

**CPTPP COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN GOODS AND COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE
2023**

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The 5th meeting of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Committee on Trade in Goods and Committee on Agricultural Trade was convened virtually on 6 July 2023. Delegates from the following CPTPP Members were represented: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Viet Nam. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Luke Roper, Senior Trade Adviser, from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
2. The Committee meeting agenda is attached as **ANNEX A**.
3. The summary of the Committee's discussion and any outcomes confirmed under the respective agenda items are set out below.

Agenda Item 1 (Adoption of Agenda)

4. The Committee meeting agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2 (Import Licensing Procedures Notification)

5. Australia spoke on the WTO import licensing procedure and referred to their most recent import licensing notification 30 Sep 2022 WTO DOC G/LIC/N/3/AUS/15, with next one due to be submitted later this year.

Agenda Item 3 (Export Licensing Procedures Notification)

6. No notifications were discussed.

Agenda Item 4 (Location of Published Information)

7. The Chair circulated the template used for updating the location of published information in advance of the meeting, so that members could update the template accordingly. Japan encouraged recently ratified members to complete this document and reminded members to also inform the Committee on export and import related notifications. Canada supported Japan's intervention and encouraged all remaining parties to keep everything up to date. Chile noted they provided information on import licensing and undertook to provide further information in the coming weeks.

Agenda Item 5 (Transposition of Tariff Schedule)

8. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of sharing correlation and concordance tables. The Committee confirmed most members had completed this exercise for HS2022 by the end of 2022 as decided in the previous Committee meeting. For those members yet to provide concordance tables they were asked to circulate them so the HS2022 process could be concluded. To assist future transpositions, the Chair suggested setting a timeframe for exchange of correlation and concordance tables, "no later than one year after the adoption of the recommendations for regular amendments to the HS nomenclature by the Council of the World Customs Organisation". The Committee discussed this idea, with some members open to this timeframe in principle. Members sought more time to consider this proposal noting the next transposition is still some time in the future (2026-2027), the Chair suggested that this could be further considered at the next Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (Transparency of Export Restrictions on Foodstuffs)

9. Japan reminded CPTPP members of the importance of the measures under Article 2.24 (Export Restrictions - Food Security) of the TransPacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) as incorporated into the CPTPP. Canada encouraged CPTPP members not to impose export restrictions on other members and reiterated their continued support for advance

notification of export restrictions and prohibitions for foodstuffs. Canada also announced their Indo-Pacific Strategy and the opening of first agriculture and agri-food office in the region to strengthen existing supply chains and contribute to countries' food security goals.

Agenda Item 7 (Tariff-Rate Quota Administration, Utilisation and Transparency)

10. The Chair in advance of the meeting circulated a list of contact points for tariff rate quota administration for members to update. This now reflects relevant contact points for 2023. The Committee discussed Tariff-Rate Quota (TRQ) Administration, Utilisation and Transparency under the CPTPP. Australia reaffirmed the importance for members to exchange information, noting Section D (Tariff-Rate Quota Administration) of Chapter 2 of the TPP as incorporated into the CPTPP, includes key benefits of the CPTPP and this was made clear in the United Kingdom accession. Further Australia highlighted that procedures for administering TRQs must be responsive to market conditions, transparency of allocation and utilisation is important and they appreciate the ongoing efforts of members to this commitment. New Zealand reiterated the importance and value that they place on implementation of negotiated market access outcomes with transparency of TRQs as a particular priority. New Zealand noted the pleasing amount of progress achieved over recent time as Parties' TRQ Administration became more transparent. New Zealand also highlighted the obligation under Article 2.32(3) of the agreement which obligates Parties administering TRQs on a first-come first-served basis to publish in a timely and continually on-going manner on a designated publicly available website, utilisation rates and remaining available quantities for each TRQ. Japan noted transparency on TRQ information related to TRQ administration is important and they published information related to TRQ administration on websites. Japan also noted utilization rates of TRQs have been affected by international situation including soaring international prices. Finally, Mexico advised the Committee, that all the information on Mexican TRQs is made public online.

Agenda Item 8 (Exchange of Preferential Utilisation Data)

11. The Committee discussed the importance of this metric for measuring the performance of the CPTPP. Following last year's successful experts working group meeting on data utilisation, Canada indicated they could again look to convene a similar working group this year. The contact points for experts on preference utilisation from each member was circulated in advance of the Committee meeting and has been updated for 2023.

12. For those members yet to provide 2021 data, they were requested to do so with the Chair recalling the no later than the end of 2022 deadline set at the previous Committee meeting. For the 2022 utilisation the Committee decided to exchange preferential utilisation data for 2022 by the end-September (and no later than end of 2023) – with ongoing updates from those not able to provide by end of September). The Chair also undertook to circulate the data template to those members who recently entered the CPTPP into force.

Agenda Item 9 (Other Matters)

16. The Chair provided a brief update on general accessions and the three year review, before seeking comments from members. On general accessions, the Chair noted the growing number of aspirant economies as encouraging to see as the CPTPP grows as economies that are willing and able to meet CPTPP's high standards join. The Chair also recognised the first significant milestone, with the United Kingdom's accession to the CPTPP – expected to sign on as an acceding member on 16th July in Auckland, New Zealand. On the review, the Chair advised the expectation that the Commission this year will collectively confirm a draft Terms of Reference that will frame a process for updating and enhancing the CPTPP. The Committee also consented for the Chair to provide all relevant documents and templates to the United Kingdom and to advise them of the expectations the Committee has of all members.

Agenda Item 10 (Next Meeting)

17. The Chair noted all future engagements by this Committee will need to include the United Kingdom following their signing on as an acceding member on 16 July 2023. Canada, as the next Chair of the CPTPP Commission, advised that they will provide the details of the next Committee Meeting in due course, but acknowledged that this timing has worked well for most. It was further noted with the United Kingdom joining, timing may need to be reviewed ahead of the next meeting.

Agenda Item 11 (Committee Report)

18. The Committee decided to finalise the Committee report via email correspondence.

Annex A
CPTPP COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN GOODS AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE

6 July 2023; 01:00pm – 3:00pm (New Zealand Time GMT+12)
Virtual Meeting Hosted by New Zealand

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 2: IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES NOTIFICATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 3: EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES NOTIFICATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 4: LOCATION OF PUBLISHED INFORMATION

AGENDA ITEM 5: TRANSPOSITION OF TARIFF SCHEDULE

AGENDA ITEM 6: TRANSPARENCY OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON FOODSTUFFS

**AGENDA ITEM 7: TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ADMINISTRATION, UTILISATION AND
TRANSPARENCY**

AGENDA ITEM 8: EXCHANGE OF PREFERENTIAL UTILISATION DATA

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 11: COMMITTEE REPORT