

## LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION FORUM (LSIF)

### CONVENORS REPORT AND INPUTS FOR 2020 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

#### Key Achievements in 2020

*This section will be incorporated in the body of the 2020 CTI Annual Report to Ministers. Please provide one paragraph per achievement in dot points. Where possible, please highlight outcomes of these achievements.*

- On 23 September 2020, LSIF and the Health Working Group (HWG) co-hosted the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM10) convened virtually under the theme, “Building a Resilient Asia-Pacific in a COVID-19 World”. APEC Health Ministers, senior officials, and high-level representatives from academia, industry, civil society, and international organizations contributed to discussions on regional policy responses to the dual economic and health crisis of COVID-19, the importance of strengthening the resiliency of health systems and supply chains, and the important role that digital health should play moving forward. 18 APEC economies were represented. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of the [10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and Economy Joint Statement](#).
- On 12 June 2020, LSIF members endorsed the [APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum Statement on COVID-19](#). In alignment with the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement on COVID-19, the LSIF COVID-19 Statement outlines LSIF’s commitment to leverage its work on enabling innovation, medical product supply chains, regulatory convergence, innovative healthcare financing, and digital health to support APEC economies in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and building more resilient health systems and economies.
- The LSIF developed the *APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course* to serve as a comprehensive strategy for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of immunization programs in the APEC region. The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the urgency of protecting populations and ensuring the highest coverage against vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Throughout 2020 the LSIF convened a webinar series titled “Enhancing Innovative Healthcare Financing in Pursuit of Strong and Resilient Health Systems” to provide information and share best practices and case studies to enable APEC economies to deploy innovative and alternative healthcare financing mechanisms. The webinar series helped APEC economies improve their policy and regulatory environments to enable the use of a wide range of solutions including social impact bonds and blended financing arrangements; innovative insurance schemes; and FinTech and digital technologies, among other solutions, to increase fiscal space for healthcare. The webinars were based on previous LSIF work including the APEC Checklist of Enablers for Alternative Health Financing developed in 2017 and the 2019 LSIF report on “Enhancing Innovative Healthcare Financing in Pursuit of Sustainable Healthcare”.
- The LSIF continues to collaborate with the Health Working Group on prevention and control of cervical cancer in the APEC region through the ongoing implementation of the APEC Roadmap to Promote Sustainable Economic Advancement for Women through Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control (2016-2021). Under the leadership of the United States, LSIF and HWG convened the 6<sup>th</sup> APEC Policy Dialogue on Cervical Cancer in November 2020 to focus on capacity

strengthening, sustainability, and community engagement in cervical cancer control in the new setting of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- The LSIF also continues to lead projects on rare diseases, tuberculosis, and cancer control, among other issues.

#### **Work Undertaken by the Fora in Response to COVID-19 (if applicable)**

***Please provide no more than one paragraph per work undertaken in dot points.***

- On 23 September 2020, LSIF and the Health Working Group (HWG) co-hosted the 10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy (HLM10) convened virtually under the theme, “Building a Resilient Asia-Pacific in a COVID-19 World”. APEC Health Ministers, senior officials, and high-level representatives from academia, industry, civil society, and international organizations contributed to discussions on regional policy responses to the dual economic and health crisis of COVID-19, the importance of strengthening the resiliency of health systems and supply chains, and the important role that digital health should play moving forward. 18 APEC economies were represented. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of the [10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and Economy Joint Statement](#).
- In support of the MRT Statement on COVID-19, on 12 June 2020 the APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum endorsed a Statement on COVID-19. Please find it here: [http://apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2020/0612\\_Isif](http://apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2020/0612_Isif). The statement included the following commitments:
  - The LSIF will continue supporting APEC economies with fostering an enabling environment to grow their innovative life sciences sector during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and will work to update the *LSIF Enablers of Investment Checklist* to reflect the knowledge, lessons, and experiences learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the evolving requirements to attract investment in the sector.
  - LSIF supports APEC as a whole and members individually in reducing and eliminating unnecessary barriers to trade in medical products and in promoting resilient supply chains for medical products. LSIF will present recommendations for promoting resilient trade in medical products to the APEC Committee on Trade & Investment in 2020.
  - The LSIF commits to continuing to work with APEC members and its network of APEC Training Centers of Excellence for Regulatory Science to ensure the wide dissemination of the Supply Chain Security Toolkit and to promote the adoption of best practices by industry stakeholders and regulators throughout the region.
  - LSIF is currently updating and extending our strategic framework for accelerating regulatory convergence for medical products in the APEC region and commit to incorporating perspectives from the COVID-19 pandemic into our strategic framework. We commit to leveraging our network of 26 Centers of Excellence across 9 APEC economies, providing training programs for hundreds of regulators annually, to build the skilled human capacity needed to enable the region’s regulators, especially those in developing economies, to effectively and efficiently respond to COVID-19 and future pandemics.
  - LSIF will expand virtual cooperation to expand the use of the *APEC Checklist of Enablers*

*for Alternative Health Financing* to help APEC economies improve their policy and regulatory environment for enabling the adoption and deployment of alternative financing mechanisms to help maintain and expand healthcare coverage. Health financing policies that strengthen health system resilience, health security, and expand universal health coverage will enable us respond to the current COVID-19 crisis as well as future challenges.

- The LSIF commits to facilitating the sharing of information and best practices in harnessing the digital economy and digital technologies to enable the future of life sciences innovation and our ability to address COVID-19 and future health challenges.

#### **Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora**

##### ***Please provide a high-level summary of issues in dot points***

- The LSIF is working in cooperation with the Health Working Group to develop the Post-2020 strategy document for health in APEC, titled “The North Star - A 2030 Strategy for Enabling Resilient Health Systems and Promoting the Health of Our Populations in the Asia Pacific”. The document is intended to serve as APEC’s central guidance document on health and will build on the Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 Initiative which is sun-setting in 2020. The draft document will be circulated for consideration by APEC economies by SOM1 2021.
- The LSIF is developing an updated Strategic Plan for consideration by APEC economies by SOM1 2021. The updated Strategic Plan will guide the work of LSIF over the next five years.
- The LSIF is working on the *Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee Vision 2030 and Strategic Framework* as an updated strategy for regulatory convergence efforts within LSIF over the coming decade, especially for transformative therapies. It will be circulated for consideration by APEC economies by SOM1 2021.

#### **Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders at the end of 2020 (if applicable)**

***Please advise if your Fora intends to submit any deliverables to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders and attach these documents.***

- [10th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and Economy Joint Statement](#)
- [APEC Life Sciences Innovation Forum Statement on COVID-19](#)