to regulate ports that would require regulation. Certain ports due to the geographical nature of where they are situated create natural monopolies which can be harmful for the economy in terms of increased port charges and reductions in efficiency. With this amendment and the ICCC broadening its reach with regards to port regulation it will assist in enhancing market competition and improve efficiency
Activities and Timelines	Submissions on the amendments have been made to the National Executive Council (NEC) pending decision. Should the NEC decision be favorable then it will proceed to the First Legal Counsel (FLC) for clearance then the Minister will table it in Parliament for it to be passed as a Bill. This process is aimed to be completed in 2022 and the amendments be implemented thereafter.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Targets of the Amendments would be to identify ports in PNG that need regulation of which, some are private ports. Once that is identified, then administration of regulatory contracts with those ports that require regulation can be established. Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	This initiative aligns with the goals of the Competition Policy and law Group (CPLG) sub-forum.

Key Initiative: CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMPETITION REFORM (CCFR). <i>Reform to improve and modernise the Consumer Protection and Competition framework in PNG.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The CCFR will update and improve the consumer and competition laws and regulation in PNG by amending the PNG's Consumer Protection and Competition Commission (ICCC) Act. It will enhance economic regulation by empowering the ICCC to undertake

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	its role effectively in promoting competition and protecting consumer welfare against unfair business activities.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The CCFR is a core structural reform that will improve the consumer and competition framework in PNG.
Activities and Timelines	There are five (5) key work-streams that are going to be undertaken under the CCFR from 2020 – 2030. - National Competition Policy (NCP); <u>Legislative and Legal Changes/Amendments</u>; - Regulator Operational Changes/Improvements; - Regulator Capacity Development and Coordination; and - Government Policy Coordination
Measures of progress	Task (i)-NCP has been delivered and is in the implementation stage. Tasks (iv & v) are ongoing. The government is currently working on delivering the Task (ii) Legislative Reform which will see major changes/amendments made to improve the PNG's Consumer and Competition Laws and regulations (ICCC Act). Qualitative: These major activities are to deliver the Task (ii) which is on the major legislative changes/amendments to the ICCC Act. It is planned to be delivered by the end of 2025. - Establishment of the working group to deliver the legislative amendments/changes - Deliver the drafting instruction of the proposed legal changes/amendments - NEC approval - Tabling Bill in Parliament - Parliament endorsement - Gazettal of the new Consumer Protection and Competition Laws of PNG Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	<i>Nil</i>

Key Initiative: NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY (NCP).

Policy statement that provides an overarching framework to guide current and future developments to improve consumer welfare and promote and maintain effective market competition in PNG.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The objectives of the <i>National Competition Policy</i> are to improve economic efficiency, promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, increase consumer welfare, and
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	enhance total welfare by promoting and maintaining fair and effective competition in all markets in PNG's economy.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies NCP provides the overarching guiding framework for PNG that would enhance competition and increase/improve consumer welfare.
Activities and Timelines	Over the course of the next five years, the government will
Measures of progress	i. Revise and update consumer protection laws ii. Revise and update competition laws iii. Negotiate 'Competitive Neutrality Principles' to guide SOEs' activities. iv. ICCC coordination with NICTA, and other statutory bodies
	Qualitative: i. Revised and update consumer protection and competition laws ii. Negotiate 'Competitive Neutrality Principles' to guide SOEs' activities. iii. ICCC coordination with NICTA, other statutory bodies The NCP has been approved by the government. It is now in the process of implementing the NCP through the above activities in the short to medium term.
	Quantitative:
APEC cross-fora alignment	It is one of the key agendas under the Economic Committee through the sub-forum – Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG)

PERU

1. Introduction

After more than 20 years of discussion⁶, on 7 January 2021, the Peruvian Congress issued the Law 31112 – The Pre-Merger Control Law (hereinafter, Law 31112). This is a milestone of Peruvian competition policy, since it is the first merger control law in Peru that would apply across all economic sectors. The Law 31112 and its regulation approved by the Supreme Decree 039-2021-PCM entered into force on 14 June 2021.

Peru is aligned now with the best international practices and joins more than 130 economies worldwide with pre-merger control regulation on all the economic sectors.

The main challenges that the Peruvian Competition Authority – Indecopi – has faced regarding the implementation of this new regime are the following:

(i) Appointing and training a merger control division

Human capital has been incorporated into the new merger control division. This staff is made up of economists and lawyers specialized in competition and merger and acquisitions.

The officials have been trained by competition agencies from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica and Chile, as well as by international entities such as the OECD and the World Bank. Likewise, the staff is in constant communication with other competition agencies in order to rely on international experience to attend to queries and cases that may arise.

(ii) Issuance of Guidelines

On 1 June 2021, Indecopi issued the Notification Thresholds Calculation Guidelines to explain the elements that should be considered to conduct the notification thresholds calculation, using examples and graphics that intend to provide the economic agents with clarity and legal certainty.

Likewise, other Guidelines are being elaborated with the support of international entities to better guide the undertakings involved in the procedure.

(iii) Implementation of communication channels to answer queries from economic agents

A telephone number and an e-mail address have been set up to help answer the questions from the economic agents.

In addition, according to the Law 31112, a period of "prior consultation" has been established, through which economic agents may approach to Indecopi in order to ask some questions that they may have regarding the pre-merger control regimen or a specific transaction. To date, Indecopi has responded to more than 50 queries.

⁶ Since 1997, Peru had a merger control exclusively for the electric sector, regulated by Law 26876 – Electricity Sector Anti-monopoly and Anti-Oligopolistic Law and by its regulation approved by Supreme Decrees 017-98-ITINCI and 087-2002-EF. The Law 31112 derogated these provisions and established a merger control regime that applies across all the economic sectors.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: <i>insert descriptive title of Key Initiative.</i> <i>Issuance of relevant guidelines on Pre-Merger Notification in order to facilitate the comprehension and ongoing merger procedures for creating an enabling environment for open and competitive markets.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. As mentioned above, on 1 June 2021, Indecopi issued the Notification Thresholds Calculation Guidelines. We consider that the issuance of guidelines is an important tool in order to provide the economic agents clarity and legal certainty on the steps in the merger control procedure. For this reason, in the following months, and with the support of international entities, Indecopi will issue relevant documents to guide the undertakings involved in the procedure.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies As it is known, Competition Policy involves three main branches: Anticompetitive conduct, advocacies and pre-merger control regime. So, the issuance of guidelines is related to Competition Policy and Law.
Activities and Timelines	In the following two years, Indecopi scheduled the following two activities: • The issuance of the guidelines for assessing the pre-merger control. • The issuance of a guide to know the pre-merger control procedure steps.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Not applicable
	Quantitative: In 2021, the Peruvian Competition agency only decided two pre-merger control cases. This situation could be affected by the Covid-19. So, we expect to receive more notifications in the following years. In this sense, the issuance of guidelines is relevant to clarify to the undertakings the rules and steps of the proceedings that are applicable.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Not applicable.

Key Initiative: Mandatory implementation of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in Executive Power entities <i>Reforms to design quality regulations, decrease regulatory and cost burden for business in Executive Power entities</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. According to the Nacional Competitiveness and Productivity Policy (Supreme Decree 345-2018-EF), a competitive economy is characterized as having an environment for doing business that encourages the growth of the productivity of companies and, at the same time, allows the efficient allocation of resources in the economy. The business environment can be defined as the set of market, institutional, regulatory factors, among others, that shape opportunities and incentives for companies to invest, create jobs and expand their operations. As a result, in April 2021, the Peruvian Government issued the Supreme Decree N° 063-2021-PCM, which establishes the bases for improving regulatory quality aimed, among other aspects, at promoting free and fair competition in the markets, encouraging innovation, business development and business.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The evidence shows that there is a positive relationship between high-quality regulation and investment development at the macroeconomic level, competitiveness and economic growth. In that context, since 2017, the Peruvian Government has been carrying out various initiatives to introduce the best practices in normative production, based on the principles of necessity, effectiveness and efficiency. In this process, the Supreme Decree N° 063-2021-PCM was approved in order to avoid imposing barriers to entrepreneurship and business sustainability, attracting investment, improving competition and competitiveness, and even for the guarantee of fundamental rights. In essence, the Supreme Decree addresses the regulatory cycle as a systematic, dynamic and complete process that includes the design, development, approval, implementation, compliance, monitoring, evaluation and improvement of regulation based on evidence. The assessment is in charge of the Multisectoral Commission on Regulatory Quality made up of a representative of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. However, the implementation of RIA is progressive, thus it is necessary to develop a series of activities in order to achieve a high-quality regulation.
Activities and Timelines	To achieve with the initiative, the following actions for sensitization and diffusion will be applied: • Diffusion and presentation of the improvement regulatory quality regulation and guidelines for Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) through different digital media.

	• Online conferences for the diffusion and of difference instruments for improving regulatory quality. • Presentations and talks to increase awareness of the importance of RIA and other instruments for the improving regulatory quality. In addition, it is planned to strengthen capacities of executive entities through the following activities: • A workshop in RIA intend for technician specialized groups of the Multisectoral Commission on Regulatory Quality • A workshop about policy problems and identification of objectives, metrics, and indicators, and monitoring intend for technician specialized groups of the Multisectoral Commission on Regulatory Quality • A workshop in RIA and other instruments for the improving regulatory quality intend for executive entities. • A workshop for strengthen soft skills within the RIA framework, intend for executive entities. Moreover, it is planned to provide technical assistance through the following actions: • Meetings or personalized workshop at the request of executive entities in topics related to RIA or other instruments for the improving regulatory quality. • Technical guidance to executive entities in the application of instruments for the progressive implementation of RIA. • Document elaboration of good practices, possible difficulties, or limitations in the application of RIA, guidelines, frequent questions and other complementary documents or presentations that contribute to the correct application of RIA.
Measures of progress	The purpose of the indicator is to monitor the progressive application of RIA in the executive entities. (Number of Executive Entities that apply Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis in their norms according to Supreme Decree 063-2021-PCM)/ (Number of executive entities that must apply Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis in their norms according to Supreme Decree 063-2021-PCM.) Baseline: Until July 2022, none of executive entities have the obligation to apply the Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis. Although, some entities have been applying this process voluntarily, we consider as a baseline that zero entities apply Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis.
APEC cross-fora alignment	Not applicable.

THE PHILIPPINES

1. Introduction

The Philippines' development agenda is guided by *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, a vision that reflects the Filipino people's collective aspiration to become prosperous and to end extreme poverty by 2040. The Philippines was on track to becoming an upper middle-income economy, driven by prudent macroeconomic management and the pursuit of long-standing structural reforms. These reforms included a series of tax reforms that increased income and funded more social services and infrastructure, the enactment of an ease of doing business law, the universal healthcare program, and the national identification program.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 temporarily halted the economy's progress because of its stringent and widespread quarantines that severely affected key economic sectors as well as people's incomes and jobs. As the Philippines began coping with the virus beginning in the fourth quarter of 2020, it gradually relaxed restrictions and was able to manage the risks better. By the first half of 2021, quarantine impositions became more targeted at areas with highest risks and the inoculation drive was pursued relentlessly. This resulted in more effective and efficient delivery of social protection programs and allowed more businesses to operate and more Filipinos to resume work.

Overall, the careful balancing between COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 needs led to the continued expansion of most sectors. The Philippine economy grew by 7.1 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2021. This is up from the -11.6 percent in the same period in 2020 and is among the highest third quarter growths in the ASEAN and East Asian region. On a seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter basis, the economy expanded by 3.8 percent.

Amidst the pandemic, the government accelerated the implementation of the Philippine Identification System, which will provide a unique and digitalized proof of identity to give each Filipino access to social, financial and digital services. It also pursued the formulation of the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production, which will address the increasing pressure on the environment and natural resources due to continued adherence to minimum health standards and generation of new types of waste materials brought by digitalization and e-commerce.

Beginning in 2022 and towards the culmination of the EAASR in 2025, the Philippines will undertake other structural reforms to support continuous recovery, build resilience against future shocks, create more development opportunities, and promote the participation of wider segments of society in the market. It will pursue innovation and technology to solidify the economy's growth prospects and adequately respond to the demands of the new normal and the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It will pursue initiatives that will strengthen human capital and sustain efforts to provide greater access to basic services and infrastructure. The Philippines will likewise pursue actions that will allow the economy to grow and develop without jeopardizing the environment and natural resources.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Inclusive Innovation Industrial Strategy (i³S) <i>The i³S supports the growth of manufacturing, agriculture and services industries through (1) building an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem that will help in forming new industry clusters; (2) removing obstacles to growth that will allow the Philippines to attract more investments; (3) strengthening domestic supply chains to encourage inclusivity and promote self-sufficiency; and (4) deepening the participation of the industries in global and regional value chains to maximize economic benefits.</i>					
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.				
	The i³S aims to make globally competitive and innovative industries grow and at the same time, strengthen linkages in domestic and global value chains. It takes into account the challenges and opportunities confronting the economy by reason of rapid technological changes under the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By putting innovation in front and center of the economy’s industrial strategies, Philippine industries will be in a better position to face competition in both domestic and global markets.				
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reform ☒ Supporting policies				
	The i³S has five pillars, one of which is Enabling Economic Environment. This pillar aims to enhance ease of doing business and improve infrastructure in the economy. The underlying principle of i³S is based on the relationship between and among competition, innovation and productivity. More competition leads to increased innovation, which in turn, leads to higher productivity. Higher productivity yields more competition and innovation. This relationship is bi-directional. With the Philippine Innovation Act in place, government agencies are expected to work together and coordinate closely with the academe, industry and other stakeholders. This is to ensure the adoption of a whole-of-society approach in addressing the highly fragmented innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the economy. Further, the i³S promotes the adoption and increased utilization by enterprises of innovation and digital technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This entails the provision of needed support programs and incentives (fiscal and non-fiscal) to foster the digital transformation of industries.				
Activities and Timelines					
	<table><tr><th>Timelines</th><th>Activities</th></tr><tr><td>To be determined</td><td> • Industry 4.0 Roadmaps, including National AI Strategy Roadmap • Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs) Initiative • Smart Industry Readiness Index (SIRI) for Philippine enterprises • Philippine Skills Framework (PSF) Initiative • Start-up Development Program </td></tr></table>	Timelines	Activities	To be determined	• Industry 4.0 Roadmaps, including National AI Strategy Roadmap • Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs) Initiative • Smart Industry Readiness Index (SIRI) for Philippine enterprises • Philippine Skills Framework (PSF) Initiative • Start-up Development Program
Timelines	Activities				
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Measures of progress	Qualitative: N/A
	Quantitative: 1. No. of Roadmaps and recommendations implemented 2. No. of RIICs established and partnerships initiated 3. No. of MSMLEs undergoing SIRI assessment 4. No. of PSF formulated 5. No. of start-ups assisted
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

Key Initiative: Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) <i>The PAP4SCP provides a blueprint for a more cohesive implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the Philippines. It will serve as the guiding framework to influence and steer sustainable practices and behavior across sectors and levels of government by implementing programmatic policy reforms and interventions over the short- (2022-2023), medium- (2023-2030), and long-term (2030-2040).</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The PAP4SCP aims to have more Filipino consumers and producers prefer green goods and services. This is to accelerate the shift towards sustainable and climate-smart practices and lifestyles consistent with the Philippines' long-term vision, <i>Ambisyon Natin 2040</i>. The PAP4SCP puts forward key actions and policy reforms that internalize/integrate the negative externalities or the social and environmental impacts of economic activities in the market system and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation (i.e., economic growth need not always entail a considerable cost to the environment). It will pursue enabling mechanisms that facilitate green recovery and drive resilient and inclusive economic growth. These mechanisms include fostering resilient value chains and supporting the creation of new and sustainable economic opportunities, including interventions for just transition and skills retooling for green jobs development. The PAP4SCP has the following thrusts that are aligned with the EAASR: 1. Institutionalization of natural capital accounting. The Philippines' traditional economic models often put enormous pressure on the environment and natural resources due to lack or limited accounting of natural capital and its essential contribution to our socioeconomic development. Currently, the economy is working on the finalization and eventual implementation of the Natural Capital Accounting Roadmap. This roadmap will guide the programmatic updating and scaling-up of the ecosystem and asset accounts and the estimation of adjusted macroeconomic indicators to guide policy and decision making. 2. Determination of ecological limits and negative externalities in development activities. The economy is pursuing assessments of the carrying capacity in key tourism destinations (e.g., Boracay Island, Baguio City, and Tagaytay City) to determine the ecological thresholds of the economy's development activities. This assessment will ensure that these activities are implemented sustainably. Relatedly, the economy commenced the development of a manual that will guide stakeholders in undertaking urban carrying capacity assessments. 3. Increase in innovation and investment in the development of green technologies and systems/practices. Green technologies and systems/practices cover technologies that will improve resource-use efficiency and move towards zero-waste through circular economy approaches (e.g., alternative delivery systems, including refilling

