

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE MEETING REPORTS 2023

MEETING REPORTS

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Report of E-Commerce Committee Meeting, 23 March 2023

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Electronic Commerce (the Committee) met virtually on 23 March 2023. The following members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. It was the first meeting of the Committee for 2023. Ms. Sarah McDowell of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acted as Chair and Mr. Hideyasu Tamura of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry acted as Co-chair of the Committee.
2. A summary of the Committee's discussion and outcomes decided under the respective agenda items is set out below.

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Co-chairs of the Committee welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chair thanked Singapore and Japan for their work as the Committee's Co-chairs in 2022, working to ensure that the e-commerce chapter (the Chapter) remains relevant and useful. The Co-chair expressed commitment to work to make the Chapter more relevant to business and global society.
4. The Chair then outlined the agenda for the meeting. Members approved the agenda without revisions.

AGENDA ITEM 2: OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2023

5. The Chair recalled the discussions from Senior Official Meeting 1 (SOM1), which outlined the proposed work programme for the Committee in 2023, including building upon the work done in 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF A REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION

6. There was a presentation of a study on best practices for e-commerce implementation, which considered CPTPP Members' implementation of the Chapter's provisions.
7. This presentation included an overview of the report, key findings and suggestions on how to take them forward.

9. The Chair noted Member support for a dedicated session and will work to arrange a suitable date and time.

AGENDA ITEM 4: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR E-COMMERCE IMPLEMENTATION

10. The Co-chairs introduced this item as an opportunity for Members to provide updates in their domestic context and challenges they were facing in the implementation of the Chapter.

11. Several members provided updates and comments on legislative and regulatory reform relevant to the Chapter and digital trade within CPTPP Members in the last year.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED CONSIDERATION OF HOW THE CHAPTER COULD BE UPDATED AND IMPROVED IN THE FUTURE

12. The Chair noted the broader discussions occurring in respect of the proposed general review of the CPTPP and that the Committee was already well placed to move discussions on this issue forward, particularly in light of workshops already held in 2022. There was interest in exploring and exchanging views of the Members on where opportunities might lie for new areas that are not included in the chapter, as well as to identify opportunities for collaboration. The Co-chairs emphasised this work as an exploratory exercise and would be done without prejudice to future negotiations.

13. It was proposed that the views from the draft questionnaire would be compiled into a report in the case Members reach a consensus on that point. It was also proposed that in the drafting of that report, there would not be attributions of views expressed through the questionnaire to individual Members, and it would be solely for internal use.

14. Several Members broadly expressed support for this work, noting that the CPTPP was still a 'high watermark' agreement that set high standards for trade. Collaboration on how to best track the economic impact of the Chapter was identified as a possible opportunity for cooperation, with some Members expressing difficulty in doing this.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY ON CUSTOMS AUTOMATION AND DIGITAL TRADE FACILITATION

15. The Chair introduced this item as a key project to advance paperless trade and trade facilitation provisions by the Members. Recalling the discussion at SOM1, it was noted this work would commence under the Committee, and further consideration be given to the creation of a separate, ad hoc body to allow for dedicated and specialised discussions.

16. The proposed work stream would seek to understand the data sets required by Members' customs authorities and identify commonalities and differences. This would inform the work required to advance towards a common data set that would enable

opportunities such as single window interface interoperability and advance border clearance arrangements. A survey would be circulated, which would be used to inform a proposed workshop at the end of the year and a report to Senior Officials in advance of SOM5.

17. Members broadly expressed support for this proposed work stream, with some Members noting the opportunities data sharing and customs automation would enable. Some Members noted that they were in the middle of consultation regarding the concept note.

AGENDA ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

18. The Chair noted a number of proposed meetings:

A dedicated session to explore the study's findings in detail;

A proposed workshop in October 2023 for the customs work stream; and

A potential ad hoc meeting to develop the report following the questionnaire referred to in Agenda Item 5 if required.

AGENDA ITEM 8: COMMITTEE REPORT

19. The Chair noted a report of this meeting will be produced, containing a high-level summary and decisions made. This report will be made public unless otherwise desired by Members.

20. The Chair thanked Members, including their customs authorities, for their participation and invited Members to reach out should they seek any clarification or wish to provide comment.

MEETING TWO

CPTPP/EC/2023/R002

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Report of E-Commerce Committee Meeting, 7 June 2023

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Electronic Commerce (the Committee) met virtually on 7 June 2023. The following members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. It was the second meeting of the Committee for 2023. Ms. Sarah McDowell of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acted as Chair and Mr. Hideyasu Tamura of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry acted as Co-chair of the Committee.

2. The Co-chairs of the Committee welcomed Members to the meeting. It was noted that this meeting was in follow up to the March meeting of the Committee to have a dedicated

session to present the findings on a report on best practices for e-commerce implementation, which considered CPTPP members implementation of the Chapter's provisions. The Co-chairs thanked the study's authors for attending the meeting.

3. The Chair then outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was adopted without revision.
4. The study's authors gave a presentation on their study to Members, which was followed by a brief question and answer session.
5. The Chair proposed a date for the Committee's next meeting and outlined a proposed agenda.

MEETING THREE

CPTPP/EC/2023/R003

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Report of E-Commerce Committee Meeting, 16 June 2023

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Electronic Commerce (the Committee) met virtually on 16 June 2023. The following members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. It was the third meeting of the Committee for 2023. Ms. Sarah MCDOWELL of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acted as Chair and Mr. Hideyasu TAMURA of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry acted as Co-chair of the Committee.
2. A summary of the Committee's discussion and outcomes decided under the respective agenda items is set out below.
3. The Co-chairs of the Committee welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chair outlined the agenda for the meeting, which was adopted without revision.

AGENDA ITEM 1: NEXT STEPS ON IMPLEMENTATION STUDY

4. The Chair noted the request from a number of Members to have an opportunity to make revisions to a study that looked into the Members' implementation of the e-commerce chapter and asked for these to be provided in writing to the Chair and the study's commissioner.
5. Some members also shared views on possible next steps for the study. The Chair asked all Members to consider next steps and share them with the Chair to inform the development of a proposal for next steps.

AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATE ON QUESTIONS ABOUT FUTURE WORK AREAS

6. The Chair noted feedback received on questions to look into future work areas and set out next steps for Members to provide their responses to the questions. The Co-chair expressed support for the questions and offered assistance if needed in the development of the report. Members also expressed support for the questions. The Chair will circulate the questions to Members after the meeting along with the proposed timetable for inputs and development of the report to Senior Officials at the final Senior Officials Meeting at the end of the year.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ESTABLISHMENT OF CUSTOMS AND TRADE FACILITATION BODY

7. The Chair shared a draft decision to set up an ad hoc customs and trade facilitation body for Members' feedback ahead of the Joint Commission meeting in July. Members had a discussion on the draft decision. The Chair asked for Members to provide feedback on the draft decision.

AGENDA ITEM 4: UPDATE ON CUSTOMS AND TRADE FACILITATION PROGRAMME

8. The Chair provided an update to the proposed customs and trade facilitation work programme. Members then had a discussion on the work programme and proposed next steps. The Chair will circulate the final concept note on the work programme and the survey for Members to complete.

NEXT STEPS

9. The Chair summarised the decisions made, next steps for Members and associated deadlines. The Chair closed the meeting.