

CPTPP LABOUR COUNCIL

Council Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Labour Council was held on 7 October 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand. Delegates from the following CPTPP members participated: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Noriyuki Mita, Assistant Chief Negotiator, Japan Cabinet Secretariat, and Michael Hobby, Principal Advisor, New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment co-chaired the Council.
2. The Council agenda is attached at ANNEX A.
3. A summary of the Council's discussion and outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.
4. AGENDA ITEM 1: The Council agreed to adopt the Agenda. No amendments were proposed.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Chair invited introductory remarks from each of the members, and briefed the Council on meeting arrangements.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: The Council adopted the draft Commission Rules of Procedure pending their acceptance by the Commission on 9 October 2019, and in doing so noted that select technical Council-specific amendments would be required to reflect appropriate nomenclature etc.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4: Council members provided updates on their respective Contact Points for the Labour Chapter pursuant to Article 19.3. Members who had not yet ratified provided updates on interim Contact Point arrangements.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: Council members provided updates on measures taken to implement the Labour Chapter in their respective countries, as well as related information about domestic labour reform and labour priorities more broadly. Council members exchanged information including through asking questions regarding recent developments on labour issues for other members.
9. AGENDA ITEM 6: Council members provided updates on their domestic stakeholder engagement processes, including specific processes regarding public submissions pursuant to Article 19.9.
10. The Council also discussed its obligation to "provide a means for receiving and considering the views of interested persons on matters related to this Chapter", pursuant to Article 19.14.1. While there was discussion about options for achieving this, there was no immediate consensus. Options discussed included the possibility of specific sessions on future agendas to hear stakeholder views and/or public outreach sessions. The Council

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agreed that members would each consider this further, and provide views before the next meeting with a view to agreeing a common position. The Committee attended the first half-hour of the Environment Committee public session to see an example of a public session in practice.

11. AGENDA ITEM 7: Council members exchanged information on their current cooperation projects and prospective future priority areas. The Council decided to develop a “map” of current cooperative activities amongst members, including in regional and multilateral fora, to help give structure to future discussions. Multiple members emphasised the need to focus cooperation on implementation of the Labour Chapter obligations, such as forced labour, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and non-discrimination in regard to gender and the rights of migrant workers. There was also discussion of labour market policy areas including the regulatory implications of the future of work, skills development and lifelong learning, demographic change and combatting migrant exploitation as themes common to a number of Council members. These might provide the basis for broader cooperation in future. Council members committed to providing detail on current cooperation initiatives to the New Zealand Contact Point by 13 December 2019, after which New Zealand will compile and distribute the information.

12. AGENDA ITEM 8: The Council noted the value of working together to pursue common interests in regional and multilateral fora including on topics discussed under Agenda Item 7. The Council decided current cooperation in such fora should be captured in the cooperation mapping exercise (see paragraph 11).

13. AGENDA ITEM 9: The Council discussed a General Work Programme. The Council noted the potential value of convening informal meetings to progress a work programme, for example through videoconferencing and/or meetings in the margins of the June 2020 International Labour Conference and other relevant regional meetings, e.g. APEC. The Council noted the importance of ongoing dialogue being maintained to ensure that the Council’s agenda remains grounded in substance.

14. AGENDA ITEM 10: The Council adopted by consensus this joint summary report on its work. The Council agreed the report will be publicly released, pursuant to Article 19.12.7.

ANNEX A

CPTPP Labour Council

7 October 2019, Auckland, New Zealand

AGENDA

- AGENDA ITEM 1: Adoption of the Agenda**
- AGENDA ITEM 2: Introductory remarks and meeting arrangements**
- AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption of Rules of Procedure**
- AGENDA ITEM 4: Contact Points Update (19.13)**
- AGENDA ITEM 5: Implementation Measures Taken to Date**
- AGENDA ITEM 6: Opportunities for Public Participation and Engagement**
- AGENDA ITEM 7: Cooperation (19.10)**
- AGENDA ITEM 8: Cooperation in Regional and Multilateral Fora (19.10)**
- AGENDA ITEM 9: General Work Programme (19.12)**
- AGENDA ITEM 10: Council Report**