	dispensers for shampoo, lotion; urban mining of gold/silver from digital devices to produce new products). 4. Establishment of means for sustainable allocation of natural resources and equitable sharing of benefits derived from these resources. The thrust covers methodology and criteria to determine the best use and sustainable allocation of natural resources given the current and projected per capita natural resource requirements. It also covers the adoption of market-based instruments to support the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., environmental user fees, payment for ecosystem services), among others.						
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The PAP4SCP will strategically and programmatically build on and scale-up the existing patches of initiatives on SCP and circular economy in the economy, from the government and private sectors. The PAP4SCP was formulated using a participatory and consultative process to ensure a whole-of-society approach in delivering reforms across sectors of society and levels of government through the following: 1. Conducting more life cycle assessments of products; 2. Further strengthening waste management and recycling capacities towards zero waste; 3. Implementing <i>choice-editing</i> (e.g., regulating single-use plastics, and unsustainable packaging) and <i>choice-influencing</i> (e.g., establishment of sustainable mobility solutions) strategies; and 4. Enacting policies on extended producer responsibility, electronic and food waste management, and sustainable public procurement.						
Activities and Timelines	The actions under the PAP4SCP are programmed over the short- (2022-2023), medium- (2024-2030), and long-term (2031-2040). The actions are categorized into the following nodes: (1) policy and regulation; (2) research and development, innovation, and technology; (3) infrastructure; and (4) promotion and education. These nodes are interlinked such that policy reforms facilitate research and development and technological innovations as well as infrastructure-related interventions, among others. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Timelines</th><th>Activities</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2022</td><td>Approval and roll-out of the PAP4SCP</td></tr> <tr> <td>2022 to 2023</td><td> Implementation of the following actions that will lay down the foundation of a more cohesive and accelerated SCP: • Institutionalization of natural capital accounting to enable comprehensive measurement and accounting of the value of the country's natural resources; • Assessment of carrying and assimilating capacity of priority areas to determine ecological limits towards effective management of the environment and natural resources; • Conduct of life cycle analyses to determine the environmental impacts of products over their life cycle, facilitating the shift to more resource-efficient technologies and processes; • Strengthening of the National Ecolabelling Program (NELP) and other green certification schemes to increase preference for green/sustainable products and services; • Implementation of choice-editing (e.g., regulating single-use plastics, and unsustainable packaging) and choice-influencing </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Timelines	Activities	2022	Approval and roll-out of the PAP4SCP	2022 to 2023	Implementation of the following actions that will lay down the foundation of a more cohesive and accelerated SCP: • Institutionalization of natural capital accounting to enable comprehensive measurement and accounting of the value of the country's natural resources; • Assessment of carrying and assimilating capacity of priority areas to determine ecological limits towards effective management of the environment and natural resources; • Conduct of life cycle analyses to determine the environmental impacts of products over their life cycle, facilitating the shift to more resource-efficient technologies and processes; • Strengthening of the National Ecolabelling Program (NELP) and other green certification schemes to increase preference for green/sustainable products and services; • Implementation of choice-editing (e.g., regulating single-use plastics, and unsustainable packaging) and choice-influencing
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		(e.g., establishment of sustainable mobility solutions and active transport) strategies to steer behavioral change; • Development and adoption of green technologies and business models to improve resource efficiency and transform waste/residuals into other usable products; • Review and amendment of existing laws (e.g., Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act) and enactment of new policies (e.g., food waste management, e-waste management, extended producer responsibility, green/sustainable public procurement) to promote SCP and circular economy approaches; and • Integration of SCP in formal and informal education curricula and information and education (IEC) campaigns.
	2024 to 2031	Continued implementation of the short-term actions and provide opportunities for replication and scaling up following a pragmatic approach for the PAP4SCP's implementation
	2030 to 2040	Economy-wide and broad-based SCP implementation in the Philippines through: • Upgrading of green infrastructure; • Updating of carrying capacity studies across ecosystems, and life cycle assessments of major products; • Mass producing of green technologies; and • Impact evaluation of the economy's SCP policies and actions to inform enhancement or guide recalibration and strengthening of SCP-related interventions.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: 1. Multi-stakeholder participation and commitment to ensure effective and timely implementation of the identified actions 2. Mainstreaming of priority SCP actions across sectors and governance through relevant sectoral policies, plans, programs, projects, including budgets	
	Quantitative: The monitoring and evaluation framework for the PAP4SCP, with quantitative targets, will be developed after rollout of the PAP4SCP.	
APEC cross-fora alignment	The PAP4SCP is aligned with the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, as well as APEC's (1) sustainable development agenda (e.g., Framework of Principles for Integrating Economy and Development in APEC, Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment, the APEC Sustainable Cities Program of Action, and the APEC Cleaner Production Strategy), and (2) projects covering ecolabeling and other corporate social responsibility initiatives.	

Key Initiative: Implementation of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys)

Enacted on 6 August 2018, Republic Act 11055 or the Philippine Identification System Act (PhilSys Act) aims to provide all citizens with a national ID. The national ID serves as the central socioeconomic platform through which all transactions, including public and private services, can be availed. Ultimately, the PhilSys will empower Filipino citizens and resident aliens to better access public services.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR

- ☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets.
- ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks.
- ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being.
- ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

Providing a valid proof of identity to all citizens and resident aliens as well as enabling digital authentication will facilitate greater trust in government transactions:

	1. The government will be able to effectively identify, target, and authenticate beneficiaries through the national ID system or PhilSys. By providing reliable, secure, and efficient identity authentication services (e.g., Know Your Customer or KYC), the PhilSys allows government and businesses to shift to paperless, automated, and online transactions. Digital tools/platforms simplify transactions and reduce costs and processing time. 2. Full establishment of a complete PhilSys is one of the critical infrastructures needed to realize a digital and citizen-centric service delivery by the government and the private sector. This is envisioned to have interoperability with other government and private databases for faster and more efficient authentication.																								
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies By using modern technologies, the PhilSys will advance the efficiency and quality of public service delivery. This is essential when promoting citizen trust and satisfaction towards the public sector. Moreover, government agencies including businesses and other financial institutions may utilize the available authentication services of the PhilSys. This will simplify transactions and reduce unnecessary processes and costs, which may eventually contribute to easier means of doing business in the Philippines.																								
Activities and Timelines	Planned activities of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - PhilSys Registry Office (PRO) as per planning activities held in 2021: <table> <tr> <th>Timelines</th><th>Activities</th></tr> <tr> <td>January to December 2022</td><td> Registration of remaining population Personalization, fulfilment, and distribution of 37 million Phil IDs Onboarding of other relying parties </td></tr> <tr> <td>1 March 2022</td><td>Go-live of Trusted Service Provider</td></tr> <tr> <td>April to December 2022</td><td>Rollout of the PhilSys Authentication Services in all Civil Registration Services outlets (full launch)</td></tr> <tr> <td>May to December 2022</td><td>Roll out of use case 2: DSWD adoption of PhilSys for the identification and verification of beneficiaries for social welfare programs</td></tr> <tr> <td>31 May 2022</td><td>Go-live of Network Operations Center and Security Operations Center</td></tr> <tr> <td>June 2022</td><td>Launch of mobile application</td></tr> <tr> <td>June to December 2022</td><td>Registration of special groups</td></tr> <tr> <td>July to December 2022</td><td>Facilitation of procurement for the validation of the authenticity of submitted proof of identity from registration as approved by the National Privacy Commission</td></tr> <tr> <td>September to December 2022</td><td>Registration of 11 million children below five years old</td></tr> <tr> <td>October to December 2022</td><td> Establishment and operationalization of additional fixed registration centers (FRCs) providing the full services for national ID Registration of resident aliens </td></tr> <tr> <td>December 2022</td><td>Pilot registration of Overseas Filipinos</td></tr> </table>	Timelines	Activities	January to December 2022	Registration of remaining population Personalization, fulfilment, and distribution of 37 million Phil IDs Onboarding of other relying parties	1 March 2022	Go-live of Trusted Service Provider	April to December 2022	Rollout of the PhilSys Authentication Services in all Civil Registration Services outlets (full launch)	May to December 2022	Roll out of use case 2: DSWD adoption of PhilSys for the identification and verification of beneficiaries for social welfare programs	31 May 2022	Go-live of Network Operations Center and Security Operations Center	June 2022	Launch of mobile application	June to December 2022	Registration of special groups	July to December 2022	Facilitation of procurement for the validation of the authenticity of submitted proof of identity from registration as approved by the National Privacy Commission	September to December 2022	Registration of 11 million children below five years old	October to December 2022	Establishment and operationalization of additional fixed registration centers (FRCs) providing the full services for national ID Registration of resident aliens	December 2022	Pilot registration of Overseas Filipinos
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Measures of progress	Measures to determine progress in the implementation of PhilSys cover the four purposes of the initiative: - Inclusive coverage and accessibility of the PhilSys; - Trust in the PhilSys and protection of people's data and rights; - Reliable, secure, efficient, and enabling authentication services; and - A robust and sustainable PhilSys. The major qualitative and quantitative indicators are listed below. Baseline data is not yet available as the baseline study is part of the initiative. Qualitative: - ISO (27001 OR 27701) certification attained/sustained. – This is scheduled for 2023. - PhilSys/ National ID Implementation Maturity Level attained/sustained. – The components of each level will be finalized during the PhilSys five-year strategic planning. <i>Source of information/ data:</i> - Administrative/ office report - Monitoring and evaluation study report Quantitative: - Percentage of registered in PhilSys increased – cumulative, disaggregated by: - Filipino citizens - Resident aliens - Overseas Filipinos <i>Items (a) and (b) depend on the availability of the system in 2022.</i> - Percentage of registered Filipinos who have received/accessed their national IDs - Percentage of registration rate among women, children, and senior citizens increased (cumulative) - Percentage of positive messaging of third-party media coverage increased - Percentage in the number of complaints and negative feedbacks decreased - Share of social and financial services accessed by the vulnerable sector through the national ID (% , cumulative) Development of the systems related to the following indicators will be in 2022 and it may be in pilot launch within the same year. Data gathering of full launch is estimated to start in 2023. - Number of days of zero security-related incidents maintained - Average authentication response time against PhilSys registry - Percentage of uptime and availability of PhilSys services (registration, authentication, data center, web portal)				

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

	Output level indicators 1. At least one permanent PhilSys Registration Center in strategic locations in all provinces 2. Number of FRCs established 3. Number of relying parties on boarded 4. Percentage of registered Filipinos with request for updating fulfilled Source of information/ data: • Baseline study report • Monitoring and evaluation study report
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

Key Initiative: Institutionalization of the Social Protection Floor (SPF) <i>The SPF is a centrally defined set of basic social security guarantees that should ensure availability and access to social protection throughout the lives of all Filipinos.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The SPF ensures access of Filipinos to essential healthcare and basic income security programs. It will first cover the unprotected, the poor and the most vulnerable, including the workers in the informal economy. It will subsequently be expanded to cover all members of society, regardless of socio-economic status. The SPF is a cross-cutting strategy of the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, which recognizes the transformative role of social protection programs for all Filipinos. The adoption and institutionalization of SPF is also a major strategy outlined in the Social Protection Plan (2020-2022) and a key element of the Revised Social Protection Operational Framework adopted in 2019. Further, the SPF is identified in the We Recover as One Report as a mechanism to institutionalize programs during crises and pandemics. In 2014, the Assessment-Based National Dialogue (ABND) was initiated to report an inventory of current social protection programs in the economy. Several sectoral consultations economy-wide were conducted to finalize the SPF ABND matrix, which contains assessment and recommendations towards having a floor. Taking off from the result of the ABND, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will pursue the institutionalization of SPF to build a more comprehensive and inclusive social protection system that prioritizes the vulnerable population, especially during crises. The key recommendations of the proposed SPF, covering basic social security guarantees, are as follows: 1. SPF for Health Care • Ensure appropriate budget for the full implementation of the Universal Health Care Act to assure adequate and accessible health services 2. SPF for Children • Include nutrition programs under the 4Ps program • Fully implement feeding programs (i.e., supplementary and school-based feeding programs)

	• Address teenage pregnancy through SP program for teenage mothers and their children, and intensify comprehensive sexuality education • Implement program for children in need of special protection (e.g., social protection for abandoned children, mental health support and healthcare) • Address child labor • Empower children and youth through awareness campaign on participatory governance, anti-bullying/anti-discriminatory behaviour, financial literacy, coping and managing disasters, among others <u>Long-term recommendations</u> • Provide progressive coverage of 4Ps to all qualified children (beyond the 3-child limit) in the household • Extend School-Based Feeding Program to full 209 school days • Provide quality education for all through: (a) Innovative teaching methods (pedagogical education), (b) Community learning hubs, and (c) Laboratory schools Provide allowance to foster family taking in abandoned children 3. Basic Income Security for Persons in Active Age • Strengthen micro-insurance enrolment of small livelihoods • Integrate agricultural crop insurance as a built-in safety net for farmers • Consider automatic coverage of temporary public sector workers to social insurance • Institutionalize an enhanced unemployment insurance scheme linked with active labor market programs (e.g., job coaching, trainings) • Implement programs enhancing emergency employment and promoting financial literacy/savings mobilization • Adopt framework for government livelihood programs • Designate service desks for employee's compensation claims • Improve programs for OFWs and their dependents (e.g., expanded OWWA services, better payment options) <u>Long-term recommendations</u> • Provide subsidy for insurance premiums of workers in the informal sector; • Implement a guarantee employment scheme for 60 or 100 days for low-skilled unemployed and underemployed persons • Institutionalize a return-to-work program for persons with work-related disabilities • Establish a worker's rehabilitation center 4. SPF for Older Persons • Ensure social pension to indigent senior citizens • Provide discounts, integrated health service, and life-long learning opportunities; • Institute older-persons-friendly policies (e.g., pabili system, special hours dedicated for purchase of essentials) • Implement emergency calamity programs for old-age pensioners (e.g., cash advance payment of pension, and moratorium on loan payments). <u>Long-term recommendations</u> • Expand grant of discounts to senior citizens • Allow emergency cash transfer to pensioners during emergencies • Pursue progressive realization of universal social pension
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business

Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The SPF will serve as a mechanism to progressively realize provision of social protection programs to prioritized/targeted sectors towards universal provision.						
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Measures of progress	Qualitative: <u>Towards institutionalization of the SPF</u> - Participation of all stakeholders in the drafting of the ABND Country Report - Conduct of stakeholder consultations to inform and finalize the SPF recommendations - Issuance of the NEDA Social Development Committee Resolution to institutionalize the SPF - Support of policymakers and/or legislators - Development and institutionalization of the SPF <u>Impact of the Social Protection Floor</u> - Improvement in well-being of Filipinos - Reduction in vulnerabilities of Filipinos - Improvement in resiliency of Filipinos to manage and overcome shocks Quantitative: <u>Impact of the Social Protection Floor</u> - Access of Filipinos to social protection programs - Poverty incidence						
APEC cross-fora alignment	2017 Leaders Declaration on APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region.⁷ – The establishment and institutionalization of an SPF supports the 2017 Leaders Declaration on APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region.⁸ One of the priority areas of work identified in the declaration on social inclusion is the promotion of Social Protection Floors as stated in the ILO Recommendation 202.						

⁷ APEC. 2017 Leaders Declaration. Annex A: APEC Action Agenda on Advancing Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region <https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/2017/2017_aelm/Annex-A>

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Key Initiative: NEHEMIA Program – Measures for Telecommunications Sector <i>The NEHEMIA Program (National Effort for the Harmonization of Efficient Measures of Inter-related Agencies) aims to streamline requirements and procedures in the government by 52 percent within 52 weeks in identified priority sectors. For the telecommunications (telco) sector, the program aims to decrease the number of steps, procedures, and requirements for the deployment of critical Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure, particularly the construction or installation of additional cell towers, equipment, software, and wireless technologies, to facilitate ease in the delivery of ICT services throughout the economy.</i>						
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The NEHEMIA Program entails regulatory reform and streamlining of government processes to create an enabling environment that facilitates the entry of new players and investments, and allows growth of businesses. The program promotes digitization and automation in the government for more efficient delivery of public services. It likewise promotes innovation that entails not only the upgrading of technologies, but also the improvement of products and services.					
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies By eliminating unnecessary regulatory burden in the telco sector, especially in the construction and installation of ICT infrastructure, the program will make it easier for firms to do business and operate in the market. The efforts on regulatory reform and streamlining of government processes will build the trust and confidence of telco players and citizens in the government. This, in turn, will support the government’s goals, among others, of increasing the number of telco providers to facilitate greater access to ICT especially in far-flung areas within the economy.					
Activities and Timelines	<table><tr><th>Timelines</th><th>Activities</th></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td> - Hiring of consultant/s for the conduct of Business Process Analysis and formulation of recommendations to improve the regulatory environment of the telco sector - Creation and printing of information and education campaign (IEC) Materials – <i>Quarter 1 to Quarter 2</i> - Checkpoint meeting with public and private stakeholders – <i>Quarter 1</i> - Crafting of supplementary guidelines to Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1 s. 2021 on poles, fiber ducts, cable laying – <i>Quarter 1 to Quarter 2</i> - Publication in a newspaper of general circulation of supplementary guidelines – <i>Quarter 3</i> - Rollout of supplementary guidelines among private stakeholders and local government units – <i>Quarter 3 to Quarter 4</i> </td></tr></table>		Timelines	Activities	2022	- Hiring of consultant/s for the conduct of Business Process Analysis and formulation of recommendations to improve the regulatory environment of the telco sector - Creation and printing of information and education campaign (IEC) Materials – <i>Quarter 1 to Quarter 2</i> - Checkpoint meeting with public and private stakeholders – <i>Quarter 1</i> - Crafting of supplementary guidelines to Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1 s. 2021 on poles, fiber ducts, cable laying – <i>Quarter 1 to Quarter 2</i> - Publication in a newspaper of general circulation of supplementary guidelines – <i>Quarter 3</i> - Rollout of supplementary guidelines among private stakeholders and local government units – <i>Quarter 3 to Quarter 4</i>
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EAASR: Individual Action Plans

		Review of issued JMCs before the expiration of Bayanihan to Recover As One Act – <i>Quarter 4</i>
Measures of progress	Qualitative: 1. Supplementary guidelines to JMC No. 1 s. 2021 on poles, fiber ducts, cable laying issued (through JMC or other appropriate policy instrument) 2. IEC materials for the dissemination of issuances produced 3. Meetings with government agencies and private stakeholders conducted 4. Study on the regulatory environment of the telco sector conducted	
	Quantitative: 1. Percentage (%) reduction in process (steps) 2. Percentage (%) reduction in processing time 3. Percentage (%) reduction of requirements	
APEC cross-fora alignment	<i>Not applicable</i>	

RUSSIA

1. Introduction

Russia's target rate of annual 3–3.5 percent economic growth is to be backed up with sustainable and balanced economic policies.

