

4TH MEETING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP) COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The 4th meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) was convened virtually on 20th July 2022. Delegates from the following CPTPP Members were present at the meeting: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Viet Nam. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Yap Jun Hong, Senior Assistant Director from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore.
2. The agenda of the Committee meeting is attached in **Annex A**.
3. The summary of the Committee's discussions and any outcomes confirmed under the respective agenda items are set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Committee meeting agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF "INFORMATION EXCHANGE TEMPLATES"

5. Canada recapped the work that had taken place under the Committee regarding the framework to facilitate information exchange on the implementation of relevant provisions under the Chapter. To date, most Members had submitted their information exchange templates adopted under this framework. In this regard, the Committee confirmed that the initial phase of the framework was completed and a path forward on further activities under this framework could be discussed once in-person meetings resumed. Nonetheless, the Chair urged Members to submit their information exchange templates if they had not done so, and to update the templates accordingly if there were any changes. Australia shared that they would be re-submitting their information exchange template, in light of recent changes in government, *viz.* the formation of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the creation of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
6. Australia also emphasized the importance for the information exchange templates to be implemented in a practical way, and noted that the information should be sensibly stored, linked to, and easily updated, without creating onerous burdens on Members. This was

supported by Canada, who highlighted that the templates should be a living document to provide Members with the most relevant and updated information, to contribute towards fulfilling the goal of the Chapter.

AGENDA ITEM 3: POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

7. Australia indicated interests in working with Members to explore collaboration on organic products and wines and spirits under the Sectoral Annexes of the Chapter. New Zealand indicated interest in Australia's suggestion, and also suggested greater cross collaboration on TBT and SPS issues. Some members explained that domestic consultations would be required before they could provide a response to Australia's suggestion. A party highlighted that notwithstanding some similarities between TBT and SPS issues, the nature and objective of such issues could differ. The Chair suggested for Australia to circulate more information on their suggestion through email intersessionally so that Members could further assess the suggestion.

AGENDA ITEM 4: OTHER MATTERS

8. Peru presented their initiative on "*Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information*", which they were undertaking under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and extended invitation to Members to attend the related public-private dialogue which would be happening on the sidelines of APEC in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING

9. New Zealand, as the next Chair of the CPTPP Commission, said that it would provide updates on the next Committee meeting when further information is available.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COMMITTEE REPORT

10. The Committee confirmed to finalise the Committee report via email correspondence.

**CPTPP COMMITTEE ON
TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

**20 July 2022; 09:00am (Singapore Time GMT+08)
Virtual Meeting Hosted by Singapore**

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF “INFORMATION
EXCHANGE TEMPLATES”**

AGENDA ITEM 3: POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

AGENDA ITEM 4: OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 6: COMMITTEE REPORT