

Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)

Draft Text: Digital Inclusion and Inclusive Trade

September 2019

1. DEPA Parties acknowledge the importance of digital inclusion; that all people and businesses have what they need to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the digital world.

2. The Parties also recognise the importance of expanding and facilitating digital economy opportunities by removing barriers, including through enhancing cultural and people-to-people links between indigenous peoples, and improving access for rural populations, low socio-economic groups, as well as women and girls, acknowledging the intersectional barriers often faced by these population groups.

3. To this end, DEPA Parties shall cooperate on matters relating to digital inclusion, including participation of women, SMEs, rural populations and Indigenous Peoples in the digital economy. Cooperation could include:

- a. sharing of experience and best practices, including exchange of experts, with respect to digital inclusion;
- b. promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, to help ensure that the benefits of digital trade are more widely shared including by women, SMEs and Indigenous Peoples;
- c. addressing barriers faced by women, SMEs and Indigenous Peoples in accessing digital economy opportunities;

[NZ drafters note: we are open to including more detail in this sub-paragraph as to what this would mean in practice, for example drawing on CSW63]

- d. promoting pro-inclusion structural reforms for the digital economy;
- e. developing programs to promote participation of women, SMEs and Indigenous Peoples in the digital economy;
- f. sharing methods and procedures for the collection of disaggregated data, the use of indicators, and the analysis of statistics related to inclusion in the digital economy; and
- g. other areas jointly decided by the Parties.

4. Cooperation activities relating to digital inclusion will be carried out through the coordination, as appropriate, of the Parties' respective agencies, national private companies, labour unions, civil society, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations, among others.

Drafters' note: To consider how this draft text would interact with [REDACTED] proposal regarding SMEs.