The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated problems that existed prior to it, as well as posed new challenges, including: risks for global macro-stability, post-pandemic shifts in demand structures and business organization, technological challenges, and a growing trend towards economic regionalization. Not to mention climate change. All in all these factors increase uncertainty of the development trajectory for Russia. This is why the economy faces the task of not only achieving anticipated growth rates, but also ensuring resilience towards external shocks and the economy's adaptability to forthcoming changes. It is the increase in the economic system's flexibility that may help minimize the scope of deviations from the target course.

In the medium term, key directions of Russia's economic policy will include:

- provision of effective employment and increase in incomes (especially in regard to labor compensation and entrepreneurial income due to development of MSMEs, individual entrepreneurship and self-employment) – which requires a more flexible labor market, upskilling of staff with a view to new work requirements, and active economic participation)
- launch of investment cycle with the focus on private investments, while public investments will build infrastructure for attracting private investments and improving quality of life
- stimulation of technological development including through a favorable regulatory environment, integration of science, education and businesses
- unleashing export potential of the economy
- implementation of climate policies
- increase in the economy's transport connectivity
- territorial development providing for bridging gaps in diverse regions' quality of life with preservation of stimuli for development of most developed regions
- development of human capital through increase in quality and access of medical, educational and other services – with wider application of emerging technologies
- maintenance of macro-stability as the precursor of long-term growth.

As a result of comprehensive implementation of the abovementioned policies, the economy is expected to achieve target growth rates. Meanwhile, the economy has to deal with changes in economic structure and employment structure of the population, embracing: intensive development and as a result increase in the share of high technology and service sectors of the economy, within these sectors – increase in the share of highly paid job positions. Structural changes are expected to take place after the five-year period as well.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Development of regulatory impact assessment tools and reducing the administrative burden	
<i>Regulatory impact assessment is a systemic approach to identify and assess potential benefits, costs and effects of proposed and existing regulations. The procedure involves a range of special analytical methods, already introduced by Russia, but still having the room for optimization. An important element of RIA is holding public consultations with stakeholders, which allows positions of the latter to be identified and makes the process of reviewing draft regulatory legal acts transparent.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The structural reform helps ensure transparency and necessary competition conditions in development of projects, including those with participation of the government. It is aimed at assessment of the impact of regulation on the business climate and investment attractiveness, as well as market structure.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The objects of RIA and ex-post evaluation are regulation proposals and regulations respectively. The mechanism reduces the risks associated with the operation of new regulations.
Activities and Timelines	- Extension of the subject area of regulatory impact assessment procedures - Optimization of RIA mechanisms at different stages - Implementation of the «regulatory guillotine» mechanism - Implementation of ex post evaluation
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - mandatory requirements systematised and updated - unreasonable duties, prohibitions and restrictions eliminated Quantitative: - number of draft regulatory legal acts (DRLA) under consideration within the framework of the RIA procedure - time for public discussion of the text of DRLA
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative resonates with activities held in CTI, SMEWG, and DESG.

Key Initiative: National Competition Development Plan 2021-2025 <i>The National Plan intends to ensure favourable conditions for competition of economic entities, stimulating increase in effectiveness and competitiveness of the Russian economy, modernisation of enterprises and provision of citizens' needs for goods and services in an economically efficient manner.</i> <i>Among the priority areas for the development of competition defined in the document are the agro-industrial complex, information technology, energy, solid waste management, natural resources, construction, transport, education, healthcare, financial markets, trade and others.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The measures laid down in the new document are aimed at solving the main systematic and industry problems, creating favourable conditions for running private business, eliminating administrative barriers and distortions of the competitive environment.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The essence of the initiative and its object is the competition policy of Russia.
Activities and Timelines	Terms of realisation: 02.09.2021 – 31.12.2025 The initiative embraces 14 key directions of action, including: - development of fair competition in product markets; - development of small and medium-sized businesses; - ensuring effective and transparent management of state and municipal property; - digitalization of antimonopoly and tariff regulation. The National Plan proposes 49 concrete actions to be gradually taken by the responsible bodies throughout the term of the initiatives' realisation.
Measures of progress	<u>By 2025</u> Qualitative: - new legislative initiatives elaborated to develop tariff policy - improved effectiveness of antitrust control measures, including amidst the rise of digital markets - system of antitrust and tariff regulation digitalised Quantitative: - number of those employed by MSMEs, including individual entrepreneurs – no less than 25 million people <u>Sectoral targets include:</u> - share of private organizations in the retail markets for drugs and medical devices – at least 70 percent; in the construction sector - at least 91 percent; - number of non-stationary shopping facilities and trading places for them – increased by 10 percent (compared to 2020) - quota for small businesses in tenders for the installation and placement of advertising structures (outdoor advertising) – 20 percent
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative is in line with CPLG activities, and intersects with CTI, SMEWG and DESG work.

Key Initiative: National Project “MSMEs and Support for Individual Entrepreneurship” 2018-2024	
<i>The National Project is aimed at comprehensive support for entrepreneurial activities, including creation of favorable environment for doing business and assistance for MSMEs striving to integrate into global value chains. The structure of the project takes into account the needs of end beneficiaries (businesses) and aims to establish a full-fledged ecosystem for B2G interaction.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The initiative underpins efforts to unleash the potential of MSMEs, including individual entrepreneurs.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative envisages an inclusive approach to enhancing the impact of MSMEs on the Russian economy. Goals set by the government will be supported by measures to expand MSMEs’ access to financial resources, including preferential financing.
Activities and Timelines	Terms of realisation: 01.10.2018 – 31.12.2024 1) support for self-employed - provision of preferential microloans - provision of financial support by the National Guarantee System - provision of consultation services through My Business platform - provision of preferential access to commercial marketplaces 2) pre-acceleration - creation of comfortable taxation conditions for entrepreneurs - reduction and simplification of reporting submitted by MSMEs (tax, financial, statistical and other) - ensuring the possibility of making payments by MSMEs with a commission of no more than 1 percent using the fast payment system - provision of comprehensive financial and guarantee support - provision of a range of services on MSMEs support platform (regional centers My Business) 3) acceleration of MSMEs - provision of comprehensive financial and guarantee support - expansion of access to financing for MSMEs by launching new financial instruments, including those based on crowd-investing and factoring platforms - provision of grants to small innovative entrepreneurship entities in order to create and (or) expand the production of innovative products - provision of a range of services on MSMEs support platform (regional centers My Business) - provision of access for MSMEs to industrial areas and areas / facilities of industrial parks, technoparks - creation of conditions for the participation of MSMEs in competitive procurement - development of a comprehensive system for supporting the exports of MSMEs

	4) MSMEs digital platform - provision of remote access to the generated catalogue of digitized regional services aimed at supporting MSMEs; - creation of a mobile application for accessing the services of the Digital Platform; - creation of favourable conditions for the sale of goods, works (services) with the means of an aggregator of marketplaces on the Digital Platform - optimisation of the process of providing support to MSMEs
Measures of progress	<u>By 2024</u> General - number of those employed by MSMEs, including individual entrepreneurs – no less than 25 million people - share of MSMEs in Russia's GDP – increased by 32.5 percent - share of MSMEs' exports in total volume of non-commodity exports – increased by 10 percent <u>By action area</u> 1) support for self-employed - number of officially self-employed – more than 2 million people - number of officially self-employed who received financial support – more than 240,000 people 2) pre-acceleration - number of entrepreneurs starting their career who received financial support – more than 32,000 people - number of newly launched MSMEs – more than 1 million 3) acceleration of MSMEs - volume of procurement (by large customers) of goods produced by MSMEs – 5 trillion Rubles - volume of consolidated financial support for MSMEs increased 4) MSMEs digital platform - number of services provided by the platform – 25 - number of MSMEs having used the platform – 500,000 - level of satisfaction with the platforms' services – no less than 80 percent
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative resonates with activities held in SMEWG, PPWE, CTI, DESG.

Key Initiative: Low Emissions Development Strategy 2021-2050 <i>The Strategy identifies measures to ensure net emissions reductions up to 70 percent of the 1990 level by 2030, taking into account the maximum possible absorption capacity of forests and other ecosystems, and the need to foster sustainable and balanced socio-economic development of the Russian Federation. It also identifies key action areas and low emissions development measures by 2050 so that by this deadline net emissions reductions achieve up to 20 percent of the 1990 level.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Please briefly describe how the Key Initiative relates to your selection: The primary goal set in the Strategy is to ensure economic growth in the face of the global energy transitions. To achieve this goal Russia will both tackle new challenges and seize new opportunities offered by decarbonization. While there are two scenarios in the Strategy – Business-as-usual and Intensive ones – Russia’s target scenario is the latter.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Strategy is a comprehensive initiative covering several workstreams including elaboration and implementation of more general and sectoral action plans, introduction of new supervision and control institutions, updated mechanisms of interaction with businesses, allocation of additional resources to contribute to emissions reductions and removals by sinks. Meanwhile it sets a goal of balancing between Russia’s international commitments and domestic obligations to citizens and businesses. Undertaken efforts will promote structural economic shifts while maintaining stable GDP growth rates – at least 3 percent per year.
Activities and Timelines	All in all, the Intensive scenario envisaged by the Strategy proposes 14 general measures as well as 11 energy-related, 6 housing-related, 6 transport-related, 9 industry-related, 3 waste management-related, 14 agriculture-related measures. <u>General activities include:</u> - introducing financial and tax policy measures that stimulate reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in the most inefficient carbon intensive sectors of the economy - creation of an economy-wide system to support emissions reductions and sustainable development within the mechanisms provided for in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement - development of the public non-financial business reporting system - increasing energy and environmental efficiency in sectors of the economy - update and maintenance of Best Available Technologies Catalogue - provision of government support in regard to implementation, promotion and scaling of low- and zero-emissions technologies - increasing the share of usage in secondary energy resources, integrating waste in production cycles and in production of goods - setting sectoral targets for the transition to low-emissions development and ensuring their implementation - promoting the use of secondary energy resources in production of goods - changes in tax, customs and budgetary policies, taking into account transition-associated challenges - analysis of the transition’s implications in the implementation of budgetary expenditures and investments;

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	- development of sustainable, including “green” financing - elaboration and adoption of sectoral and regional climate change adaptation plans - support and dissemination of carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - total and sectoral net emissions (by 2030: net emissions reductions up to 70 percent of the 1990 level; by 2050: net emissions reductions up to 20 percent of the 1990 level + not to exceed the EU level of accumulated net emissions in 2021-2050) - volume and efficiency of energy production - energy efficiency indicators in sectors of economy - indicators characterising carbon intensity of economy - volume and efficiency of investments in emissions reduction and removal activities Quantitative: - indicators characterising involvement of sectors and government bodies in implementation of the Strategy
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative resonates with activities held in CTI, EWG, PPSTI, and FMP.

Key Initiative: National Program “Digital Economy” 2018-2024

The economy-wide “National Program Digital Economy of the Russian Federation” is in force until December 2024. The program is financed both through the government and commercial sources of funds. Among the main objectives of the program are (7): removing legal barriers, ensuring information security, developing technologies and creating infrastructure, introducing innovative approaches to public administration, providing the economy with competent specialists and boosting AI technologies.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. As follows from the description above, the essence of the program is enabling smooth digital transformation for all the economic sectors and groups of population.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies While the core structural reforms generally cover the scope of the National Program, divided into 7 federal projects mentioned above, the initiative also embraces “pro-inclusion” structural reforms. In particular, it strives to enhance human capital and ensure better access of population to public services (including education, medicine and other social services) with the digital means. These measures are supported with substantial public investments.
Activities and Timelines	Terms of realisation: 01.10.2018 – 31.12.2024 National goal “Digital transformation”: 2030 1) regulation of the digital environment - creation of a favourable regulatory environment for digital transformation (including regulatory sandboxes) 2) information security

	- strengthening protection of personal data and public information systems - development of domestic information security standards 3) digital technologies - financial support for development of ICTs 4) information infrastructure - provision of access to Internet for socially important entities - provision of access to Internet for remote areas and bridging digital divides - development and application of 5G technologies 5) digital public administration - proactive provision of public e-services - development of digital profiles and digital twins systems 6) human resources for the digital economy - upgrade of education system with digitally oriented programs - provision of life-long upskilling for workers 7) AI technologies - financial support for development of AI technologies - incorporation of AI solutions into public governance
Measures of progress	By 2024: 1) regulation of the digital environment favourable regulatory environment for digital transformation created mechanism of regulatory sandboxes extended 2) information security 400 public information systems tested to resist data leakages and hacking domestic information security standards developed 3) digital technologies 11,100 software products included in the catalogue of Russian software solutions 1,000 IT projects to be realised by start-ups having received government support 4) information infrastructure 100 percent of schools to have Wi-Fi infrastructure; 700,000 teachers to have pads with Russian software; 26,900 areas with 100-500 people living there to have access to Internet 10 million-person cities having access to 5G high quality communication services all over the economy 5) digital public administration 95 percent socially important public services are e-available without the need for physical application Individuals and businesses manage all the relevant (personal or corporate) information via digital 6) human resources for the digital economy 120,000 students to study IT programs free of charge 80,000 teachers at medium and high professional education system to upskill 50,000 civil servants to upskill in the sphere of digital governance 7) AI technologies 1,100 AI start-ups to receive government support 4,600 AI specialists graduated from universities extensive application of AI solutions by individuals, businesses and government bodies
APEC cross-fora alignment	The initiative resonates with activities held in DESG, PPSTI, TELWG, PPWE, HRDWG.

SINGAPORE

1. Introduction

As a small and open economy, Singapore's growth and economic restructuring is anchored on our ability to build a future-ready economy that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive. In tandem with the EAASR pillars, our structural reform efforts are geared towards addressing the challenges and opportunities of the future, with three key elements, viz. (i) identifying opportunities for green growth; (ii) building a knowledge-driven innovation-led economy; and (iii) promoting equal opportunities at the workplace.

1. Identifying opportunities for green growth – In recognition of the growing impetus to undertake concrete environmental action, Singapore launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which is a whole-of-economy movement to advance sustainable development and address climate change.
2. Building a knowledge-driven innovation-led economy – Singapore launched the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025 Plan, which outlines our strategies to develop our capabilities as a digital innovation hub and strengthen the capabilities of our enterprises in the domains of (i) manufacturing, trade and connectivity; (ii) human health and potential; (iii) urban solutions and sustainability; and (iv) the digital economy.
3. Promoting equal opportunities at work – The Singapore Parliament endorsed a White Paper on Singapore Women's Development in April 2022, which among other initiatives, includes action areas on better supporting women in entering, returning to, remaining and progressing at the workplace.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Singapore Green Plan 2030	
<i>Launched in 2021, the Singapore Green Plan 2030 is a whole-of-economy movement to advance sustainable development and tackle climate change. The Green Plan charts ambitious and concrete plans, which will strengthen ongoing efforts towards achieving the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Singapore's commitments under the Paris Agreement.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. On boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks, the Singapore Green Plan has initiatives that are geared towards (i) strengthening sustainability as a new engine for jobs and growth; and (ii) building our climate resilience. On (i), Singapore has plans to boost its capabilities as a centre for green finance and carbon services to facilitate Asia's transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future. On (ii), Singapore will undertake R&D to improve our scientific understanding of sea level rise affecting Singapore and the surrounding region and modelling to assess and manage inland and coastal flood risks holistically. We have a 2030 target to complete the formulation of engineering design and implementation plans for coastal adaptation measures at more vulnerable segments of our coastline. We also have plans to increase solar deployment in Singapore to address solar intermittency, enhance grid resilience and support the transition towards a greener energy mix. In that regard, we have 2030 targets to increase solar energy deployment by five-fold to at least 2 GWp, which can meet around 3 percent of our 2030 projected electricity demand and generate enough electricity to power more than 350,000 households a year (1.5 GWp by 2025, which can meet around 2 percent of our 2025 projected electricity demand and generate enough electricity to power more than 260,000 households a year).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The aforementioned initiatives are not specific to legislative amendments and instead are more geared towards supporting policies that have been undertaken to advance our government's objective of advancing an economy-wide agenda on sustainable development.
Activities and Timelines	There are five key pillars of the Singapore Green Plan, viz. (i) City in Nature; (ii) Energy Reset; (iii) Green Economy; (iv) Resilient Future; and (v) Sustainable Living. More information about the targets underpinning each key pillar can be found here:  Singapore Green Plan 2030 Targets.pdf
Measures of progress	The Singapore Green Plan 2030 comprises a mix of quantitative and qualitative targets, with varying timelines leading up to 2030. The Plan is spearheaded by our Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Sustainability and Environment and Ministry of Trade and Industry, with progress to be tracked by the ministry in charge of the corresponding target(s) under its purview.

