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| Document: SGWG 43-059A Draft: THIRD Source: ABAC New Zealand Date: 13 November 2023 Meeting: San Francisco, California, USA |
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ABAC Statement on Climate for COP28

Climate change is the urgent existential challenge of our age. As the recent United Nations Global Stocktake and the March 2023 Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change vividly show, we simply cannot afford to wait any longer for decisive action – for the sake of our people, our prosperity, and our planet.

COP28 offers a crucial opportunity to find global solutions to the climate crisis. The APEC Business Advisory Council calls on APEC Leaders to work constructively together in Dubai as a global trailblazer in finding those solutions, fulfilling the leadership role that was part of the founding aspirations of APEC.

In 2021, ABAC agreed a set of Climate Leadership Principles for Business: Reduction, Adaptation, and Just Transitions. These Principles frame and give impetus to the interrelated actions needed to transform energy systems, industries, and economies in a fair and inclusive way. These are principles that should inform the decisions taken in Dubai, too.

The ABAC Principles also demonstrate that business can take the lead in developing and implementing innovative solutions: we do not need to wait for policymakers to act. For example, our 2023 Bio-Circular Green Economy Pledge allows businesses to identify practical actions which contribute to APEC's Bangkok Goals for Bio-Circular Green Economy, which aim in turn to support global efforts to address climate change, among other issues.

At the same time, we impress upon APEC Leaders – and indeed all Parties at COP28 – the need for **coherent, bold, deliberate and urgent action by global governments.**

Only in so doing will we collectively mitigate the worst impacts and costs of climate change. We can create needed certainty for businesses and our communities, spur the process of adaptation, and ensure a transition that is fair for all – for both developed and developing economies alike, including the smallest and most vulnerable, and also those hit hardest by climate impacts in our communities, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth, rural and remote communities, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

In its 2023 Report to APEC Leaders, ABAC has called on Leaders to take a range of actions to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, consistent with our Climate Principles. We urge APEC economies to commit to these and similar actions at COP28:

- Accelerating emissions reductions, including through the rapid elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and other environmentally-harmful subsidies, including to agriculture;
- Promoting coordinated and enhanced financing for a just transition in the region;
- Securing a just, ambitious, realistic and sustainable energy transition; and
- Leveraging trade tools (including environmental goods and services, and trade and investment in renewable energy) to accelerate emissions reductions, generate incentives for rapid adaptation, build resilience and create opportunities for all, while avoiding green protectionism – in recognition of the critical role that trade can play in the climate response.

- Developing green skills in the workforce in line with industry needs as they transform to meet the requirements of a sustainable, lower-carbon economy.

We stand ready to work with APEC economies to achieve a successful outcome in Dubai and beyond.

*APEC Business Advisory Council
November 2023*