







# STATEMENT BY Patients and Patient Organizations on **Reinforcing Ethics and Business Integrity in Healthcare and Enforcing APEC's Vision 2025**

## **PATIENTS ARE THE ONLY WHY IN HEALTHCARE.**

As consumers of health-related products and services, it is paramount that patients and the patient voice be prioritized in policy decisions, product development, and medical device design.

The patient network of the *Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative* (“Initiative”) advocates for its goal to put patients at the center of its strategy to advance ethical business conduct in healthcare. The disruption of global health systems and the rise of digital health in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic provide not only additional challenges, but also opportunities for the increased involvement of and ethical collaboration with patients and patient organizations.

**The APEC Patient Network calls on the following actions and parties to effectively advance the progress of Vision 2025:**

-  Adoption of consensus frameworks in each APEC economy by 2023 and implementation by 2025
-  Ensure the APEC Principles are updated to reflect the highest standards of ethical business practices
-  Measure the impact of ethical business practices in the medical technology and biopharmaceutical sectors
-  Promote strategies to encourage ethical business conduct
-  Disseminate guidance on patient and patient organization interactions within industry
-  Proactive and public communication about work of patient organizations within Initiative

The Initiative's patient network encourages that all partners and parties of the healthcare system, including the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industries and their respective associations, healthcare professionals, and governments help to build patients and patient organizations' capacity to support multi-stakeholder consensus frameworks. The Initiative also advocates for patient education and engagement in all consensus framework decisions. Patients and patient organizations serve a central role in the effective implementation of the [APEC Kuala Lumpur Principles for Voluntary Codes of Business Ethics in the Medical Technology Sector](#) and of the [APEC Mexico City Principles for Voluntary Codes of Business Ethics in the Biopharmaceutical Sector](#). They serve as vital members of consensus framework agreements for ethical collaboration within many APEC economies.

The Initiative's patient network encourages governments to only procure products from companies with a verifiable Code of Ethics to ensure that the standard is set across the healthcare industry. This particular action will significantly advance ethical business conduct in the APEC region and will ensure that industry is complying with the highest ethical standards.