APEC cross-fora alignment	
Key Initiative: Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2025 Plan <i>Investment in innovation and enterprise is a key pillar of Singapore's development into a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy and society. The RIE 2025 Plan (2021-2025) is the latest phase in Singapore's research and development strategy. More information can be found in the attached booklet.</i>  RIE 2025 Booklet.pdf	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Research, Innovation and Enterprise are cornerstones of Singapore's broader national strategy to develop a knowledge-based innovation-driven economy and society. Building on the RIE2015 and RIE2020 plans, RIE2025 is centred on developing Singapore's research, innovation and enterprise (RIE) ecosystem to build an innovation-led economy and address strategic imperatives. The three focus areas for RIE 2025 are: (i) expand coverage of our RIE efforts to tackle a broader spectrum of national needs; (ii) enrich our scientific base; and (iii) scale up platforms to drive technology translation and strengthen the innovation capabilities of our enterprises. The RIE coverage was expanded to include areas such as the trade and connectivity sectors, enhancing development of our human potential and meaningful longevity, addressing new challenges in sustainability and resilience, and development of Singapore as a trusted digital innovation hub. To enrich our scientific base, we are implementing various initiatives such as increasing support for investigator-led grants to facilitate the development of bottom-up research ideas, as well as increasing funding for medium-sized grants to bring together capabilities with sufficient scale for impact. We will also scale up our central platforms, such as the Diagnostics Development (DxD) Hub, that serve as nodes to bring together key public and private sector stakeholders to collaborate and cross-pollinate ideas, knowledge, expertise and technology to catalyse value creation. Details can be found in the attached RIE2025 handbook.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The aforementioned initiatives are not specific to legislative amendments and instead are more geared towards supporting policies that have been undertaken to advance our government's objective of developing our economy and address strategic imperatives via our research, innovation and enterprise agenda.
Activities and Timelines	The plan is to sustain investments in RIE activities at about 1 percent of GDP, or S\$25 billion, for 2021 – 2025. RIE 2025 efforts are organised along four domains: (i) Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC); (ii) Human Health and Potential (HHP); (iii) Urban Solutions and Sustainability (USS); and (iv) Smart Nation and Digital

	Economy (SNDE), and supported by three horizontals: Academic Research (AR), Manpower, and Innovation and Enterprise (I&E). Details on the domains and horizontals are enclosed in the attached RIE2025 handbook.
Measures of progress	Progress will be tracked by the National Research Foundation (NRF), a department within the Prime Minister's Office, which sets the national direction for research, innovation and enterprise (RIE) in Singapore. NRF works closely with various stakeholders in this tracking. The annual National Survey of RIE in Singapore also shows our progress via a suite of indicators including manpower, R&D expenditure and innovation and enterprise metrics. Details can be found in the latest version of the survey attached with this document.  astar-national-survey -of-rie-2019-publicati
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: Equal Opportunities in the Workplace as proposed by White Paper on Singapore Women's Development

The White Paper on Singapore Women's Development, unanimously endorsed by the Singapore Parliament in April 2022, is informed by insights gained from the year-long, economy-wide Conversations on Singapore Women's Development held before that. Singaporeans from various walks of life, both women and men, participated in the Conversations to share feedback and aspirations for Singapore women. The action plans in the White Paper will be implemented over a ten-year roadmap, and a mid-point review will be conducted in 2027.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. One of the focus areas of the White Paper on Singapore Women's Development is centred on <i>Equal Opportunities in the Workplace</i>, which proposes actions on better supporting women in entering, returning to, remaining and progressing in the workplace.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Singapore will be enshrining the Tripartite Guidelines on Fair Employment Practices – which require employers to adopt fair and merit-based practices, including with regard to women in the workplace – in law. Singapore will also expand the availability of Flexible Work Arrangements (FWAs) and introduce a new set of Tripartite Guidelines on FWAs by 2024. These Tripartite Guidelines require employees to consider FWA requests from employees fairly and properly.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

Activities and Timelines	Please see above.
Measures of progress	To build up momentum and prepare companies for the Tripartite Guidelines on FWAs, MOM and tripartite partners will boost adoption of the voluntary Tripartite Standard (TS) on FWAs, which sets out best practices for employers to offer and objectively evaluate employees' requests for FWAs. The Ministry of Manpower and Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices (TAFEP) will track and monitor the progress of this action area.
APEC cross-fora alignment	The Key Initiative above is similar to the areas covered under the La Serena Roadmap's key action areas of (i) empowering women through access to capital and markets, (ii) strengthening women's labour force participation, (iii) improving access of women to leadership positions in all levels of decision making and (iv) support women's education, training and skills development and access in a changing world of work.

CHINESE TAIPEI

1. Introduction

The outbreak of COVID-19 has affected economies and societies across the world. Chinese Taipei has made good progress in controlling the pandemic and stabilizing the domestic economy through effective measures and successfully dispelled the myth that there must be a trade-off between pandemic prevention and economic growth. In 2021, Chinese Taipei successfully suppressed the outbreak of COVID-19 and achieved an estimated GDP growth rate over 6 percent.

With the increasing vaccine coverage, there will be a key period for the APEC family to work concertedly in pursuing economic recovery in a resilient, sustainable and inclusive way during the Enhanced APEC Agenda for Structural Reform (EAASR) period. Based on its successful experience in prevention and control of the pandemic, Chinese Taipei's economic leader unveiled in May 2020 that the government will continue promoting the prosperity of Chinese Taipei in the spirit of "achieving growth through stability and seizing opportunity amid changes".

NDC⁹ has been adopting an accommodating approach in terms of soliciting policy reform programs proposed by our government agencies. Participating agencies chose their measurements of progress based upon their expertise in their individual realm of competence over the years. The participating agencies for this EAASR IAP initiative of Chinese Taipei include primarily the Financial Supervisory Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as NDC. The priorities set forth herein are not an exhaustive list of all Chinese Taipei's efforts in implementing reform programs in various administrative realms, our Renewed APEC Agenda for Structural Reform Individual Action Plan (RAASR IAP) is aligned with the Development Plan as well as the overarching policy framework and high-level guidelines—including the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, making contributions to the world with our advanced medical research capacity, and building a more efficient governance system for all citizens.

In the meantime, Chinese Taipei has responded to the APEC Ministers' directive under EAASR instructing member economies to undertake structural reform measures in line with, but not limited to, the following pillars:

- Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets;
- Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks;
- Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being; and
- Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization.

⁹ National Development Council of Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei has been taking a cross-cutting, consultation-based approach to identifying priorities and measuring progress under both its Development Plan and the EAASR IAP as well, so as to reflect the full spectrum of domestic reforms encouraged by EAASR. Therefore, over the next phase of structural reform work of APEC, Chinese Taipei is to take the following reform initiatives for advancing the overarching goals of the EAASR:

- (1) Fostering green finance for sustainable development – Green Finance Action Plan 2.0
- (2) Utilizing digital technologies to facilitate inclusive health promotion – Precision Health Initiative
- (3) Using Online Platform to Expedite the Consultation Process

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: Fostering green finance for sustainable development -- Green Finance Action Plan 2.0 <i>-With regards to financing green economy/tackling climate change risks by financial institutions, the existing challenges in Chinese Taipei are: (1) lack of a clear definition of "green" or "sustainable" economic activities; (2) lack of comparable and consistent ESG disclosure by corporates; (3) lack of climate-related risk management experiences by financial institutions.</i> <i>-To address these challenges, the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) launched the "Green Finance Action Plan 2.0" in August 2020. The aspiration is to wield financial institutions' influence through investing and financing decision-making to guide enterprises to make decarbonisation and sustainability transition plans.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The short-term actions of the Action Plan focus on defining the scope of green or sustainable activities, enhancing disclosure of ESG and climate-related information, and amending relevant rules and regulations to align with international norms. So the short-term objectives are to build a framework and the foundation conducive to the effective operation of green and sustainable finance market, increase information transparency, and channel funds to support green and sustainable development industries. And the medium to long-term objectives are to guide financial markets to address the potential risks of climate change and capitalize on associated opportunities, and furthermore, to build a sustainable finance ecosystem by raising the awareness of businesses and investors to ESG issues through financial mechanisms.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The Action Plan contains measures which aim to encourage financial institutions to grant credit and loans to and invest in green industries and sustainable development projects through incentives and support programs. For example, (1) financial institutions are being encouraged to extend credit to the green industry, and to invest in and extend credit to renewable energy businesses; (2) financial institutions are being encouraged to participate in, sign up for or comply with international initiatives or principles; (3) developing the sustainable bonds market in Chinese Taipei, and (4) financial institutions are being encouraged to develop sustainable finance products, such as green credit cards, ESG funds, and offshore wind insurance.
Activities and Timelines	The Action Plan is promoted through three core strategies, including (1) facilitating effective information disclosure for effective business decision-making; (2) pushing financial institutions to address climate change risks and capitalize on associated opportunities, and (3) using market mechanism to steer the economy toward sustainable development. The Action Plan includes a total of 38 measures that cover the following 8 aspects: credit, investment, capital market fundraising, professional development, promotion of further development of green financial products or services, information disclosure, prudential supervision, international connection and incentive mechanisms. This is a 3-year plan and it will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The FSC has provided incentives and administers supervisory practices as follows: 1. Incorporating the Equator Principles into the Regulations Governing Members' Credit Extension Provided by the Bankers Association.

	- Promoting responsible investment by amending the Stewardship Principles for Institutional Investors and self-regulations for financial institutions. - Establishing the sustainable bond market. - Developing the Sustainability Taxonomy of Chinese Taipei together with the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA). - Encouraging financial institutions with outstanding performance by means of awards and evaluation. For example, the FSC promotes the “Program to encourage domestic banks to provide loans to new key innovative industries,” provides preferential incentives to encourage securities investment trust enterprises (SITEs) to launch or manage ESG related mutual funds, and compiles sustainability related stock indexes. - Urging companies and financial institutions to follow international practices by mandating information disclosure, for example, the ESG reporting and annual reports.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Strengthening disclosure of ESG report by amending related regulations: designated listed companies will be required to prepare ESG reports following recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). The guidance is expected to announce in 2022. Formulating guidance on climate-related risk management and stress-testing for financial institutions: financial institutions will be required to promote climate-related risk management measures using a top-down approach and conduct climate scenario analysis and stress testing. The guidance is expected to be announced in 2022, and the methodology of stress testing are under development. Measures to prevent greenwashing: - The FSC and the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) jointly commissioned a research project to establish the sustainability taxonomy for main investment and financing by domestic financial institutions. The project is expected to finish in the end of 2021. - The FSC announced a disclosure rule and supervisory principles applied for ESG funds in July 2021. Issuers of ESG funds are required to disclose their ESG investment policies with the standardized format. Establishment of an evaluation mechanism: the FSC will conduct a sustainable finance evaluation to measure the performance of financial institutions and encourage financial institutions to promote sustainable finance related business. The project is expected to be announced in 2023. Quantitative: Loans to green industries: as of the end of July 2021, the balance of loans by domestic banks to the green energy technology industry was about NT\$1.32 trillion, up by about NT\$340 billion compared to the end of September 2016. And as of the end of 2020, there had been cases of offshore wind power project financing by domestic banks and life insurance companies, and the amount of financing of offshore wind power that has been signed was about NT\$258.7 billion. Issuance of ESG related bonds: the green bond market was established in 2017 and expanded to sustainable bonds market in April 2021. As of 3 September 2021, there were 69 green bond issuances which had raised a total of NT\$180.9 billion, 6 social bond issuances which had raised a total of NT\$13.2 billion, and 9 sustainability bond issuances which had raised a total of NT\$54.4 billion. Participation status of international initiatives: 10 domestic banks in Chinese Taipei have adopted the Equator Principles, ranked 1st in Asia as of the end of August 2021. Number of listed companies which file an ESG report: listed companies with a paid-in capital of more than NT\$2 billion will be required to prepare and file sustainability reports starting from 2023. As of the end of 2019, 475 listed companies had filed a 2018 ESG report, and it is expected to have more than 659 listed companies subject to file an ESG report since 2023.

APEC cross-fora alignment	Finance Ministers' Process (FMP).
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Key Initiative: Utilizing digital technologies to facilitate inclusive health promotion -- Precision Health Initiative <i>-Envisioning the future in 2030, the Precision Health Initiative (PHI) was formulated based on Chinese Taipei's advantages in ICT, outstanding health insurance system and healthcare quality. PHI aims to promote the development of biotechnology and healthcare with the application of ICTs across different fields. The goal is to strengthen links, establish the precision health industry, and create a world-class precision health care ecosystem.</i> <i>-Broader in scope than precision medicine, precision health includes risk assessment, prevention, and health promotion before the onset of diseases. Precision health also enables precisely disease prediction, prevention, diagnosis and treatment by taking into account individual differences in genetics, the environment, lifestyle, and molecular predisposition for certain disease.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Chinese Taipei is currently promoting the "Precision Health Strategic Industry Development Plan" based on medical devices, pharmaceuticals, health and well-being, and applied biotechnology. Cross-agency collaboration from the Board of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs is used to create a comprehensive precision health ecosystem, cultivate a precision health industry, and link with the international community. These three strategies apply Chinese Taipei's ICT and international advantage in medical care to improve industry development. Big database in healthcare, AI, 5G, IoT, information security, and semiconductor technology are linked together to accelerate the development of new industries such as smart medicine/eHealth, precision medicine, and regenerative medicine and cell therapy. Precision prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care can provide everyone with precision health benefits. Precision epidemic prevention can also protect the public's health.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Facing a society with declining birth rate and aging population, spread of emerging infectious diseases, and global environmental changes, the development of precision health takes technological, economic, social, and environmental aspects into account. Innovation, inclusion, and sustainability are considered as core values to deliver sympathetic, human-centric services as the technology advances. The policies aim to provide healthy life and enhance well-being to people of all ages.
Activities and Timelines	1. Main content: (1)Developing new industries such as smart medicine/eHealth, precision medicine, and regenerative medicine and cell therapy. (2)Utilizing the technologies of precision prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care to benefiting everyone. 2. High level activities: Propose PHI in secondary APEC forum work groups, such as the Investment Experts' Group (IEG) and the Health Working Group (HWG). Share with member economic bodies Chinese Taipei's experience and achievements in promoting precision health. Exchange ideas about precision

	health industry development and innovation. Build a world-class precision health industry ecosystem together in the Asia Pacific region.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Utilizing the technologies of precision prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care to benefit everyone.
	Quantitative: 1. Building a platform for biomedical-friendly data analysis and sharing. 2. Producing precision health solutions for three major diseases important to the public. 3. Building the second biological vaccine production plant/line.
APEC cross-fora alignment	HWG, IEG

Key Initiative: Using Online Platform to Expedite the Consultation Process

-In Chinese Taipei, draft laws and regulations must be published at least 60 days in advance for notice and comment before being promulgated since 2016.

-To improve public services by promoting open government reforms and make the public consultation process more inclusive, transparent and convenient, Join¹⁰, the online public consultation platform provides the people in Chinese Taipei with the open, transparency and trustworthy ways to join the discussion on public affairs and communicate with the government, was established by NDC in 2015 and has improved Chinese Taipei's GRP performance efficiently.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. -To provide an open, transparent and trustworthy mechanism for public and private communication, Chinese Taipei has established the online platform Join to expedite the consultation process, and continue improving the efficiency of public consultation in order to make the mechanism meets people's need in starting/ joining the discussion on public affairs. -Draft laws and regulations must provide at least 60 days in principle for notice and comment before being announced. The competent authorities should respond to the public comments concisely in the 60-day notice-and-comment period, and a comprehensive response should be made within 14 days after the period. -Join is the online public consultation platform for people in Chinese Taipei, and both citizens and foreigners who are interested in certain public affairs issues/policies/ draft laws and regulations could submit their proposals and comments on Join. -When the policy proposals or draft laws/regulations are proposed, stakeholders would be notified proactively by the fan page of Join and NDC through Facebook Notifications, e-mail, ...etc. in order to ensure that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for participating in the rulemaking/ discussing process.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies To improve public services by promoting open government reforms, Join is recognized as the regular and formal channel for people to participate in public affairs. With Join, people could participate in policymaking and rulemaking process online through the four main functions as follows:

¹⁰ <https://join.gov.tw>

	- Let's talk! The policies, draft laws and regulations that are under planning would be published in this section for the public to comment and discuss online. - Let's supervise! This section shows the information of the implementation progress of related policy recommendations since 2018. - Let's propose! The public could submit their policy recommendations online through this section. People who are interested in specific issues could endorse the proposal directly. The threshold of a case that administrative agencies have to respond to is 5,000 registrations of support within 60 days. The related agencies have to deal with the case and the preliminary response should be made in 2 months by line agencies. - Minister's Mailbox This Minister's Mailbox collects the opinions and recommendations from the public directly.
Activities and Timelines	Join is a formal online platform for public consultation in Chinese Taipei, and is being optimized by NDC with its mandate of providing people with a convenient way to participate in the policymaking/ rulemaking process. Two supporting measures are adopted by Join to improve the efficiency of conducting public consultation – PO and PDIS: •Participation Officials' Network (PO) PO plays the key role in Join mechanism. Delegates from 31 ministries in Chinese Taipei comprise the members of PO. The purpose of setting up the PO network is to promote open government reforms and create the trusted and transparent partnership between government and society. By organizing the cross-ministry working meeting, POs could gather the opinion from different aspects and have a joint discussion with stakeholders. The consultation process has therefore been expedited efficiently. Aside from the abovementioned cross-ministry working meeting, the PO organizes the meeting monthly to have a further discussion on the important cases of draft laws and regulations. Several cases would be selected on the meeting and submit to PDIS for consultation. •Public Digital Innovation Space (PDIS) PDIS is a team, a methodology, and a co-working space to help POs deal with some complicated cases on Join. Since most of the cases are related to cross-agency digital services, the premier has authorized the competent minister without portfolio as the leader of PDIS. Instead of working bureaucratically, every PO and participant has equal right to share the opinion and develop the solution during a brainstorming.
Measures of progress	NDC conducts evaluation annually to monitor the performance of Join and surveys the proposer and registered supporters of an established proposal as to their level of satisfaction with the responsible authorities' conduct and response. Also, Chinese Taipei has established operation directions for the management and evaluation of the gazette to track performance of competent authorities on the quality and efficiency of publication in draft regulations, administrative directions, and drafts of legal order. 1.Proposal and Acceptance 12,996 proposals have been proposed as of 28 December 2021, 6,462 of which have entered into the procedure of "Registration of Support", and 266 cases gained over 5,000 supports become established as cases requiring response on Join. Among 266 established cases, 126 have accepted or partially accepted by line agencies. The acceptance rate is 47.4 percent, approximately. 2.Satisfaction of Users The user satisfaction survey is carried out annually to understand user experience on Join platform and satisfaction on the government efficiency in dealing with the proposals and comments on Join. In 2021, the satisfaction rate is 89.4 percent, which is better than 87.7 percent in 2020.

