

4th MEETING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP) COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN GOODS AND COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The 4th meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Trade in Goods and Committee on Agricultural Trade was convened virtually on 6 July 2022. Delegates from the following CPTPP Members were represented: 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 of Singapore.

2. The Committee meeting agenda is attached as **ANNEX A**.

3. The summary of the Committee's discussion and any outcomes confirmed under the respective agenda items are set out below.

Agenda Item 1 (Adoption of Agenda)

4. The Committee meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2 (Import Licensing Procedures Notification)

5. Japan updated the Committee of its new import licensing procedures relating to fishery products. This import licensing procedure is a catch documentation scheme (CDS) to prevent products of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing from entering into Japanese market.

Agenda Item 3 (Export Licensing Procedures Notification)

6. Australia updated that it had submitted a Quantitative Restriction (QR) notification for COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits in February 2022, which has since expired.

Agenda Item 4 (Location of Published Information)

7. The Committee agreed to recirculate the template used for the updating of the location of published information, so that Parties could update the template accordingly. Canada and Mexico shared that they would be making updates to the template.

Agenda Item 5 (Transposition of Tariff Schedule)

8. The Committee agreed on the importance of sharing correlation and concordance tables. Members who had yet to provide their correlation and concordance tables for the HS 2022 nomenclature updated the Committee that these would be shared by no later than the end of 2022.

Agenda Item 6 (Transparency of Export Restrictions on Foodstuffs)

9. Canada and Singapore reiterated their continued support for advance notification of export restrictions and prohibitions for foodstuffs, so that importing Parties could do the necessary to source for alternative food supplies. Canada also encouraged Parties to collaborate and work together on new opportunities that could help strengthen food security, such as on plant proteins and products of modern biotechnology.

Agenda Item 7 (Tariff-Rate Quota Administration and Utilisation)

10. New Zealand noted that issues of chronic underfill and underutilisation of Tariff-Rate Quotas (TRQs) continued to remain unaddressed, even as Parties entered into the fourth year of the entry-into-force of the CPTPP. New Zealand also highlighted the importance of transparency and proper implementation of the negotiated market access outcomes under the CPTPP, as Parties looked towards an expanded membership, so as to maintain high standards of implementation. Australia echoed similar views on the importance of transparency, as it too, was concerned about the administration of TRQs, based on information available about TRQ utilisation rates and feedback from its domestic stakeholders. Mexico and Viet Nam also provided updates on the utilisation rate and implementation of TRQs.

11. The Committee agreed to the Chair circulating the list of contact points for tariff rate quota administration for Members to update as soon as possible. The Chair will then circulate the updated list to Members.

Agenda Item 8 (Exchange of Preferential Utilisation Data)

12. Parties agreed to continue with the exchange of preferential utilisation data for 2021, and to endeavour to do so by end-September 2022, and no later than the end of 2022. The Committee also agreed that any Party who were unable to meet the end-September 2022 deadline should provide an interim update to the Committee as to when it would be able to exchange its data.

13. On the use of the exchanged preferential utilisation data by other Committees and Working Groups under the CPTPP, Parties agreed that approval and concurrence must be sought from the Committee on Trade in Goods before such data could be shared and used by the other Committees and Working Groups.

Agenda Item 9 (Sub-Working Group on Products of Modern Biotechnology)

14. Canada updated Members that the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sub-working group on products of modern biotechnology (sub-working group) had been finalised and endorsed by the Committee on Agricultural Trade last year. Canada informed the Committee that five Parties had indicated interest in participating in the sub-working group thus far, viz., Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, and Viet Nam. Canada encouraged Parties to nominate representatives to participate in the sub-working group and noted that participation in the sub-working group remained open to all Parties and any Party may join at any time by notifying the Committee on Agricultural Trade.

15. Canada invited members of the sub-working group to reflect on whether there was interest in having a meeting in the coming months, and to submit ideas and topics of interest for discussion to Canada as the Chair. To this end, Canada offered to recirculate the TOR for the sub-working group intersessionally to see if there is any further interest from other Parties in joining the sub-working group, and provide contact points for questions and submissions related to a meeting of the sub-working group.

Agenda Item 10 (Other Matters)

16. The Chair provided a brief update on the status of the UK's accession to Members.

Agenda Item 11 (Next Meeting)

17. New Zealand, as the next Chair of the CPTPP Commission, updated that it will provide the details of the next Committee Meeting, when ready.

Agenda Item 12 (Committee Report)

18. The Committee agreed to finalise the Committee report via email correspondence.

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN GOODS AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE

**6 July 2022; 09:00am – 11:00am (Singapore Time GMT+08)
Virtual Meeting Hosted by Singapore**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES NOTIFICATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES NOTIFICATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 4: LOCATION OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEM 5: TRANSPOSITION OF TARIFF SCHEDULE

AGENDA ITEM 6: TRANSPARENCY OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON FOODSTUFFS

AGENDA ITEM 7: TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ADMINISTRATION AND UTILISATION

AGENDA ITEM 8: EXCHANGE OF PREFERENTIAL UTILISATION DATA

**AGENDA ITEM 9: SUB-WORKING GROUP ON PRODUCTS OF MODERN
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 12: COMMITTEE REPORT