**Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Accessing the**

**Structural Reform and Sustainable Green Growth (SRSGG) Sub-Fund**

**Objectives**

The SRSGG Sub-Fund is designed to fund capacity-building projects to develop and implement structural reforms that support sustainable growth. For example, but not limited to, projects that establish enabling policies that promote the development of and increase the uptake of low–carbon transition and low/zero emission technologies, and promote, if appropriate, carbon pricing schemes.

Capacity building enables member economies to obtain, share, strengthen, maintain and develop knowledge, abilities, skills and technical know-how to improve their policies and regulations or their institutional structures or processes.

The SRSGG Sub-Fund builds on previous work to accelerate action on APEC’s strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda. Among others, it takes into account the findings of the 2022 APEC Economic Policy Report: *Structural Reform and a Green Recovery from Economic Shocks*, which provides APEC economies with recommendations for structural reforms aimed at achieving economic growth that responds to climate change and environmental threats.

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered eligible for the SRSGG Sub-Fund, Concept Notes need to:

* Demonstrate that their project will build capacity to develop and implement structural reforms that promote sustainable growth through climate related objectives of the Putrajaya Vision 2040, as reflected in the Aotearoa Plan of Action and the four pillars of the Enhanced APEC Agenda on Structural Reform (EAASR). For example, developing structural reform toolkits and online resources, acquiring a particular set of technical skills, obtaining new knowledge or gaining experience through hands-on work.
* Focus SRSGG capacity-building on those with responsibility for developing structural reform programmes or policies across government.
* Foster the exchange of experiences and expertise relevant to the implementation of SRSGG activities on climate mitigation and adaptation.

In developing Concept Notes and related Project Proposals, economies should also consider addressing how the project:

* contributes to the implementation of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth;
* takes forward APEC’s inclusive growth agenda to support other groups with untapped economic potential;
* enhances cross-fora collaboration to strengthen policy coordination and effectiveness.

**Guidelines to access the SRSGG Sub-Fund**

All Concept Notes seeking access to the SRSGG Sub-Fund need to be endorsed by the proposing forum and have a minimum of two co-sponsors. Following the Final Submission Deadline that applies to the Project Session in question, an SRSGG Sub-fund Assessment Group will first undertake an assessment of each CN seeking funding from the SRSGG Sub-fund, for the purposes of determining eligibility.

The Assessment Group will consist of:

* The Economic Committee (EC) Chair
* The EC Program Director, APEC Secretariat
* Economies which have contributed to the SRSGG Sub-fund
* The Host economy, where the Host economy is a developing economy.
(Where the Host is a developed economy, the EC shall decide on which developing economy should occupy this role.)

The Assessment Group will refer to APEC’s Project Quality Criteria of *relevance, impact, effectiveness, sustainability*, and *efficiency* when assessing submitted CNs. The Assessment Group will operate in a transparent and fair manner, with any EC member entitled to observe proceedings.

The EC will have full decision-making authority in relation to the endorsement of CNs proposed within the EC. Eligible CNs that have been endorsed by the EC, or another proposing fora, will be scored by the EC, in its role as the forum responsible for scoring all CNs found to be eligible to access the SRSGG Sub-fund. For those CNs that are assessed as eligible, and subsequently recommended by the Secretariat to BMC for in-principle approval, the Assessment Group may provide feedback on a CN to the Project Overseer (PO) to be taken into account during the development of the Project Proposal.

The EC will score all eligible Concept Notes that have been endorsed by the EC, or another proposing fora, using the APEC Scoring Template. The succeeding steps will follow the established process set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects.

**Priority projects**

Priority will be given to projects that benefit APEC economies that are considered as travel-eligible in line with the Guidebook on APEC Projects with an implementation period of at least 12 months. This does not preclude other economies from applying for and receiving funding, or projects of a shorter timeframe from being proposed if they are in line with the purpose of the sub-fund and otherwise meet these Eligibility Criteria. SRSGG Sub-Fund projects need to support the development and implementation of structural reforms for sustainable green growth and have clear capacity-building objectives for member economies. Similarly, proposed projects may primarily benefit a single economy, but should have broader lessons for APEC members.

Consistent with the ASF General Fund, an APEC funding limit of USD150,000 shall apply for an individual Concept Note.

**Administration of the SRSGG Sub-Fund**

The APEC Secretariat will be responsible for the administration of the SRSGG Sub-Fund. It will be subject to the procedures governing the APEC Support Fund, as set out in the Guidebook on APEC Projects.

Operating within any APEC fora, economies may submit Concept Notes that meet the scope and eligibility criteria of the SRSGG Sub-Fund. Applications from outside the EC should engage with the economy representative to ensure that their Concept Note addresses the SRSGG Sub-Fund’s objectives.