THAILAND

1. Introduction

Thailand, like other APEC economies, is facing a fast-changing development landscape, which is shaped by global megatrends, including climate change, urbanization, disruptive technology, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, undertaking key structural reforms is necessary as they will allow transformative changes to take place.

Thailand aims to improve our institutional framework and remove regulatory burdens that could obstruct our progress towards achieving inclusive, innovative and sustainable growth. Undertaking necessary reforms not only makes the market more efficient, but also promotes the participation of all segments in society in the market and creating policies that foster economic resilience especially after the crisis.

Thailand's key initiatives for the EAASR focus on:

1. Fostering digitalization and improving digital infrastructure to facilitate business conduct (EoDB), enhance trade and investment, and boost MSMEs productivity.
2. Supporting regulatory reform to enable the proper functioning of market mechanisms.
3. Promoting financial inclusion and sustainable borrowing.
4. Advancing skill development and labor market reform to boost labor productivity and provide access to labor market to the unemployed and the elderly.

While the 24 initiatives covered a wide range of policy areas across the 4 pillars of EAASR, they did have one thing in common; they all aim to advance Thailand's structural reform agenda. To Thailand, structural reforms are imperative because we are aiming to become "a developed economy with security, prosperity, and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" as stipulated in the 20-Year National Strategy and to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the shorter term, these reforms will greatly contribute to the implementation of the 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan which centers around Thailand's transition to a "high value and sustainable" economy. This includes four key elements, namely 1) High Value-Added and Green Economy 2) High Opportunity Society 3) Eco-Friendly Living and 4) Key Enablers for Thailand's Transformation. Under the four elements, 13 Milestones are identified, indicating what Thailand wishes to 'be,' to 'adopt,' or to 'eradicate' during the five-year period of 2023-2027.

Thailand has also declared the Bio-Circular-Green Economy or BCG economic model as an economy-wide agenda to promote green recovery after COVID-19. The BCG model will gear Thailand towards a more innovative and sustainable economy. and enhance its competitiveness by facilitating efficient resource allocation to support a value-based and eco-friendly economy.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

1. Office of the Public Sector Development Commission (OPDC)

1.Key Initiative: Driving e-Services for Doing Business Easily	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The project aims to support government agencies to transform public services from paper-based to be fully digitalized and to develop the digital platform for G2G and B2G transactions for doing business easily. The e-services also support the digital government facilitation, transparency, resilience and innovation in order to strengthen Thailand's competitiveness.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The e-services and digital platform encourage doing business facilitation by reprocessing the government services, improving the digital ecosystem and enabling regulatory reform.
Activities and Timelines	1. E-Services 1.1 Transforming paper-based services to fully-digitalized ones 1.2 Creating digital ecosystem 2. Digital Platform 2.1 Developing National Digital Trade Platform (NDTP) to support trading across border which is a key part of doing business
Measures of progress	Qualitative: N/A
	Quantitative: Number of e-Services and progression of NTDP project
APEC cross-fora alignment	This initiative is in line with the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) as it aims to promote adoption of enabling technologies and services that will improve the business environment.

2. Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES)

2. Key Initiative: Thailand Digital Economy and Society Development Plan or Digital Thailand Plan	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. On 5th April 2016, Thailand Digital Economy and Society Development Plan or Digital Thailand Plan has been launched for encouraging Thailand to constructively make use of digital technology to its full potential in the development of infrastructure, innovations, information, workforces, and other resources, in a bid to mobilize economy-wide economic and social development. There are four major objectives in the Digital Economy and Society Development Plan as follows: 1) Enhancing Thailand's competitiveness in the global arena by harnessing innovation and digital technology as major tools to create innovations in production and services; 2) Creating equal opportunities in society by upgrading people's quality of life through news, information and services via digital means; 3) Reforming the paradigm of operations and services of the public sector by means of digital technology and data utilization to ensure transparency, efficiency and effectiveness; 4) Developing human capital towards the digital age by equipping every group of workers with appropriate knowledge and skills in preparation for a life and career in the digital age. Strategies for the Development of Digital Economy and Society are as follows: ▪ Strategy 1 : Development economy-wide high-efficiency digital infrastructure ▪ Strategy 2 : Drive the economy with digital technology ▪ Strategy 3 : Build an equitable and inclusive society through digital technology ▪ Strategy 4 : Transform the public sector into a digital government ▪ Strategy 5: Develop workforce for the age of digital economy and society ▪ Strategy 6: Build trust and confidence in the use of digital technology The establishment of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES). Now, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society which had taken over responsibility from the former Ministry of Information and Technology (MICT) with new administrative scope and conceptual framework for initiating, developing and promoting Thailand's digital economy and society. Two new organizations are also established under the MDES, i.e. Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission (ONDE) and the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA).

Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Thailand has enacted a set of digital laws with the view to drive Digital Economy and sustainable development, The set of digital laws include: - Re-organization of Ministry, Bureau and Department Act, B.E. 2559 (A.D. 2016) – Establishing Ministry of Digital Economy and Society - Digital Economy and Society Development Act B.E. 2560 (A.D. 2017) - Computer Crime Act (Amendment) B.E. 2560 (A.D. 2017) - Act on Organization to Assign Radio Frequency and to Regulate the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Service (Amendment) B.E. 2560 (A.D. 2017) and B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019) - Electronic Transactions Development Agency Act B.E 2562 (A.D. 2019) - Electronic Transactions Act (Amendment) B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019) - National Council for Digital Economy and Society Act B.E.2562 (A.D. 2019) - Cybersecurity Act B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019) - Personal Data Protection Act B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019) - Electronic Transactions Act (4th version) Digital ID B.E. 2562 (A.D. 2019) Currently, two new organizations have been established under the Digital Laws, namely; 1. The Office of National committee on Personal Data Protection under the Personal Data Protection Act 2019, which has been established since May 2019, aiming to promote privacy and to secure personal identity of internet users. The secondary law and privacy measures are currently under drafting process. 2. The Office of National Committee on Cybersecurity under the Cybersecurity Act 2019, which has been established since May 2019, focusing on protecting the critical information infrastructure and incident response. In addition, the new agency will prepare the secondary law as well as the cybersecurity measures.
Activities and Timelines	The development of digital economy and society in Thailand will focus on long - term, sustainable development, which is in consonance with the 20 - year National Strategy. To better respond to the fast-changing pace of digital technology, however, a digital landscape consisting of development directions and goals is mapped out in 4 phases as follows: Phase 1 (2018-2019) Digital Foundation Thailand invests in the foundation for the digitalization of economy and society. Phase 2 (2019-2023) Digital Thailand Inclusion Every sector in Thailand participates in the digital economy and society, as prescribed by the government's public- private-and people partnership approach. Phase 3 (2027) Full Transformation Thailand becomes Digital Thailand, where digital innovation is used as a key development tool and utilized to its fullest potential. Phase 4 (2037) Global Digital Leadership: Thailand to become a developed economy, capable of using digital technology to create economic and social values in a sustainable manner. In order to propel Thailand's digital development towards the Digital Thailand vision and the four-phased digital landscape, six interrelated strategies have been defined under this

	Digital Economy and Society Development Plan. <u>Activities:</u> The Village Broadband Internet Project (Net Pracharat) Ministry of Digital Economy (MDES) and Society in collaboration with TOT Public Company Limited (now as National Telecom Public Company Limited or NT) and National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) have promoted Net Pracharat Project (Village Broadband Internet) which aims to strengthen the National Broadband Network by expanding high-speed internet network to cover every village in Thailand, so people in rural areas can equitably access broadband or high-speed internet as those in the cities. The Village Broadband Internet Project or so called Net Pracharat is Thailand's flagship digital infrastructure development project to promote availability, accessibility, and affordability to access broadband Internet services for people in rural areas across Thailand. To expand full benefits of the Net Pracharat Project to our population, the government has carried out a number of further developments, for example, the e-Commerce promotion aiming to develop commercial skills for communities in remote areas, SMEs, MSMEs, as well as farmer communities by selling their local products and services online.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The Village Broadband Internet Project (Net Pracharat) is to enable Thai people across the economy to access digital technology equally.
	Quantitative: - Every citizen must have access to broadband as a public utility. - Thailand is ranked one of the 40 most developed economies by the ICT Development Index (IDI).
APEC cross-fora alignment	1. APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group Strategic Action Plan [SAP 2021 – 2025] By referring to the four priority areas from TELWG's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) which are 1) digital and investment, 2) widespread modern connectivity, 3) infrastructure to improve well-being and 4) innovation and productivity, which are align with key initiatives of EAASR, Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. 2. The APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) AIDER is a framework that provides guidance on key areas and actions to facilitate technological and policy exchanges among member economies and to promote innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as to bridge the digital divide in the APEC region, which is also align with key initiatives of EAASR.

3. Office of the Council of State (OCS)

3. Key Initiative: Facilitating the implementation of the Act on Criteria of Law-Making Process and Evaluation of Laws, B.E. 2562.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Act on Legislative Drafting and Evaluation of Law 2019 (B.E. 2562) was passed to implement Section 77 of the Constitution which enshrines the principles of better regulation in Thailand. The Act requires government agencies to conduct regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) and public consultation in law-making process for primary legislations and to conduct an <i>ex-post</i> evaluation and public consultation for both the primary legislation and the regulatory rules that are a derivative of them. In principle, the Act requires government agencies to conduct an <i>ex-post</i> evaluation every 5 years but the evaluation cycle can also be triggered by complaints or petition from stakeholders or advice from the Law Reform Commission. The purpose of this Act is to (1) ensure that the applicable laws are necessary, practical and in accordance with the current situations; (2) repealing obsolete laws creating obstacles for the working and livelihood of the peoples; (3) providing public free access to law database; and (4) giving stakeholders opportunities to challenge the unnecessary of law to the Ministries concerned, and also to the Law Reform Commission to further submit amendments of the law or recommendations to the Council of Ministers. In terms of securing economic growth, the implementation of the abovementioned Act will enable the proper functioning of market mechanisms in Thailand by making applicable laws responsive to rapidly changing business environments and relevant international obligations.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Ex-post evaluation of laws aiming at amending and revoking laws which are obsolete, unnecessary, or creating obstacles for the working and livelihood of the people directly contribute to Thailand's regulatory reform strategy. The implementation of the Act also institutes more accountable legal infrastructure in Thailand by using public participation and regulatory impact assessment as important tools in law-making process.
Activities and Timelines	1. The Office of the Council of State facilitates the implementation of the Act on Legislative Drafting and Evaluation of Laws B.E. 2562 (2019) by advising and monitoring government agencies in proposing new laws and evaluation of existing laws. 2. The Law Reform Commission generally makes recommendations regarding the amendment and the revocation of laws which are obsolete, unnecessary, or create obstacles for the work and livelihood of the people by considering comments and complaints from both government agencies and the public.
Measures of progress	

	Qualitative: 1. All drafts of legislation proposed by the relevant government agencies are prepared in accordance with the Act on Legislative Drafting and Evaluation of Laws B.E. 2562 (2019). 2. Applicable laws are evaluated and reviewed every determined interval by the relevant government agencies. 3. Laws which the Law Reform Commission recommends being amended or revoked are proceeded accordingly.
	Quantitative: Not applicable
APEC cross-fora alignment	-

4. The Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP)

4. Key Initiative: Business Development Service to boost SMEs productivity.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Business Development Service (BDS) initiative comprises two main projects. First, the establishment of 55 SME Service Providers that provide assistance to SMEs in various forms including, standard certification, consultation on product standard and development, and subsidy on training to improve SMEs' productivity and innovation. Second, the SME Access system is developed as a new digital platform that will help SMEs with certificates issuing, market access as well as training to improve their productivity.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	1. The Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP) will establish 55 SME Service Providers across the economy. The services provided are consultation on productivity improvement, tax and accounting, quality assurance and control, marketing, and loan services. The SMEs that would like to receive these services can register through the OSMEP application and website. 2. The OSMEP will develop the SME Access System that will provide four types of services. First, information regarding how to be certified in relevant industry. Second, a market place for SMEs. Third, an online learning channel; and fourth, one-on-one coaching and training courses.
	Qualitative: The increase in numbers of SMEs with access to the global market.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

Measures of progress	Quantitative: - Higher income of SMEs participating in the projects. - The number of SMEs which will benefit from BDS is more than 5,700 SMEs. - SMEs who enrolled in courses/curriculums via the SME Access system are more than 10,000 users.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

5. Ministry of Finance

5. Key Initiative: 5-year Policy Guidance for Specialized Financial Institutions: Policy Guidance for Specialized Financial Institutions during 2021-2025 <i>Specialized Financial Institutions (SFIs) in Thailand play an important role in promoting economic development and fulfilling government policies, especially those associated with financial inclusions. Under the 3 frameworks - Finance for all, Literacy for all, and Responsibility for all - this 5-year policy guidance will shape SFIs' missions and strategic plans during 2021-2025 to achieve their roles and create a greater development of financial system in Thailand.</i>		
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The 3 frameworks of the 5-year policy guidance for SFIs are related to the selected pillars. The 3 frameworks are as following: 1. <u>Finance for all</u>: SFIs should aim to reduce the financial gap and create an equal access to financial services 2. <u>Literacy for all</u>: SFIs should aim to strengthen financial foundation of its target customer, enhance debtors' potentials, and promote a higher quality of financial access. 3. <u>Responsibility for all</u>: SFIs should have a strong business foundation, be responsible for related parties, and develop inclusive and sustainable growth in the Thai economy. Complying with 'Finance for all' and 'Responsibility for all', SFIs will be an important tool to ensure an equal access to financial services, which are significant to satisfy the needs of greater well-being. Moreover, providing a fund for business to counter the economic cycle, SFIs will play a crucial role in capitalizing a business and help it fight against the crisis. Together with 'Literacy for all' framework, SFIs will provide essential knowledge related to financial management for retail customers and business enterprises, helping them more firmly recover from the shock and gradually become more resilient.	
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies By closing the financial gap and promoting the financial inclusion, SFIs provide business enterprises with more opportunities to get credit, raise funds and run their business.	
Activities and Timelines	Activities	Timelines
	The policy guidance is approved by the Minister of Finance	December 2020

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	SFI's annual business plans are considered with reference to the 5-year guidance policy	2021-2025 (to be considered annually)
	SFI's annual business plans are approved by the director general of fiscal policy office	2021-2025 (to be approved by the end of each fiscal year)
Measures of progress	Qualitative: SFI's strategic plans and action plans during 2021-2025 align with the guidance frameworks and its own 5-year policy guidance.	
	Quantitative: Annual business plans of all 7 SFIs are to be approved by the director general of fiscal policy office.	
APEC cross-fora alignment	This initiative is in line with the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) as it aims to advance financial inclusion for all.	

