

Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)
Joint Committee Decision on Institutional Arrangements

16 December 2025

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the digital economy and that ongoing economic success depends on the collective ability of the DEPA Parties to harness technological advances to improve existing businesses, create new products and markets, and enhance daily life;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that the digital economy is evolving and therefore the DEPA and its rules must also continue to evolve;

PURSUANT TO Article 12.2(d) (Functions of the Joint Committee), which states it is a function of the Joint Committee to develop arrangements for implementing the DEPA;

RECOGNISING that institutional arrangements contribute to the effective implementation of the DEPA by promoting coordination, cooperation, and adaptability in response to the evolving digital economy;

DESIRING to establish and strengthen institutional arrangements to support the continued development and governance of the DEPA; and

Pursuant to Article 12.4 (Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee),

The Joint Committee decides as follows:

1. Joint Committee Meetings

- a) The Joint Committee will meet at least once annually to fulfil its functions under Article 12.2 (Functions of the Joint Committee). Meetings will be held either in person, virtually or in hybrid format. The Joint Committee remains the vehicle for DEPA decision-making, consistent with Module 12 (Joint Committee and Contact Points) and Article 16.4 (Accession).

2. Rotational Chairing of the DEPA Joint Committee

- a) Pursuant to Article 12.4(1), the Joint Committee will be chaired successively by the DEPA Parties in the order in which they notified the completion of applicable legal procedures for entry into force of the DEPA. Each Party will serve as Chair for a period of one year, starting from year 2026.
- b) Pursuant to Article 12.4, the Chair will (i) coordinate the development of the DEPA including facilitating an annual schedule of engagements; (ii) coordinate and preside over the Joint Committee, and any other relevant meeting that the Parties may agree. For greater certainty, any accession-related matters will be coordinated by the Chair of the relevant Accession Working Group. DEPA projects or initiatives may be led by any Party on a voluntary basis.

3. Cooperation

- a) To enable greater scope for cooperation between DEPA Parties in respect of all cooperation under the provisions of the DEPA, Parties may cooperate on DEPA projects or

initiatives in groups of two or more. For greater certainty, this paragraph applies only to cooperation between DEPA Parties.

4. Effective Date of Decision

- a) This Joint Committee Decision is effective as of 16 December 2025, and shall be made publicly available by the DEPA Parties.