
Counter-Terrorism

The CTWG is actively involved in the APEC Travel Facilitation Initiative (TFI) endorsed by the APEC Leaders in 2011 to expedite the movement of travelers across the Asia-Pacific region.

The TFI encompasses six components:

1. The Airport Partnership Program (APP)
2. The APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)
3. The Trusted Traveller Program (TTP)
4. Air passenger security screening
5. Advance passenger information (API)
6. Checked baggage facilitation

Four other APEC sub-fora are involved in the work of this cross-cutting initiative: the Business Mobility Group (BMG), the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP), the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG) and the Tourism Working Group (TWG).

The 15th APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group Meeting on 10 February in Putrajaya, Malaysia

The group endorsed the 2020 Work Plan which focus on six areas and align with APEC's theme for 2020, "Optimizing Human Potential Towards a Future of Shared Prosperity."

The group discussed the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy across member economies.

Members also discussed and shared information on new terrorist challenges in the APEC region, including the evolving terrorist threat, cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters and growing risk of terrorist financing.

Representatives from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Business Mobility Group (BMG) shared their experiences and works on preventing and countering the threat of terrorism.

APEC Workshop on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counter Terrorism Context

To further implement the APEC Counterterrorism and Secure Trade Strategy and the CTWG Strategic Plan, the United States held a self-funded APEC CTWG Workshop on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context in Tokyo, Japan on 24–25 April 2018.

The workshop examined the unique challenge of protecting public spaces, or soft targets, such as hotels, stadiums, and restaurants from terrorist threats. The exercise also served as an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (2341) on protecting critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and public spaces, and of the good practices laid out in the non-binding Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), "Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context," published in September 2017.

Furthermore, the meeting provided targeted capacity building for developing, expanding, and/or implementing approaches to preparedness regarding identifying and protecting potential soft targets. This workshop built upon lessons learned from the 2013 US-sponsored APEC CTWG Dialogue, followed by the 2014 US-sponsored APEC workshop on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (CISR).

Halting Terrorist Financing: APEC Workshop on Targeted Financial Sanctions Regime

This three-day workshop was designed in accordance with the APEC Consolidated Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade Strategy of 2011, and was held from 6 to 8 November 2017 in Santiago, Chile. The event was structured into conferences led by experts from international organizations and member

economies, followed by two practical exercises regarding the financing of terrorism typologies and implementation of targeted financial sanctions.

Its main objectives were

- To enhance member economies' understanding of the nature, scope and components of the targeted financial sanctions regime
- Strengthen member economies' capacity to implement the targeted financial sanctions and the terrorist financing preventive regime
- Share experiences and best practices in dealing with the freezing of assets within the APEC economies
- Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between APEC economies

APEC Workshop on Strengthening Tourism Business Resilience against the Impact of Terrorism

The tourism industry contributes to job creation, economic growth, sustainable development, and peace in the APEC region.

The APEC Workshop on Strengthening Tourism Business Resilience against the Impact of Terrorist Attack was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 9 May to 10 May 2017. The two-day workshop aimed to raise understanding on the lessons learned and good practices of building tourism business resilience in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Another objective of the workshop is to increase cooperation among APEC member economies to foster stronger partnerships through the sharing of information and the exchange of best practices in countering terrorism that will enhance security, efficiency and resilience of the tourism industry without compromising the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

The outcomes of this project can be found in [this document](#).

Previous Projects and Initiatives

Secure Travel

The United States conducted the CTWG Secure Travel Workshop on “Countering Foreign Terrorist Fighters Travel” on 30–31 August 2015 in Cebu. The workshop highlighted the threat that foreign terrorist fighters and their travel poses to the Asia-Pacific region and explained why advance passenger information (API) systems are effective in helping to mitigate that threat.

The workshop also emphasized the need for inter-agency cooperation in implementing API systems; why international cooperation is imperative; and information sharing for API to be effective. It also addressed other airport screening methods that improve security and effective security procedures in land and maritime borders.