6. Key Initiative: Implementation of People's Financial Institutions Act, B.E. 2562 (2019) (NSW)		
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The Thai government established People's Financial Institutions Act, B.E. 2562 (2019) to enhance and promote financial inclusion and financial literacy. It allows Community-based Financial Institutions (CBFIs) to voluntarily register as People's Financial Institutions (PFIs), a juristic entity which will receive supervising and lasting support from (government) coordinating banks. Such transformation (from CBFIs to PFIs) will enhance access to financial services at the regional level.	
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies	
Activities and Timelines	From 2020 onwards: Encourage qualified CBFIs to register as PFIs (With this legal status, PFIs' clients will have access to financial services that is safe and secured).	
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Fully qualified CBFIs can voluntarily apply for registration as PFIs.	
	Quantitative: Fully qualified CBFIs that submitted complete and correct documents required by law are approved within number of days specified in the law (60 days).	
APEC cross-fora alignment		

7. Key Initiative: Medium-term Public Sector Borrowing Requirement Plan (5 years) <i>Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) conducts Medium-term Public Sector Borrowing Requirement Plan every year to boost public investment for infrastructure in various crucial sectors such as transportation sector, energy sector, and utility sector.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The Medium-term Public Sector Borrowing Requirement Plan aims to set how the public sector investment and finance being processed over the next five years. The expected outcome is to boost public sector investment in the areas of natural resources management, transportation, energy and utility sectors to ensure that necessary infrastructure is in place to protect the citizens from future shocks.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies To boost public investment in infrastructure and improve quality of life.
Activities and Timelines	If the government agencies and SOEs need to raise loans for infrastructure projects, they are obliged to propose their borrowing plan in the next five years to the PDMO. The Bank of Thailand, the Office of National Economic and Social Development Council, the Fiscal Policy Office, the State Enterprise Policy Office, the Budget Bureau, the Comptroller General's Department and PDMO will then analyze the project's feasibility, economic impact, and Socio-Macroeconomic benefit. Then, the PDMO will set up a Public Debt Policy and Supervision Committee that consists of the Minister of Finance as the Chairperson; one Deputy Minister of Finance entrusted by the Minister as the Vice-Chairperson; the Permanent Secretary of Finance, the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Social Development Council, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, the Comptroller-General, the Director-General of the State Enterprise Policy Office, the Director of the Fiscal Policy Office, and the Governor of the Bank of Thailand to approve and revise the Medium-term Public Sector Borrowing Requirement Plan and Public Debt Management Plan annually.
Measures of progress	It can be measured through quantitative ratio that PDMO publishes a summary report acknowledged by the cabinet on status of public debt in the Government Gazette at the end of March and September each year according to Public Debt Management act B.E. 2548 (2005). PDMO will continue to revise and monitor Medium-term Public Sector Borrowing Requirement Plan in every year to boost public investment infrastructure and improve quality of life.
	Qualitative: -
	Quantitative: Percentage of the disbursement of loans in current borrowing plan
APEC cross-fora alignment	This initiative is in line with the Cebu Action Plan (CAP) as it aims to accelerate infrastructure development and financing which is one of the four pillars of CAP.

8. Key Initiative: Sustainable Borrowing for Economic Recovery and Supporting Government Portfolio	
<i>Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) plans to issue Debt Securities to refinance existing debt that are used for economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PDMO aims to lower the cost of funding, extend debt maturity and support government debt portfolio management.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization To develop sustainable domestic bond market and be able to absorb the market shocks in the future
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	PDMO will analyse and create the fundraising plan throughout 2021 – 2025 to manage the existing short-term debt securities (1 – 5 years) under COVID-19 financing to be replaced by longer tenor of loan bond, sustainability bond, inflation-linked bond, amortized bond or other kinds of bonds, which aims to extend debt maturing, expand investor base and support domestic bond market development.
Measures of progress	It can be measured through the quantitative amount of 300 billion baht of short-term debt securities under COVID-19 financing to be replaced by loan bond, sustainability bond, inflation-linked bond, amortized bond or other kinds of bonds, which will support government debt portfolio and support domestic bond market development.
	Qualitative: -
	Quantitative: 300 billion baht of short-term debt securities (1 – 5 years) under COVID-19 financing
APEC cross-fora alignment	

9. Key Initiative: Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) for Economic Recovery and Resilience Against Future Shocks	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization Since 2018, the Public Debt Management Office (PDMO) has followed the Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) framework, which was developed by World Bank and globally adopted by many debt management offices. MTDS helps debt managers to analyse borrowing strategies under alternative scenarios for macroeconomic policy, interest rates and exchange rates. By determining -5 year target of risk indicators, MTDS demonstrates how the government plans to borrow and manage its debt to achieve a debt portfolio that meets the cost and risk preferences and to ensure that government meets funding needs. Obviously, key success factors of MTDS lie not only on the regular monitoring and compliance of such targets, but also on the appropriateness of targets to

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	the economic condition at a particular point in time. Therefore, frequent revision is essential, specifically during the pandemic and recovery phase when the market fluctuation could easily occur. MTDS ensures that the government meets funding needs to boost public investment in infrastructure and improve quality of life as planned with acceptable level of cost and risk (i.e. foreign exchange rate risk, interest rate risk, and refinancing risk).
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies MTDS ensures that the government funding plan is resilient to potential future shocks; therefore, supporting medium term fiscal policy to boosting economic recovery.
Activities and Timelines	Risk indicators under MTDS are monitored monthly to ensure that they are in line with five-year target. Moreover, to ensure their appropriateness with the economic and financial market situation, such target will be reviewed at least annually and approved by the Public Debt Management Policy and Supervisory Committee chaired by the Finance Minister and has PDMO as Committee Secretariat and includes representatives from Ministry of Finance (i.e. Fiscal Policy Office, Comptroller's General Department, Budget Bureau, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, and Bank of Thailand).
Measures of progress	It can be measured through many dimensions as follows: Qualitative: frequency of target revision, quality of risk model used Quantitative: frequency of target monitoring, level of target compliance
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

10. Key Initiative: Exchange of Electronic Delivery Order (e-D/O) via National Single Window (NSW)	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization This project is part of Thailand's National Single Window (NSW) development project which is undertaken to boost competitiveness by enhancing the use of technology to facilitate import, export and logistics supply chains in Thailand. Thailand NSW establishes a central database system that offers G2G, B2G, and B2B data exchange. The exchange of Electronic Delivery Orders (e-D/O) will solve the problem that the business sector is experiencing with the current paper-based system. The E-D/O will reduce the transaction costs, time and errors that may occur in the process.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies

Supporting Policies	This initiative focuses on the use of technology to upgrade the current system to meet international standards. The exchange of e-D/O via NSW will improve ease of doing business as it will reduce cost and time for business.	
Activities and Timelines	Activities	Timelines
	1. Study on the processes related to the Delivery Order (D/O) document.	October 2021
	2. Hold Meetings to discuss with all those involved in the release order documents.	November-December 2021
	3. Formulate the electronic data structure of the Delivery Order (D/O) document according to international standards.	January-February 2022
	4. Establish a form and process for exchanging Electronic Delivery Order (e-D/O) document between stakeholders throughout the process.	February – June 2022
	5. Submit the data structure along with the form/process of exchanging the electronic delivery order (e-D/O) document to be endorsed by the relevant parties.	July – September 2022
Measures of progress	Level of success of project implementation/5 levels 1. Having the data structure of Electronic Delivery Order (e-D/O) which is aligned with international standards. 2. Formulating the form and process of exchanging Electronic Delivery Order (e-D/O) document data between stakeholders. <u>Scoring Criteria</u> Set up a score of 1-5 based on the progress of the activities or procedures as specified in the action plan and the achieving goals 1. Study on the processes related to the Delivery Order (D/O) document 2. Hold Meetings to discuss with all those involved in the release order documents 3. Formulate the electronic data structure of the Delivery Order (D/O) document according to international standards. 4. Establish a form and process for exchanging Electronic Delivery Order (e-D/O) document between stakeholders throughout the process. 5. Submit the data structure along with the form/process of exchanging the electronic delivery order (e-D/O) document to be endorsed by the relevant parties.	
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A	

11. Key Initiative: The Improvement of Electronic Tax Filing and Payment (New e-Filing)	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The improvement of electronic tax filing and payment will reduce cost of businesses related to tax procedures such as time and expenses, which encourages business competitiveness. Many parts of the new e-filing system will be changed to make it more user-friendly for businesses, including the new registration system for VAT and Special Business Tax enterprises and service providers, the calculating system, and the function to issue instant documentation to businesses.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms,	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform

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Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The so- called “New e-filing” is the improvement of the current electronic tax filing and payment system as it will facilitate taxpayers in the process of document preparation for tax filing, enhance schemes of tax payments, and particularly reduce cost of businesses related to tax procedures
Activities and Timelines	1. Developing Electronic Tax Filing system. a. adding the new payment method by digital tax compensation usage. b. upgrading the system to support the overdue tax filing. c. opening the Application Programming Interface for preparing and filing taxation information. 2. Using an online skill training system to encourage businesses to learn about the new e-filing.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: 1. New e-filing system will be launched by the 2022 fiscal year.
	Quantitative: The number of additional features that will be added to the new e-filing system
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

12. Key Initiative: The Study on Tax Incentives to Promote the Development of the Eastern Economic Corridor	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) is a special economic zone in the Eastern Seaboard that aims to promote sustainable growth in the "New S-Curve" industries such as automation and robotics, aviation and logistics, biofuel and biochemicals, and digital. The appropriate tax incentive would stimulate investments in the areas which will in turn increase Gross Provincial Product and promote economic cash flows throughout the region. The Eastern Economic Corridor Office of Thailand (EECO) will thus conduct a study which aims to improve tax incentives and provide recommendations on criteria, methods, and require conditions that would make EEC more attractive to investors.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The result of the study could be used to adjust regulatory measures, and incentives that will help promote the investment in the EEC.
Activities and Timelines	- EECO will conduct a study of which the results will include policy recommendations about the tax measures and criteria and methods that will further enhance EEC's competitiveness. - The Revenue Department facilitates the tax measures aligning EECO of Thailand recommendations and study by implementation of tax incentives, criteria, method, and condition.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The study by the EECO is considered and the recommendations are used by relevant agencies to initiate policies and measures regarding tax benefits/incentives that will promote higher investment in the EEC.
	Quantitative: - Increased investment in the EEC - Increased Gross Provincial Product in the EEC
APEC cross-fora alignment	N/A

6. Ministry of Commerce

13. Key Initiative: Expanding MSMEs trade and investment to an international level	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The project aims to internationalize Thai MSMEs and creative designers across the economy by harnessing design innovation and building Thai branding and identity in order to differentiate and add value to products to meet the market demands. The project will also promote online to offline (O2O) commerce by utilizing content marketing and connecting MSMEs to global online marketplaces to boost sales.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The project encourages local creative MSMEs and entrepreneurs to participate and integrate into international markets. Moreover, the project provides businesses an opportunity to expand their markets by utilising innovation and creative thinking.
Activities and Timelines	Main activities: 1) Provide training and capacity building to MSMEs and creative entrepreneurs 2) Promote and develop local innovative products to the global market. 3) Promote Thai brands on the international market.
Measures of progress	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: • Number of MSMEs and creative entrepreneurs developed per year • Sales volumes through DITP trade promotion activities (For example, STYLE Bangkok / THAIFEX /Top Thai Brands)
APEC cross-fora alignment	The project aligns with APEC Strategy for Green, Sustainable and Innovative MSMEs, which focuses on enhancing MSMEs' potential to access to global value chains, promoting the compliance with related international standards as well as promoting science, technology and innovation to expand MSME market reach in digital economy.

14. Key Initiative: Developing community enterprise potential to enhance the Thai local economy in the post-COVID 19 era.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The project aims to help businesses especially community enterprises to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 as well as prepare them for the Post-Covid-19 era. The project will focus on developing capacity of selected community enterprises both in goods and services sectors to safeguard businesses against future shocks and cope with mega trends. Capacity building skills offered include technology and innovation for trade, increasing products and services quality and marketing strategies.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The project encourages firms, especially community enterprises to participate and integrate into the modern trade system. Moreover, the project promotes inclusion, trade and investment, and resilience against various shocks in the future.
Activities and Timelines	Project duration: 7 months (proposed commencement date: in December 2022) Main activities: 1) Selecting model community enterprises (one group from goods and one group from services sectors) by field visit on the target community enterprises. 2) Conducting data analysis and designing potential development system for the selected community enterprises. 3) Organizing workshops for selected community enterprises to improve their businesses from upstream to downstream. 4) Producing two video clips for the selected community enterprises to document their potential development. 5) Organizing seminar to disseminate the result and discuss ways to apply the model in other community enterprises. 6) Conducting a study on the lessons learned and provide policy recommendations for improving the capacity of community enterprises.
Measures of progress	Qualitative:
	Quantitative: 1) New business models for community enterprises 2) A study on the lessons learned and policy recommendations for improving the capacity of community enterprises.
APEC cross-fora alignment	SMEWG Strategic Plan for 2021–2024, which provides a roadmap to address critical issues pertaining to the growth of SMEs and microenterprises in the APEC region.

15. Key Initiative: Applying Blockchain to improve business integrity and efficiency phase 3	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization The project uses Blockchain technology as the core tool to boost agricultural productivity by applying it to improve business integrity and efficiency. TraceThai.com was developed to enable traceability of organic rice and other organic products which will help increase confidence and trust among importers and consumers. Moreover, using the system will help facilitate trade and reduce unnecessary administrative barriers such as document reviews from Certified Bodies of various organic certificates.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The project encourages businesses and farmers to use technology to improve their productivity.
Activities and Timelines	Project duration: 9 months (proposed commencement date: in November 2022) Main activities: 1) Organizing seminars and training on the prototype system/seek cooperation from stakeholders to increase the number of users of the TraceThai.com 2) Organizing a seminar to publicize the results of the study on the use of Blockchain technology for organic product traceability and collect inputs from stakeholders. 3) Managing and supporting appropriate mechanisms the system.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Users of TraceThai.com are satisfied with the website
	Quantitative: Number of users using the system.
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER) which is a framework that provides guidance on key areas and actions to facilitate technological to promote innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth, development of holistic government policy frameworks for the Internet and Digital Economy.

16. Key Initiative: Digitalization of all procedures to obtain trade-related documents from Department of Foreign Trade of Thailand to enhance competitiveness and promote global supply chains	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. In deeply integrated global supply chains, customs procedure and trade-related documentation become one of the main issues to be addressed in order to ensure transparency and timely procedures to enhance and promote global supply chains. Department of Foreign Trade is in charge of issuing licenses/ TRQ certificates for over 67 goods/ products to be imported to and/or exported from Thailand as well as issuing all preferential Certificates of Origin for Thai exporters, which accounts for more than 1 million trade-related documents per year. The Department thus realizes the need to digitize all procedures to obtain trade-related documents from the Department to enhance competitiveness and promote cross-border trade. The ultimate goal would be to adopt digital procedure to provide a “no-visit service” through paperless documentation and self-printed documents (if necessary for documents that need to be presented in hardcopy to customs of importing party). Such technology would significantly boost productivity and reduce trade costs and time to comply with border procedure for traders and in line with EAASR.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies One of the key elements of Ease of Doing Business is Trading across Borders. According to Doing Business Indicators of World Bank, Thailand is ranked 62nd for Trading across Borders. Hence, digitizing all procedures to obtain trade-related documents would assist to reform and boost Thailand’s performance on Ease of Doing Business.
Activities and Timelines	2021 : Conducting a structural review and research to identify current problems and potential paths to digitize trade-related documentation 2021 -2022 : Develop a system to digitize and accommodate all procedures to obtain trade-related documents 2023 : Enhance trade-related documentation by digital innovation, such as through comprehensive risk-management and blockchain technology (TBC depending on the result/outcome of the research)
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Traders are satisfied and more facilitative with digitized procedures Quantitative: The ratio of digital procedures to obtain trade-related documents to the entire process is increased.
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 calls for a transparent and predictable trade and investment environment with a seamless connectivity and resilient supply chains. The previous manual procedure to obtain trade-related documents can be troublesome to traders and discourage cross-border trading activities. In order to achieve the seamless connectivity goal, the project will be established to equip authorities with capacity to digitize and use infrastructure to promote trade and support global supply chains.

7. Ministry of Labour

17. Key Initiative: Promotion of employment of the elderly under National Action Plan on Business and Human Right Phase 1 (2019-2022)	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. One of the activities under the National Action Plan on Business and Human Right Phase 1 (2019-2022) is to develop measures and mechanisms to eliminate employment discrimination and promote the employment of the elderly. This can ensure that the elderly will have the opportunity to continue working and have sufficient post-retirement income, which ultimately leads to reduced social inequality.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies
Activities and Timelines	Developing measures and mechanisms to promote employment of the elderly in order to achieve more elderly employment - Preparing legislation to issue an hourly minimum wage for elderly employees, - Opening a service centre for employment for the elderly - Providing tax incentives to encourage private sector to hire elderly workers aged 60 years and above.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: N/A
	Quantitative: Elderly employment of 100,000 people.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

18. Key Initiative: Action Plan on Informal Workers Management 2023 - 2027	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Action Plan on Informal Workers Management aims to improve the social security system and expand its coverage, strengthen the potential of informal workers for work as well as enhance the management capacity of informal workers.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance

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Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The action plan will promote and improve the quality of life of informal workers. It ensures that informal workers will receive legal rights, get access to necessary benefits and be protected in a safe working environment.
Activities and Timelines	Proposing the draft of the Promotion of Informal Workers' Quality of Life and Protection Development Act B.E... : The Act will enhance quality of life of informal workers, guarantee their legal rights, ensure their access to benefits, create safe working environment for informal workers.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The Draft Act will be announced (published in the Government Gazette) before being promulgated as an Act. Quantitative: N/A
APEC cross-fora alignment	

19. Key Initiative: Sending workers abroad for overseas jobs or internships	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Department of Employment is mainly responsible for promoting and expanding the overseas job market and job placement. It provides Thai workers the opportunity to work abroad with dignity and achieve good quality of life. Working abroad can reinforce workers' skills and experience which will in turn boost Thailand's productivity and economic development.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies This initiative aims to provide job opportunities for Thai workers. By sending workers abroad, their earnings will contribute at least 140 billion baht to the Thailand's income. The workers will also be able to gain more experiences and labor skills that they can bring back to further develop the economy.
Activities and Timelines	1. Coordinating with relevant organizations in recipient economies regarding the working conditions or requirements stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). 2. Following the process of recruiting, selecting, and dispatching job seekers as stated in MOU. 3. Considering job seeker applications and dispatching them to recruitment companies as requested. 4. Considering the request to work/intern abroad and notifying them when they can travel on their own and re-enter following the specified rules. 5. This activity will be implemented from October 2021 – September 2022.

