

19. **We welcome the progress achieved on the EVSL package of nine sectors.** We instruct Ministers of participating economies to implement the agreement reached on these sectors and further advance work on the remaining six sectors, demonstrating our commitment to the liberalisation process amidst the financial crisis in the region.
20. We affirm that progressing all three pillars of cooperation in APEC will strengthen the foundations for further growth. We commend progress in the priority areas of human resources development and harnessing technologies of the future. We note the improvements in the management of the economic and technical cooperation process including the work underway in infrastructure and sustainable development. **We instruct Ministers to give further focus to strengthen coordination in ECOTECH activities and intensify work in the priority areas.** We believe the contribution of the business/private sector in ECOTECH activities will enhance and strengthen our efforts to advance the economic and technical cooperation agenda and welcome ABAC's commitment in this area through the Partnership for Equitable Growth (PEG).
21. As the APEC community enters into its tenth year of cooperation, we recognise the need to review its activities, structure and mechanisms in order to ensure that APEC delivers focused and outcome-oriented results in the most effective and efficient manner. We observe the proliferation of APEC fora and meetings and endorse work to further streamline the APEC management process. **We instruct Ministers to complete the review of the APEC process by 1999 and for implementation of measures in 2000.**
22. We recognise that the involvement of the business/private sector is an important feature of APEC work and endorse its broader participation in APEC activities. We direct Ministers to enhance business/private involvement, within existing guidelines, in relevant APEC activities. We welcome efforts to improve business mobility through the APEC Business Travel Card scheme and the collective commitment to expand the availability of multiple entry visas or permits to business travellers. We also welcome the recommendations by ABAC and instruct our Ministers to study ABAC's proposals, including the APEC Food System.

#### **Strengthening the Foundations for Sustained Growth into the 21st Century**

23. We are firmly resolved to strengthen social safety nets, financial systems individually and globally, trade and investment flows, the scientific and technological base, human resources development, economic infrastructure, and business and commercial links so as to provide the base and set the pace for sustained growth into the 21st century.