

## CPTPP LABOUR COUNCIL 2023

### Meeting Summary

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#### Council Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Labour Council was held virtually on 21st November 2023. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, UK and Viet Nam. New Zealand Chaired the meeting, with Singapore and Canada as Co-Chairs.
  2. The Council agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.
  3. A summary of the Council's discussion under the respective agenda items is set out below.
  4. AGENDA ITEM 1: The Chair provided welcome remarks, noting the importance of the Labour Council's work and the key focus of the Five Year Review of the Chapter.
  5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Chair briefed the Council on meeting arrangements and the Council agreed to adopt the Agenda.
  6. AGENDA ITEM 3: Senior officials introduced their Delegations.
  7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Delegations confirmed their respective Contact Points for the Labour Chapter pursuant to Article 19.3.
  8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Delegations presented their feedback in relation to the following review questions pursuant to Article 19.12 (4), *"the Council shall review the implementation of this Chapter with a view to ensuring its effective operation and report the findings and any recommendations to the Commission"*. The Review questions were the key focus of the
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meeting. The Chair summarised the key themes emerging from the presentations, in relation to the questions, as follows:

- a. What has your delegation's experience been in the implementation of the Labour Chapter? Have there been challenges that have arisen for implementing the Chapter, and/or do barriers to adoption exist?*
- Delegations identified no specific barriers to implementation of the Labour Chapter.
  - For some Parties, the Agreement has not been in place long enough to enable identification of issues or opportunities in relation to implementation.
  - Parties have diverse operational and legislative work programmes that relate to the Labour Chapter's provisions. Many parties are ratifying and/or considering ratification of ILO Conventions – particularly the ILO Occupational Health and Safety Fundamental Conventions.
- b. Are there opportunities for addressing such challenges, and/or improving the implementation and operation of the Chapter?*
- No specific barriers, or opportunities to improve implementation were identified by Parties.
- c. Has the Chapter encouraged labour cooperation activities or otherwise acted to promote labour rights/best practice amongst participants? Has the current level of activity been sufficient, and are there areas where further discussion and cooperation between the Parties would be useful?*
- There was common reference to the value of cooperation among Parties on labour matters, as is highlighted in the Article 19.10 Cooperative provisions. Parties are actively cooperating on labour issues bilaterally at the ILO, APEC and other multilateral fora.
  - The importance of progressing the priority areas for cooperation agreed at the March 2021 Council meeting, particularly the two areas for which there was most support (promoting occupational safety and health, and promoting ethical and sustainable supply chains) was also noted. No parties identified specific cooperation actions taken through a work programme of the Labour Council, but other parties (e.g. Canada) reported funding cooperation activities in alignment with the aforementioned priorities.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: The Chair opened the floor to Members to participate in open discussion in relation to the Review questions pursuant to Article 19.12(4). There was no objection to the themes noted above being provided to the Joint Commission in relation to the Review.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: The Chair closed the meeting, noting that the next steps are for the Report to be agreed by Parties and communicated to the upcoming Senior Officials meeting, that the

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Report will help inform the General Review, and that the Report will be provided to the Joint Commission in due course.

New Zealand has also circulated to Parties (via an email of 24 November attaching the draft meeting report) a request for views on progressing cooperative priorities further, particularly in relation to the two priority areas previously identified (promoting occupational safety and health, and promoting ethical and sustainable supply chains), and welcomes Parties' views and interest in an intersessional information-sharing session on either or both of those themes.

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**ANNEX A: CPTPP LABOUR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA, 21 November 2023**

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<b>Agenda</b>	
<b>21 November: 1300 - 1600 [NZ standard time]</b>	
<b>Venue: Virtual</b>	
<b>ITEM 1</b> 1300-1315	<b>Mihi (welcome)</b>
<b>ITEM 2</b> 1315-1325	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>
<b>ITEM 3</b> 1325-1335	<b>Introductions and Housekeeping</b>
<b>ITEM 4</b> 1335-1340	<b>Confirming contacts list</b> (to be updated secretorially in advance of the meeting)
<b>Exchange of views on the Labour Chapter review</b> <i>“the Council shall review the implementation of this Chapter with a view to ensuring its effective operation and report the findings and any recommendations to the Commission”.</i>	

<p><b>ITEM 5</b> 1340 - 1440</p>	<p><b>Presentations on Chapter Review:</b> Each Party to present their feedback on the review questions (5 mins per Party):</p> <p><b><u>Question 1:</u></b> What has your delegation's experience been in the implementation of the Labour Chapter? Have there been challenges that have arisen for implementing the Chapter, and/or do barriers to adoption exist?</p> <p><b><u>Question 2:</u></b> Are there opportunities for addressing such challenges, and/or improving the implementation and operation of the Chapter?</p> <p><b><u>Question 3:</u></b> Has the Chapter encouraged labour cooperation activities or otherwise acted to promote labour rights/best practice amongst participants? Has the current level of activity been sufficient, and are there areas where further discussion and cooperation between the Parties would be useful?</p>
<p><b>ITEM 6</b> 1440 - 1540</p>	<p><b>Discussion of Chapter Review questions:</b> An opportunity for open discussion of the Review Questions:</p> <p><b><u>Question 1</u></b> (20mins)</p> <p><b><u>Question 2</u></b> (20mins)</p> <p><b><u>Question 3</u></b> (20mins)</p>
<p>Following the virtual meeting, a summary of views raised during the discussion will be collated by New Zealand, disseminated for review by Parties, and then brought to the attention of the 2024 Joint Commission.</p>	
<p><b>ITEM 7</b> 1540-1600</p>	<p><b>Close of meeting</b></p>