

## New Zealand-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Negotiations Round One: Summary

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New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met for the first round of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations from 3-5 June 2024 in Dubai. Negotiations covered the breadth of the agreement and made good progress, including:

- **Competition** – Both Parties exchanged views on their respective competition systems, legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms. The Parties made good progress finding common understanding on many of the proposed articles, and committed to continuing to work closely to find a mutually agreeable outcome.
- **Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation** – There was significant progress across the chapter, with both Parties committed to finding mutually beneficial outcomes. Several articles were agreed, and Parties will revert on some key issues. New Zealand will be providing some additional text on proposed new articles for UAE review.
- **Digital Trade** – Good progress was made by the Parties in working cooperatively to develop a high-standard Digital Trade chapter. For New Zealand, the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) remains the benchmark for any agreement on digital trade.
- **Government Procurement** – The UAE and New Zealand exchanged information on our respective government procurement systems and engaged on text proposals with a view to understanding the proposals and the rationale underpinning them. This discussion will continue intersessionally.
- **Intellectual Property** – The Parties made good progress in developing a comprehensive Intellectual Property chapter, building on established international precedents such as the WTO Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement.
- **Investment** – New Zealand and the UAE had constructive discussions regarding investment. The discussion focused on the structure of the investment provisions as well as each Party's views on rules and investment protections.
- **Legal and institutional** – New Zealand proposed the Treaty of Waitangi Exception in line with our previous FTA practice, and discussed other provisions.
- **Rules of Origin** – A productive round with significant progress made on rules elements of the chapter, including the Schedule of Product Specific Rules, and various articles agreed in a mutually agreeable manner.
- **Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises** – Good progress was made across the SMEs chapter text. This included finding common ground on several articles and identifying potential ways forwards on several others.
- **SPS** – Parties made good progress in discussing existing SPS and food safety regulatory systems, with further discussion to take place intersessionally.
- **Technical Barriers to Trade** – an initial discussion on each Party's approach to TBT allowed parties to find areas of commonality, leading to converging positions in a number of areas. Negotiators also held an initial discussion on recognition of New Zealand halal practices, which will help creating important architecture to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade.

- **Trade and Sustainable Development** – Negotiators had an initial exchange of views on objectives, priorities and draft text and fostered common understanding, with further discussions scheduled to take place intersessionally.
- **Trade in Goods** – Discussions reflected the Parties’ shared commitment to comprehensive outcomes for goods market access.
- **Trade in Services** – Parties made solid progress, with both sides taking a flexible and pragmatic approach to the negotiations. Parties agreed to exchange market access offers ahead of the second in-person round, reflecting the solid progress made to date.
- **Trade Remedies** – Both Parties explained their respective legal and procedural trade remedies systems, and agreed on the importance of an effective trade remedies regime.

*Where can I find out more?*

Further information about the NZ-UAE CEPA negotiations can be found [here](#). To get in touch with us, share your views [here](#).