

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Ministerial Meeting of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG)

17 May 2019

Canada, Chile and New Zealand met in Viña del Mar on 17 May to welcome the good progress that they have achieved to date in advancing inclusive trade as outlined in the Joint Declaration on Fostering Progressive and Inclusive Trade issued in March 2018 on the margins of the signature of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. Building on these successes, Ministers agreed to continue their work to ensure that the benefits of trade are widely shared.

Canada, Chile and New Zealand reinforced the shared commitment to build a community of like-minded nations to advance the principles of inclusive trade together in multilateral forums such as APEC and the WTO and among CPTPP member countries.

The Ministers recalled the meeting in Papua New Guinea on 17 November 2018 and underscored the importance of entry into force of the CPTPP on 30 December 2018. Canada and New Zealand welcomed the progress made by Chile to ratify the CPTPP and were optimistic Chile will finalize this process shortly and thereby access the benefits under the agreement. In that regard, Canada, Chile and New Zealand share the strong conviction that, with the new and innovative features it contains, as well as the Joint Declaration on Fostering Progressive and Inclusive Trade concluded alongside it, the CPTPP provides the most advanced platform for our work to enable the benefits of trade agreements to be shared more broadly across our communities and represents an important milestone in the global articulation of an inclusive approach to trade.

Recalling Ministers' earlier direction in Papua New Guinea to share experiences and best practices in order to develop inclusive trade provisions in a context of a challenging digital economy and to promote their use in bilateral, regional, and multilateral negotiations, Ministers reviewed the following activities that have already taken place this year:

- ITAG Caucuses at senior-officials level have been established at the WTO and APEC, and have discussed how to support the ITAG objectives within those organisations. This group identified fisheries, MSMEs, sustainability and gender as areas where it can advance the principles of inclusive trade at the WTO and expressed their strong support for Chile's leadership on an roadmap for women and inclusive growth in APEC
- A "Capacity Building Workshop on Women and Trade" was held on the margins of APEC SOM 1, in March in Santiago, where officials shared ideas and best practices that economies could consider in order to help facilitate the increased

participation of women in trade and to help women reach their full economic potential in the global economy.

- A workshop on “Labour in Trade Agreements” was held in March, in Geneva at the WTO. Participants shared their experiences on how comprehensive labour provisions in trade agreements can help achieve inclusive outcomes.

The Ministers welcomed these results and agreed to continue working together to achieving economic growth while advancing broader social and environmental objectives and ensuring that the benefits of trade and investment are widely shared. .

In that context, ITAG will develop activities in the following areas:

- Trade Policy Engagement to support a genuine conversation with citizens on how trade and trade agreements affect their concerns and interests and impact on their daily lives.
- Share Members’ policies and programs with regards to Indigenous peoples and inclusive trade to determine best practices to facilitate their participation into international trade.
- Discuss ways in which digital trade/e-commerce can contribute to inclusive trade.
- A dedicated trade and gender instrument to advance gender equality and women’s economic empowerment and participation in trade and investment.

ITAG Members have begun to share their work on how to measure the wider impacts of trade agreements. This will help support the group’s work to examine by 2020 the effectiveness of CPTPP with respect to sustainable development, gender equality, the economic empowerment of women and Indigenous peoples, domestic regional economic development, SMEs, labour rights, protecting and conserving the environment, and addressing climate change.

Canada, Chile and New Zealand also reaffirmed their support to the multilateral trading system and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They will continue to work together identifying ways to strengthen and improve the WTO.

The ITAG Members agreed to meet again at the Ministerial level in November 2019.