- *Trusted Traveler and Advance Passenger Information Systems*

The CTWG is also working on two joint projects with the Business Mobility Group (BMG) and the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) to develop trusted traveler characteristics and to develop best practices on implementing advance passenger information systems.

By receiving passenger information in advance of travel, APEC economies could expedite the processing of legitimate travelers through ports of entry and focus on those requiring additional scrutiny. The Trusted Traveller project is aimed at developing consensus on traveler characteristics that should form the basis of trusted traveler programs. The second project is focused on developing a document that lays out lessons learned and challenges in implementing advanced passenger information systems.

Secure Finance

The United States conducted the CTWG Secure Finance Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism with New Payment Systems (NPS) that was held on 30–31 January 2015 in Clark, Philippines, which provided to working-level financial crimes policy and operational representatives

from APEC economies the opportunity to engage and help develop or reinforce the capacities to promote the legal and transparent use of NPS and to effectively counter the illicit uses of NPS. The workshop included a description of NPS and methods, how they work, the outsourcing and segmentation of NPS services, global trends in NPS, and briefings on the experiences of APEC economies with NPS. Also, the workshop participants discussed the threat finance and crime nexus, FATF guidelines, developing prosecutorial and law enforcement foundational infrastructures, and how anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) safeguards, financial inclusion, and economic growth are mutually reinforcing goals and objectives.

Secure Supply Chains

The US-funded Trade Recovery Project, a joint initiative with the Transportation Working Group and the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures, has its background in the 2006 Leader's Declaration that identified the importance of trade recovery from terrorism or major natural disasters. The goal of trade recovery is to resume supply chain and trade operations as quickly and efficiently as possible after a major incident. The project was being developed in coordination with the World Customs Organization and is focused on establishing an information sharing platform system.

Source: Report on the APEC Trade Recovery Programme Pilot Exercise (2010)

Secure Infrastructure

- *Major Events Security Framework Workshop (APEC MESF)*

The CTWG, led by Canada, is developing a Major Events Security Framework that provides APEC economies with common practices and standards to successfully plan, execute and close out major event security such as high-profile events like the Olympics or the World Cup.

Canadian experts developed the initial content for the framework. They then worked with experts from APEC economies over the course of two workshops, one in Malaysia (June 2013) and one in Chile (October 2013), to review, pilot and finalize the content. Once complete, all APEC economies will have access to the framework via secure link to the web portal. There is a large gap between economies with respect to common practices and standards for major event security: some are very advanced, with domestic protocols in place to address various facets of project planning to close-out, while others had never had the opportunity to develop this expertise domestically.

Prior to the 7th CTWG in Lima, Peru, as part of the APEC MESF capacity building, Major Event and Security Framework Workshop was held on 20–21 February 2016. During the workshop economies had the opportunity to provide information on major event planning, to share lessons learned among economies regarding security planning for major events and to share experiences in conducting threat and risk assessments and development of concepts of operation for major events security.

- *Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience*

This self-funded project by the United States worked on ensuring the security of critical infrastructure required for an economy to function, such as power, water, transportation and communications. The project reduced risks to critical infrastructure caused by attacks, accidents and natural disasters as well as ensured operations can be resumed quickly.

- *A two-day Workshop on Enhancing Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience in the Asia Pacific Region was held on 16–17 October 2014 in Chinese Taipei.*
- *Secure Finance Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism with New Payment Systems*

This self-funded project by the United States addressed the rising concern of new payments systems to finance terrorism, such as mobile phones, internet and electronic value cards. Many of these new payment systems and technologies have yet to be regulated by governments. As a result, these financial transactions fall outside the existing financial regulatory system and can be easily used for terrorist financing.

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- *A workshop on Secure Finance on Countering the Financing of Terrorism with New Payment System was held on 29–30 January 2015, in Subic Bay, Philippines, in the margins of SOM 1 2015.*
Source: <https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Counter-Terrorism>.