

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Committee Report

1. The Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Environment was held on 8 October 2019 in Auckland, New Zealand. Delegates from the following members participated: Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. Brett Longley (Chair), Senior Policy Officer, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Lucie Desforges (Co-Chair), Director General, International Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada, co-chaired the Committee.
2. The Committee agenda is attached at **ANNEX A**.
3. A summary of the Committee's discussion and any outcomes agreed under the respective agenda items is set out below.
4. AGENDA ITEM 1: The Committee adopted the Agenda. No amendments were proposed.
5. AGENDA ITEM 2: The Chair briefed the Committee on business arrangements.
6. AGENDA ITEM 3: The Committee considered the draft Commission Rules of Procedures. Canada proposed amendments to make them more specific to the Committee. The Committee acknowledged that the draft Commission Rules of Procedure had not been adopted yet by the Commission, and agreed to discuss Committee-specific proposals further pending the Commission's decision.
7. AGENDA ITEM 4: The Committee members provided updates on their respective Contact Points for the Environment Chapter, pursuant to Article 20.19. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided Contact Point information would provide this to the Chair by 31 October.
8. AGENDA ITEM 5: The Committee was asked in advance to exchange information on the publications or websites where information can be found on programmes and activities related to environmental issues referred to in

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Committee Report

the CPTPP Environment Chapter. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided this information would provide this to the Chair by 31 October.

9. AGENDA ITEM 6: The Committee was asked in advance to exchange information on the means by which members promote public awareness of their environmental laws and policies, as well as processes for enforcement. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided this information would provide this to the Chair by 31 October.

10. AGENDA ITEM 7: Committee members exchanged information on consultative mechanisms in place for seeking views on Environment Chapter implementation. The Committee agreed it would be valuable to continue sharing experiences and best practices on consultative mechanisms. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided any information would provide this to the Chair by 31 October.

11. AGENDA ITEM 8: The Committee exchanged information on their respective procedures in place to provide for receipt and consideration of public submissions. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided any information on their procedures would provide it to the Chair by 31 October.

12. The Committee also discussed a possible template for the written report to the CPTPP Commission on the implementation of Article 20.9, which is required within three years of the entry into force of the Agreement. The Committee agreed it would be important to use a common framework in putting together the report. Committee members noted the report could include summaries of submissions received, what provisions they related to, Parties' responses, any outcomes from submissions, and the role (if any) played by the Committee. The Committee agreed Committee members would submit their ideas for the report to the Chair by 31 October, who would consolidate and distribute these to the Committee.

13. AGENDA ITEM 9: The Committee noted the requirement to establish procedures for discussing public submissions and responses that may be referred to it by a Party (Article 20.9.5). The Committee reviewed a draft

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Committee Report

provisional procedure, and agreed this would be further considered following feedback due to the Chair by 31 October.

14. AGENDA ITEM 10: The Chair provided an overview on the Environment Public Session held on Monday 7th October, noting it was a learning opportunity for the Committee as the first such session. Multiple Committee members noted such sessions provided useful insights on public and civil society sentiments, and could be drawn upon to develop prospective areas for cooperation. The Committee discussed the merit in making future public sessions available online to encourage broader participation, and in the Chair reporting the outcomes of these sessions to the Committee at future meetings. The Committee noted continued engagement with stakeholders would help deliver most value, with the host taking leadership on each event.

15. AGENDA ITEM 11: Committee members exchanged information on voluntary mechanisms for the promotion of products based on their environmental qualities. The Chair agreed to consolidate information provided on schemes and initiatives underway in member's territories, and to distribute this to the Committee as a document to be regularly updated.

16. AGENDA ITEM 12: Committee members identified initial respective interests for cooperation under the Chapter. The Committee agreed that Committee members would express areas or topics of interest to the Chair by the end of November 2019. The Chair would compile and circulate this information by mid-December. Committee members would then consult domestically on these proposals over a period of two months. The Committee agreed to reconvene for a teleconference in the first quarter of 2020 to discuss and determine next steps in pursuing cooperation priorities.

17. The Committee noted that requirements for 'operationalising' cooperation, including through a prospective entity to provide administrative or operational support, would become clearer once cooperation priorities had been further refined. In the meantime, the Committee noted it might be possible for Committee members to lead on individual cooperation priority areas following the teleconference in the first quarter of 2020.

CPTPP COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Committee Report

18. AGENDA ITEM 13: The Committee agreed this agenda item had been adequately traversed under the prior agenda item.

19. AGENDA ITEM 14: The Committee agreed this agenda item had been adequately traversed under Agenda Item 12.

20. AGENDA ITEM 15: The Committee considered a proposal from Canada regarding standard operating procedures for working with other Committees of the CPTPP, and noted the document would need to be consulted and discussed amongst other Committees. Committee members agreed to provide feedback on the proposed standard operating procedures to the Chair by October 31. The Committee agreed the next step would be to consult and seek agreement from other Committees.

21. AGENDA ITEM 16: Committee members shared information regarding where information can be found regarding fisheries management systems consistent with Article 20.16.3, and regarding conservation and management measures consistent with Article 20.16.4. The Committee agreed those who had not yet provided any information on their procedures would provide it to the Chair by 31 October.

22. AGENDA ITEM 17: Committee members shared information regarding steps they are taking to ensure conformity with fisheries subsidies provisions in Article 20.16. New Zealand's notification was acknowledged and Singapore confirmed it does not have any subsidy programmes. Others provided updates on progress towards notifications. The Committee agreed that fisheries subsidies notifications will remain a standing item on its agenda.

23. AGENDA ITEM 18: The Committee noted it needed to wait for direction from the Commission in determining when and how it would next meet. The Committee agreed informal intersessional discussions (for example the first quarter 2020 teleconference on cooperation) would be beneficial to drive progress. The Committee noted the need to clarify specific elements of its operating procedures, including around consensus decision-making and chairing arrangements.

ANNEX A

CPTPP Committee on Environment

8 October 2019, Auckland, New Zealand

AGENDA

- AGENDA ITEM 1: Adoption of the Agenda**
- AGENDA ITEM 2: Business Arrangements**
- AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption of Rules of Procedure**
- AGENDA ITEM 4: Confirm Contact Points (Article 20.19)**
- AGENDA ITEM 5: Information on Environmental Programmes Relevant to the Environment Chapter**
- AGENDA ITEM 6: Public Awareness of Environmental Laws and Policies (Art 20.7)**
- AGENDA ITEM 7: Opportunities for Public Participation (Article 20.8)**
- AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Submissions (Article 20.9)**
- AGENDA ITEM 9: Procedures for Discussing Submissions (Article 20.9.5)**
- AGENDA ITEM 10: Public Input on Matters Relevant to the Committee's Work**
- AGENDA ITEM 11: Voluntary Mechanisms (Article 20.11)**
- AGENDA ITEM 12: Cooperation (Article 20.12)**
- AGENDA ITEM 13: Transition to a Low Emissions and Resilient Economy (Art 20.15)**
- AGENDA ITEM 14: Conservation and Trade (Article 20.17)**
- AGENDA ITEM 15: Coordination with other Committees (Article 20.14)**
- AGENDA ITEM 16: Marine Capture Fisheries (Article 20.16)**
- AGENDA ITEM 17: Fisheries Subsidies (Article 20.16)**
- AGENDA ITEM 18: Committee Planning**
- AGENDA ITEM 19: Committee Report**