Measures of progress	
	Qualitative: Workers will have access to job opportunities abroad. This allows them to get have a career and earn more income to support their family while gaining experience from working aboard, learning new languages, cultures and technologies.
	Quantitative: 1. Considering the request forms to work/intern abroad proposed by 40,000 job seekers. 2. Dispatching 11,000 workers to work aboard by the Government. 3. Issuing travel notification to 49,000 workers so they can travel on their own and re-enter the destination as necessary.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

20. Key Initiative: The help system for the unemployed to re-enter the labor market	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Department of Employment aims to help the unemployed to re-enter the labor market through an online service system, JobD2U, which is an online job searching platform that provides information regarding employment opportunities, upskill and reskill courses. Through the platform, job seekers will be able to get necessary information from related agencies, namely, the Internal Recruitment Company, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation, the Federation of Thai Industries, the Vocational Education Commission, and the Digital Economy Promotion Agency.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The help system will be a central platform for workers that wish to re-enter the labor market by providing information regarding the job opportunities. The system will also provide short-term and long-term training programs to help workers up-skill and re-skill.
Activities and Timelines	1. Providing online service to workers that need to re-enter the market through JobD2U platform. 2. Developing long-term plan for three fiscal years (2022 – 2024)
Measures of progress	
	Qualitative: Workers and job seekers can get access to job opportunities through online platform, which will provide faster service and be more cost efficient.
	Quantitative: N/A
APEC cross-fora alignment	

21. Key Initiative: Developing skills for workers in targeted industries to improve labor productivity and boost competitiveness.	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative aims to enhance workers' or entrepreneurs' knowledge and skills in 6 target industries (Digital, Auto system, Intelligent Electronic, Biological, Artificial intelligence and Robot) through re-skill, up-skill and new skill measures.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The project aims to develop worker skills to meet the changing demand of the labor market.
Activities and Timelines	Coordinating with relevant industrial estates in the area, large business establishments, SMEs, Federation of Thai industries, Thai Auto Parts manufacturers association, Province industrial council, Chamber of Commerce, related council/business organization to participate in the activity for knowledge and skills development which relates to six targets industries. The project will commence in September 2022.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: N/A
	Quantitative: 100 percent of the labor force obtained skills in accordance with the quality assurance criterion. - According to the Department of Skill Development's curriculum guidelines, 85 percent of the labor force who obtained knowledge and skills passed the criteria and evaluation. - Labor productivity is increased by no less than 35 percent.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

22. Key Initiative: Increase workers' skills and capabilities	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This project focuses on training new workers necessary skills that are required for the job. These skills include English skills for workplace communication and daily life, skills relating to technology and innovation.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies This Project aims to create skilled workers for the labor market.
Activities and Timelines	Ministry of Education, Office of the Vocational Education Commission, Universities, Public and Private training centers, Federation of Thai Industries, The Board of Trade of Thailand, Province council of Thai Industries, The Board of Trade of Thai Province, Career Organization, and Career Guide will cooperate in order to analyze labor demand trends in the industrial and services market. This analysis will include demand trends for unskilled labor, skilled labor, semi-skilled labor, and expert labor. They will also analyze the related workforce development plan and Economic and Social structure. Training to increase workers' skills and capabilities will be arranged. Training will proceed according to SDQA 2020 criteria. Outcomes will be recorded in a performance reporting system. Participants who completed the training can choose to be referred to Department of Employment – Province Employment office for job vacancy searching. Operation issues will be addressed; the training will be evaluated. The program will be hold at Institute of Skill Development all over Thailand from October 2021 – August 2022.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: The labor productivity must increase by 35 percent or more.
	Quantitative: More than 10,500 people take part in the training program to increase their skills and capabilities.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

23. Key Initiative: Developing “New Normal” worker’s technological skills	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This project is focused on developing workers’ technological and digital skills that will be vital for jobs of the future by acquiring new skills, upskilling, and reskilling. It will also introduce them to the concept of Smart City and offer them accesses to online courses offered by Department of Skill, Ministry of Labor.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies This project aims to equip workers with “Future” skills that are suitable for new jobs and working styles.
Activities and Timelines	1. Establishing 81 training centers in coordination with relevant government agencies, the private sector and local community, in all 77 provinces of Thailand. 2. The training: programs aims to equip workers with a new skills set and help them to reskill and upskill. Its objective is to help increase participants’ skills to meet job criteria. Normally, training offered by the Department of Skill Development are divided into three types of courses: Pre-employment training course, Skill training course, and Second job training course. The training contents will cover both skill training course and second job training course, using three learning methods: Face-to-Face learning, Distant learning, and Hybrid learning. 3. The follow up and project evaluation: participants will be contacted 3 months after the training to assess how their skills are used in the workplace and how much their technology-related work performance are improved. This activity also includes the project evaluation. 4. During October 2021 – August 2022.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: More than 80 percent of the participants complete the training and gain their certificates
	Quantitative: 1. More than 2,000 people must participate in a technological and digital skills training course 2. 10 technological and digital skills courses are developed.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

24. Key Initiative: Developing workers' technological skills for 21 st century work	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This project focuses on developing workers' skills in four technological fields, including Electrical and Electronics Technology, Digital Technology, Manufacturing Automation Technology, and Automation and Robotics Technology.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies This Project aims to equip workers with suitable skills for 21st century work.
Activities and Timelines	1. Research and develop a technological training course 2. Bring together Ministry of Education, Office of the Vocational Education Commission, Universities, Public and Private training centers, Federation of Thai Industries, The Board of Trade of Thailand, Province council of Thai Industries, The Board of Trade of Thai Province, Career Organization, and Career Guild to analyze labor demand trends in industry and service market which includes the Unskilled, the Semi-skilled, the Skilled, and the Expert; as well as to analyze related workforce development plans and Economic and Social structure 3. Arrange technological training courses 4. Proceed trainings according to Skill Development Quality Assurance 2020 criteria 5. Record the outcome in a performance reporting system 6. Refer participants who completed the training to Department of Employment - Province Employment office to find job vacancies (If the participants wish for) 7. Address operation issues and evaluate the trainings 8. Duration October 2021 – August 2022
Measures of progress	Qualitative: Labor productivity must increase no less than 35 percent
	Quantitative: More than 6,360 people are participating in the training program to acquire new skills and capabilities.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

UNITED STATES

1. Introduction

The United States will deliver bold action and immediate relief for American families. This will include actions to control the COVID-19 pandemic, provide economic relief, tackle climate change, and advance racial equity and civil rights, as well as immediate actions to reform our immigration system and demonstrate US leadership. The President's Management Agenda also outlines a roadmap for our government to deliver results for all Americans.

COVID-19: The United States will move quickly to contain the COVID-19 crisis by expanding testing, safely reopening schools and businesses, and taking science-driven steps to address the communities — especially communities of color — who have been hardest hit by this virus. The United States will continue an economy-level vaccination program to inoculate the US population efficiently and equitably.

Climate: The United States will take swift action to tackle the climate crisis. To meet the demands of science, the United States is mobilizing a whole-of-government effort to reduce climate pollution in every sector of the economy and increase resilience to climate impacts. The United States will create good-paying, union jobs to build a modern and sustainable infrastructure, deliver an equitable clean energy future, and put the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by no later than 2050.

Gender and Racial Equity: The promise of our economy is that every American has an equal chance to get ahead, yet persistent systemic racism and barriers to opportunity have denied this promise for so many. The United States is putting equity at the center of the agenda with a whole of government approach to embed racial justice across Federal agencies, policies, and programs. The United States will take bold action to advance a comprehensive equity agenda to deliver criminal justice reform, end disparities in healthcare access and education, strengthen fair housing, and restore Federal respect for Tribal sovereignty, among other actions, so that everyone across America has the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Economy: The United States will take bold steps to address the inequities in our economy and provide relief to those who are struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration worked with Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan to change the course of the pandemic, build a bridge towards economic recovery, and invest in racial justice. The United States will build our economy back better from the pandemic and create millions of jobs by strengthening small businesses and investing in the jobs of the future. The United States will also promote competition in the American economy.

Public Sector Governance: The United States will launch a new framework built around three priority areas that are critical for improving the way the Federal Government does business, restoring the American people's trust in Government, and laying a strong foundation for working families for years to come: strengthening and empowering the Federal workforce; delivering excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services and customer experience; and managing the business of Government to build back better.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: American Rescue Plan (ARP) <i>The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis have undermined the health and economic wellbeing of American workers. The American Rescue Plan will change the course of the pandemic and deliver immediate relief for American workers. The plan will build a bridge to an equitable economic recovery and immediately reduce child poverty.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The ARP is largely focused on stemming the economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic but does contain inclusive economic growth policy measures.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The ARP includes a wide-ranging sets of policy measures designed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
Activities and Timelines	The ARP launched an economy-level vaccination program through investments in emergency measures and will help safely reopen schools. The ARP devotes about \$1 trillion towards building a bridge to economic recovery for working families, including through providing working families a \$1400 per-person check, increase the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, increased the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, expand child care assistance, and other assistance to working families. The ARP also provided grants and investments to hard-hit small businesses so they can rehire and retain workers as well as supporting front line workers.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Examples of how the ARP helped individuals and their families. • Examples of how schools used the funding to safely reopen schools Quantitative: • Statistics on the impact of unemployment insurance and child/family-based financial assistance. • Statistics on small businesses impacted. • Statistics on how many people utilized these programs https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan/
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a once-in-a-generation investment in the United States' infrastructure and competitiveness. It will help rebuild America's roads, bridges, and rails; expand access to clean drinking water; work to ensure access to high-speed Internet throughout the United States; tackle the climate crisis; advance environmental justice; and invest in communities that have too often been left behind. It will accomplish all of this while driving the creation of good-paying union jobs and growing the economy sustainably and equitably for decades to come.

EAASR: Individual Action Plans

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Act will be implemented to prioritize: investing public dollars efficiently, working to avoid waste, and focusing on measurable outcomes for the American people; increasing the competitiveness of the United States economy; improving job opportunities for millions of Americans by focusing on high labor standards for these jobs; investing public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative, which is a Government-wide effort toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy flow to disadvantaged communities; building infrastructure that is resilient and that helps combat the crisis of climate change; and effectively coordinating with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in implementing these critical investments.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies Many of these infrastructure reforms will help build the competitiveness of the US economy, growth the economy sustainably and equitably, and demonstrate the impact of the federal government.
Activities and Timelines	• Ensure every American has access to reliable high-speed internet. • Repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users. • Improve transportation options for millions of Americans and reduce greenhouse emissions through the largest investment in public transit in US history. • Upgrade the United States' airports and ports to strengthen our supply chains and prevent disruptions that have caused inflation. This will improve US competitiveness, create more and better jobs at these hubs, and reduce emissions • Upgrade the United States' power infrastructure to deliver clean, reliable energy and deploy cutting-edge energy technology to achieve a zero-emissions future. • Make the United States' infrastructure resilient against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Examples of how the infrastructure investments contributed to climate resilience • Examples of the impact on supply chain resilience • Examples of improved transportation options
	Quantitative: • Increased access to high-speed internet • Length of roads and bridges rebuilt + transport options • Measurable reduction of greenhouse emissions • Statistical impact of infrastructure investments on inflation and supply chains
APEC cross-fora alignment	• La Serena Roadmap • Climate commitments • AIDER • Connectivity Blueprint

Key Initiative: Gender Equity <i>Advancing gender equity and equality is a matter of human security, justice, and fairness. It is also a strategic imperative that reduces poverty and promotes economic growth, increases access to education, improves health outcomes, and advances political stability.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The full participation of all people — including women and girls — across all aspects of our society is essential to the economic well-being, health, and security of the United States and of the world.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The United States’ efforts to promote gender equity in the economy and within the Federal workforce requires a rethinking of public sector governance and will rely on supplemental structural reforms to achieve these goals. The United States will work to advance equal rights and opportunities, regardless of gender or gender identity, in advancing domestic and foreign policy — including by promoting workplace diversity, fairness, and inclusion across the Federal workforce and military.
Activities and Timelines	• National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality: Key priorities include economic security; health; education; climate change; science and technology; and full participation and leadership. • Gender Policy Council (GPC): The GPC covers a range of issues—including economic security, health, gender-based violence and education—with a focus on gender equity and equality, and particular attention to the barriers faced by women and girls. • Executive Order Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Government: This Executive Order establishes an ambitious, whole-of-government initiative that will take a systematic approach to embedding DEIA in Federal hiring and employment practices.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Examples of removal of systemic barriers to enable full workforce participation • Examples of investment in care infrastructure and care workers • Examples of removal of barriers to equal opportunity in education • Initiatives to promote gender equity in the economy and full participation of women and girls in addressing climate change and closing the gender gaps in STEM fields, as well as addressing gender parity in leadership roles. • Assessment by government agencies on the current state of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) within their workforces, and developing strategic plans to eliminate any barriers to success faced by underserved employees. • How collection of demographic data about the Federal workforce has been improved Quantitative:

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	- Statistics on increased access to affordable health care for women - Statistics on reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity rate, particularly in Black and Native American communities - Number of new DEIA trainings throughout the federal workforce - Statistics on any advancement in pay equity
APEC cross-fora alignment	La Serena Roadmap

Key Initiative: Racial Equity

Equal opportunity is the bedrock of the United States, and its diversity is one of its greatest strengths. But for too many, the American Dream remains out of reach. Entrenched disparities in laws and public policies, and our public and private institutions, have often denied that equal opportunity to individuals and communities. The United States faces converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities, while a historic movement for justice has highlighted the unbearable human costs of systemic racism. The United States deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges that we face.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The United States will pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Because advancing equity requires a systematic approach to embedding fairness in decision-making processes, executive departments and agencies must recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies By advancing equity across the Federal Government, the United States can create opportunities for the improvement of communities that have been historically underserved, which benefits everyone. For example, an analysis shows that closing racial gaps in wages, housing credit, lending opportunities, and access to higher education would amount to an additional \$5 trillion in gross domestic product in the American economy over the next 5 years. The Federal Government's goal in advancing equity is to provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Consistent with these aims, each agency must assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups. Such assessments will better equip agencies to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all.
Activities and Timelines	- Executive Order on Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through Government, including promoting equity in the federal budget. - Executive Order Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Government: This Executive Order establishes an ambitious,

	whole-of-government initiative that will take a systematic approach to embedding DEIA in Federal hiring and employment practices • Presidential Memorandum on “Redressing Our Nation’s and the Federal Government’s History of Discriminatory Housing Practices and Policies” • Executive Order to “Reaffirm the Federal Government’s Commitment to Tribal Sovereignty and Consultation” • Executive Order to “Combat Xenophobia Against Asian American and Pacific Islanders” • Executive Order on White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics • Executive Order on White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Assessments of whether agency policies and actions equitably serve all eligible individuals and communities, particularly those that are currently and historically underserved. • Examples of removal of barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in enrolling in and access benefits and services • Examples of removal of barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in taking advantage of agency procurement and contracting opportunities https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/25/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-advancing-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-accessibility-in-the-federal-government/ Quantitative: • Economic gains in closing racial gaps in wages, housing credit, lending opportunities, and access to higher education. • Increased funding for minority-owned small businesses, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. • Increased access to minority communities on food and financial security, healthcare access, and education and child care. • Increased share of people of color, women, and those from rural areas in Federal procurement dollars.
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: Promoting Competition in the American Economy

The United States is taking decisive action to reduce the trend of corporate consolidation, increase competition, and deliver concrete benefits to America’s consumers, workers, farmers, and small businesses.

Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. A fair, open, and competitive marketplace has long been a cornerstone of the American economy, while excessive market concentration threatens basic economic liberties, accountability, and the welfare of workers, farmers, small businesses, start-ups, and consumers. The American promise of a broad and sustained prosperity depends on an open and competitive economy. For workers, a competitive marketplace creates more high-quality jobs and the economic freedom to switch jobs or negotiate a higher wage. For small businesses and farmers, it creates more choices among suppliers and major buyers, leading to more take-home income, which they can reinvest in their enterprises. For entrepreneurs, it provides space to experiment, innovate, and pursue the new ideas that have for centuries powered the American economy and improved our quality of life. And for consumers, it means more choices, better service, and lower prices.
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Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The United States will enforce the antitrust laws to combat the excessive concentration of industry, the abuses of market power, and the harmful effects of monopoly and monopsony, repair markets, and United States markets directly affected by foreign cartel activity. The United States will also enforce the antitrust laws to meet the challenges posed by new industries and technologies, including the rise of the dominant Internet platforms, especially as they stem from serial mergers, the acquisition of nascent competitors, the aggregation of data, unfair competition in attention markets, the surveillance of users, and the presence of network effects.
Activities and Timelines	• Labor markets • Agricultural markets • Internet platform industries • Healthcare markets (including insurance, hospital, and prescription drugs markets) • Tech sector • Establishment of a White House Competition Council • The Order also encourages the leading antitrust agencies to focus enforcement efforts on problems in key markets and coordinates other agencies' ongoing response to corporate consolidation.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Changes in occupational licensing requirements and limitations in non-compete agreements that allows workers to change jobs • Regulations/laws on allowing customers to take their financial transaction data between banks • Regulations/laws on allowing individuals or third-party to repair products • Strengthen the Department of Agriculture's tools to stop abusive practices of some meat processors • Examples of how leading antitrust agencies have used existing regulations/laws to further competition https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/09/fact-sheet-executive-order-on-promoting-competition-in-the-american-economy/ Quantitative: • Increased participation of small businesses in federal procurement • Decreased cost on prescription drug prices • Decreased cost on internet bills
APEC cross-fora alignment	

Key Initiative: President’s Management Agenda (PMA) <i>The PMA outlines the United States’ roadmap for ensuring an equitable, effective, and accountable Federal Government that delivers results for all. The new framework is built around three priority areas that are critical for improving the way the Federal Government does business, restoring the people’s trust in Government, and laying a strong foundation for working families for years to come: strengthening and empowering the Federal workforce; delivering excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services and customer experience; and managing the business of Government to build back better.</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The PMA Vision will guide the United States’ efforts to reinforce the Government’s capacity to deliver results and help the United States meet the full range of challenges and opportunities ahead—from powering an economic recovery, to confronting climate change, to advancing equity.d
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The United States will build on long-standing efforts to enhance Government capacity for delivering results. Agencies will continue to work together to enhance and secure Government information technology as a vital support. Agencies will further enhance Federal data management and data science capabilities. Agencies will continue to nurture a culture of evidence-based policymaking and scientific integrity. Performance management and measurement processes, including cross-agency priority goals, agency implementation of strategic plans and agency priority goals, and the indicators and outcomes will be tracked on Performance.gov.
Activities and Timelines	• Priority 1: Strengthening and empowering the Federal workforce • Priority 2: Delivering excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services and customer experience - o Strategy 1: Improve the service design, digital products, and customer-experience management of Federal High-Impact Service Providers by reducing customer burden, addressing inequities, and streamlining processes. - o Strategy 2: Design, build, and manage Government service delivery for key life experiences that cut across Federal agencies. - o Strategy 3: Identify and prioritize the development of Federal shared products, services, and standards that enable simple, seamless, and secure customer experiences across High Impact Service Providers. • Priority 3: Managing the business of Government to build back better.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: • Progress on the 36 customer experience improvement commitments across 17 Federal agencies, all of which aim to improve people’s lives and the delivery of Government services. • Identify and define critical services that meet people’s needs and expectations, assess performance delivery and report it publicly, incorporate customer feedback during each interaction, and ultimately ensure services deliver a better experience to the public. • Ease of filing and managing taxes online • Ease of navigating disaster assistance

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	• Ease of navigating student loan programs https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/13/executive-order-on-transforming-federal-customer-experience-and-service-delivery-to-rebuild-trust-in-government/
	Quantitative: • Number of retirees claiming benefits online • Number of Medicare recipients utilizing personalized online tools to save money on drugs, manage healthcare, etc • Number of users renewing passports online https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/13/fact-sheet-putting-the-public-first-improving-customer-experience-and-service-delivery-for-the-american-people/
APEC cross-fora alignment	

VIET NAM

1. Introduction

From 2021-2025, Viet Nam will focus on structural reforms that help ensure rapid and sustainable economic growth on the basis of overcoming adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; promoting science, technology and innovation, improving labour productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy; developing a green economy, focusing on environmental protection, and effectively responding to climate change.

There may be some opportunities for leveraging structural reforms in Viet Nam by 2025. First, the momentum for structural reforms – built from past reform programs and sustained during 2020-2021 – can lead to progressive efforts for concretizing reforms in a number of areas related to ease of doing business, corporate governance (including reforms of state-owned enterprises), innovation, digital economy, public sector governance, etc. Second, the free trade agreements to which Viet Nam is a signatory (including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, European-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement, etc.) have induced further domestic reforms in Viet Nam in a number of areas, including sustainable development, e-commerce, competition policy, etc. Third, international cooperation is growing in various new areas, including climate change and green growth, digital economy, etc. which will make way for more technical assistance for Viet Nam in building capacity for related structural reforms.

Along with opportunities come major challenges for structural reforms during 2022-2025. First, as some structural reform areas can be cross-cutting, coordination of related agencies and other stakeholders in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of structural reform initiatives may be no easy task. Second, notwithstanding improvements, building further upon public-private dialogues to ensure concrete and effective structural reforms may require immense efforts. Finally, developing skills for adopting new technologies, including digital platforms, to induce and complement structural reforms may require radical changes in regulatory systems, and various aspects of public sector governance.

2. Structural Reform Key Initiatives

Key Initiative: <i>Improve the legal framework for competitive neutrality between state-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and private firms</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The initiative may contribute to a more level playing field between SOEs and private firms, thereby fostering market competition. In turn, this competition may help improve efficiency of resource usage, including by the SOEs, which can support economic recovery in Viet Nam.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☒ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The initiative falls within the work plan of the Competition Policy and Law Group (CPLG), and also relates to the issue of SOE governance for which several proposals were made under corporate law and governance FotC (CLG) during 2016-2020.
Activities and Timelines	- Review of regulations that may potentially support or be inconsistent with principles of competitive neutrality between SOEs and private firms. - Workshops and policy dialogues on shared experiences and recommendations to improve competitive neutrality between SOEs and private firms. - Proposals to revise related regulations to improve competitive neutrality between SOEs and private firms.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of competitive neutrality among competition authority and enterprise managers; - Well-defined aspects that require competitive neutrality (eg. tax, land, credit, etc.); - Well-defined principles of competitive neutrality; - Improvement of capacity and legal sanctions to address cases of competitive non-neutrality.
	Quantitative: - Regulations on improving enforcement of competitive neutrality; - Number of trainings on competitive neutrality in the regulations for policymakers, competition authority and business managers; - Number of cases of competitive non-neutrality that are addressed and/or subject to investigation by competition authority.
APEC cross-fora alignment	None.

Key Initiative: <i>Promoting the use of economic evidence in competition policy enforcement</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Using economic evidence may support the resolution of competition cases, which in turn contributes to more transparent and competitive market functioning in Viet Nam.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☒ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies Promoting use of economic evidence for improved competition policy is well consistent with the work program of CPLG.
Activities and Timelines	- Review of regulations that may potentially support or be inconsistent with the use of economic evidence in competition cases. - Workshops and policy dialogues on shared experiences and recommendations to promote use of economic evidence in competition cases. - Proposals to revise related regulations to promote use of economic evidence in competition cases.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved understanding of the need, techniques in using economic evidence to support competition policy enforcement.
	Quantitative: - Number of trainings and public consultations with government agencies, business community, experts and statisticians on the need, principle of the separation of the state ownership and management mandate over SOEs. - A new regulation/work plan on use of economic evidence in competition policy enforcement.
APEC cross-fora alignment	None.

Key Initiative: Improve Viet Nam's rankings of Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 (by the World Economic Forum) and Global Innovation Index (by the World Intellectual Property Organization).	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative falls under Resolution 02/NQ-CP of the government of Viet Nam, with focus on Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 and Global Innovation Index, aiming to improve Viet Nam's business environment, competitiveness, and innovation.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies The Resolution 02/NQ-CP has for years been consistent with the Ease of Doing Business program, aiming to promote reforms and related technical assistance to support such reforms in Viet Nam.
Activities and Timelines	- Engagement with World Economic Forum, World Intellectual Property Organization on analysis and reforms measures to improve related indicators for Viet Nam. - Review and promote administrative reforms in related areas. - Development of eco-system for innovation. - Training workshops and policy dialogues on related issues.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of meanings and methodology of World Economic Forum, World Intellectual Property Organization in compiling the indices. Quantitative: - Number of trainings for stakeholders on meanings and methodology of World Economic Forum, World Intellectual Property Organization in compiling the indices, developing roadmap for building capacity and related reforms. - Number of policy and regulatory changes related to areas covered under Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 and Global Innovation Index. - Change in scores and rankings of Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 and Global Innovation Index and sub-indices of Viet Nam.
APEC cross-fora alignment	None.

Key Initiative: Improve online public consultation during the formulation of policies and legal normative documents	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Wider and more effective use of online public consultation will help engage stakeholders in the policymaking and rulemaking processes. This in turn will contribute to improved transparency and quality of policies and regulations that work for the interest of the wider community.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☒ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative is in line with the work program of Regulatory Reform, while also requires adaptation towards digital government in the policymaking and rulemaking processes.
Activities and Timelines	- Review of regulations that may potentially support or be inconsistent with the use of online public consultation in the policymaking and rulemaking processes. - Workshops and policy dialogues on shared experiences and recommendations to promote online public consultation in the policymaking and rulemaking processes. - Proposals to revise related regulations to promote online public consultation in the policymaking and rulemaking processes.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of the importance of public consultation to the formulation of policies and legal normative documents; - Improved contribution of relevant stakeholders to the formulation of policies and legal normative documents. Quantitative: - Ratio of regulations/policies subject to public consultation (expansion of the scope of policy and stakeholders to be consulted); - Number of regulations/policies to be amended/ supplemented/ issued to promote public consultation during the process of policy formulation; - Higher ratio of responses during public consultation; - Improvement of Ministerial Efficiency Index (MEI)'s sub-indicators of public consultation and Vietnam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI)'s sub-indicators of participation of citizens at provincial level and accountability, transparency and publicity.
APEC cross-fora alignment	No.

Key Initiative: <i>Building Capacity for Promoting Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in Viet Nam</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☒ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative will contribute to improving access to justice, reducing the cost of dispute resolution for all businesses, especially SMEs in Viet Nam. This in turn will help the SMEs adapt to new business context and be resilient to future disruptions. ODR also requires development of technology and innovative programs related to digital platforms, data analysis, etc.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☒ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☒ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative fits in with the work program of the Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure FotC (SELI), whilst contributing to contract enforcement as part of the Ease of Doing Business FotC (EoDB).
Activities and Timelines	- Reviewing and improving regulations that establish the legal framework for ODR in Viet Nam. - Building awareness and skills to develop and use ODR in Viet Nam. - Policy dialogues on issues and recommendations to promote ODR in Viet Nam. - Proposals to promote ODR in Viet Nam.
Measures of progress	Briefly describe quantitative/qualitative measures to monitor/evaluate progress below. If available, please also provide the baseline situation/measure and source of information/data.
	Qualitative: - Improved awareness and skills for ODR.
	Quantitative: - Number of regulations that are changed to support ODR. - Number of trainings and policy dialogues on ODR. - Number of ODR platforms developed by ODR providers.
APEC cross-fora alignment	No.

Key Initiative: <i>Improve the appraisal of public investment projects</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. Ensuring effective and efficiency of public investment projects is essential to economic recovery in Viet Nam. In doing so, quality of project appraisal plays a critical role, as it provides for selection of public investment projects that meet economic, social and environmental criteria, and requires preparation of plans to address economic, social and environmental risks.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies This initiative does not fall into the work programs of the 6 groups under the Economic Committee (EC), but instead may be used to support economic recovery and stakeholder engagement during public investment process in Viet Nam.
Activities and Timelines	- Research on key areas of public investment appraisal that needs to be improved. - Building capacity for developing guidelines to improve public investment appraisal.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of public investment appraisal; - Improved efficiency and productivity of public investment capital; - More important role of appraisal in the public investment project cycle; - Regulations on facilitation of community monitoring over public investment projects; - Dissemination of public investment plans to facilitate community monitoring over public investment projects. Quantitative: - A handbook on public investment appraisal (regulations, methods; principle; scope; guidelines, etc.); - Number of regulations that guide the implementation of the Law on Public Investment related to the appraisal of public investment projects; - Approval of the medium-term and long-term public investment plan for the period of 2016-2020; - Trainings for local officials on public investment appraisal.
APEC cross-fora alignment	None.

Key Initiative: <i>Improve legal framework for restructuring services sector</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. A more efficient and innovative service sector will help reduce the costs of production and business activities, whilst enabling smoother digital transformation and green transition in Viet Nam. At the same time, a more diversified service structure will also help improve Viet Nam's economic resilience to future shocks.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative does not fall directly within the 6 core groups, but can contribute to supplementary structural reforms and supporting policies.
Activities and Timelines	- Review of regulations that may create unnecessary regulatory burden on services activities. - Research to support development of plans to develop relevant services sub-sectors in Viet Nam by 2025. - Proposals to revise related regulations to develop services sub-sectors.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of the importance of services sector; removal of unnecessary policy/regulatory barriers to services sector development; - Improved legal framework to facilitate the development and integration of potential and competitive services sub-sectors. Quantitative: - Development plans and/or strategies of key services sectors to be formulated/amended/supplemented, including such sectors as ICT, financial services (banking, securities, insurance), education, logistics, transport, healthcare, tourism, professional services; - Regulations on developing services sectors to be amended/ supplemented /issued that are conformed to international standards and practices.
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap (2016-2025).

Key Initiative: Promoting Circular Economy Models in Viet Nam	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☒ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☒ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☐ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative will contribute to broadening economic space for circular economy models in Viet Nam. In turn, this will strengthen the momentum for economic recovery, whilst promoting green transition in Viet Nam.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative does not fall directly within the 6 core groups, but can contribute to supplementary structural reforms and supporting policies.
Activities and Timelines	- Improving regulations that establish the legal framework for circular economy in Viet Nam. - Building awareness and skills to support sustainable consumption and production in Viet Nam. - Developing action plans at economy-wide, sectoral and provincial levels to develop circular economy in Viet Nam. - Policy dialogues on issues and recommendations to develop circular economy in Viet Nam. - Proposals to improve coordination and cooperation of government agencies to promote circular economy.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness and skills for circular economy. - Improved awareness and skills for promoting sustainable consumption and production practices.
	Quantitative: - Number of action plans at economy-wide, sectoral and provincial levels to develop circular economy in Viet Nam. - Number of trainings and policy dialogues on circular economy in Viet Nam. - Number of circular economy projects by the private sector.
APEC cross-fora alignment	No.

Key Initiative: <i>Promote the implementation of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM) model in education</i>	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. This initiative aims to build capacity and skills for labourers in adapting to the future of work, and support development of innovation and new technology in Viet Nam.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☐ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☒ Supplementary structural reforms ☒ Supporting policies The initiative does not fall directly within the 6 core groups, but can contribute to supplementary structural reforms and supporting policies.
Activities and Timelines	- Review of regulations that may foster innovative models for education. - Research to support development of plans to develop STEAM models for building employable skills in the future of work in Viet Nam by 2025. - Policy dialogues to support development of plans to develop STEAM models for building employable skills in the future of work in Viet Nam by 2025. - Proposals to revise related regulations to develop STEAM models.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness of benefits of STEAM model to the improvement of labourer's skills; - Improved skills of students via practical, innovative and integrated educational activities.
	Quantitative: - Number of educational and training establishments to implement STEAM model in Viet Nam; - Training programs on STEAM education for parents, teachers, educational establishments, educational management authority, educational experts; - Expansion of STEAM model in the educational system of Vietnam (PPP model; integration of STEAM model in educational curricula at all levels, etc.).
APEC cross-fora alignment	APEC Framework on Human Resources Development in the Digital Age.

Key Initiative: Development of Digital Government in Viet Nam	
Key Initiative linkage to EAASR	☐ Creating an enabling environment for open, transparent, and competitive markets. ☐ Boosting business recovery and resilience against future shocks. ☐ Ensuring that all groups in society have equal access to opportunities for more inclusive, sustainable growth, and greater well-being. ☒ Harnessing innovation, new technology, and skills development to boost productivity and digitalization. The Initiative will contribute to modernization of government operations in Viet Nam, which will enable and complement the digital transformation efforts of the business community. In turn, the digital government will provide a more enabling environment for development of innovation, new technology. At the same time, it also creates demand for skills that are needed in the future of work at the government agencies.
Key Initiative linkage to: Core Structural Reforms, Supplementary Structural Reforms, and/or Supporting Policies	☐ Competition Policy and Law ☐ Strengthening Economic and Legal Infrastructure ☐ Ease of Doing Business ☐ Regulatory Reform ☒ Public Sector Governance ☐ Corporate Law and Governance ☐ Supplementary structural reforms ☐ Supporting policies This initiative fits in with the work plan of the Public Sector Governance (PSG) FotC.
Activities and Timelines	- Development of regulations that establish and support effective transition to and operations of digital government in Viet Nam. - Building awareness and skills to support digital government in Viet Nam. - Policy dialogues on issues and recommendations to develop digital government in Viet Nam. - Proposals to improve coordination and cooperation of government agencies to support digital government.
Measures of progress	Qualitative: - Improved awareness and skills for transiting to and operating digital government.
	Quantitative: - Ranking in terms of UN's Global E-Government Development Index; - Percentage of agencies that supply services on 24/7 basis; - Share of documents that are electronically transmitted between agencies; - Share of dossiers that are created, stored and shared electronically.
APEC cross-fora alignment	No.