



CPTPP General Review

Background Paper for New Zealand Stakeholders

In 2023, under New Zealand’s chairing of CPTPP, Members agreed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CPTPP General Review ([link](#)).

To help inform the development of the ToR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) sought feedback via the Ministry’s website and approached key stakeholders and Treaty Partners directly for comment. The Ministry would like to acknowledge all the organisations that have already provided feedback on the General Review for their thoughtful and constructive engagement.

The responsibility for progressing the General Review has now passed to Canada, as CPTPP Chair for 2024. A period up till the end of April has now been specifically set aside for domestic consultations on the General Review.

The CPTPP Review is mandated in Chapter 27 Administrative and Institutional Provisions, of the CPTPP text.

The text states that *“the Commission shall review the operation of this Agreement with a view to updating and enhancing this Agreement, through negotiations, as appropriate, to ensure that the disciplines contained in this Agreement remain relevant to the trade and investment issues and challenges confronting the Parties.”*

In the review process, Members take into account the work of all committees, working groups and any other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement, relevant developments in international fora and in trade and investment policy, and input from non-governmental persons or groups of the Members, as appropriate.

A report will be prepared for each Chapter, including any specific recommendations for potentially updating and enhancing the CPTPP. The Coordinating Group for the General Review will be able to establish additional working groups as required to consider new or additional Chapters.

A final report covering the whole agreement, based on the Chapter level reports will be presented to Senior Officials for discussion and confirmation by consensus. If confirmed, the CPTPP General Review Report will be referred to the 2025 Commission (unless it is ready sooner) with a set of recommendations from Senior Officials on next steps.



New Zealand's Approach to Date

CPTPP was the high-water mark for free trade agreements when it was concluded but some of the disciplines are now dated. New Zealand is strongly supportive of efforts to upgrade and enhance the Agreement. It is important that Parties review the operation of the CPTPP so that the Agreement remains relevant to the trade and investment issues and challenges confronting the Members.

The General Review will affirm the Agreement's full implementation and identify areas for cooperation towards better operation of the Agreement. Ensuring that the Agreement is being fully implemented and taking practical steps to improve the operation of CPTPP will be a focus for New Zealand.

This will help the Membership to continue to promote trade and investment in order to bring economic growth and social benefits, create new opportunities for workers and businesses, contribute to raising living standards, benefit consumers, reduce poverty and promote sustainable growth.

In New Zealand's view it is important that the General Review considers **market access**, in addition to the disciplines in the agreement. This should include **utilisation analysis** of CPTPP by traders and investors and consideration of improvements could be made to the uptake of the Agreement, particularly by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

New Zealand has been working to ensure there is scope in the General Review to advocate for provisions which support **Māori trade interests** and provide more explicit protection for Māori interests in the E-Commerce Chapter.

New Zealand is also supportive of considering additional disciplines on **sustainable and inclusive trade**.

New Zealand will support efforts by the Members to demonstrate leadership on emerging issues in areas such as the **digital and the green economy**. Developments in e-commerce and digital trade in particular will need to be addressed through the General Review to ensure CPTPP can remain at the cutting edge of international trade.



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

Feedback Sought

In addition to the submissions already received, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is seeking feedback from interested stakeholders on New Zealand's priorities for the General Review.

Between 4 March and 30 April New Zealand based stakeholders are encouraged to provide comment by email or via this [link](#) (survey monkey).

NZ CPTPP Team
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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