

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Negotiations

Report on Negotiation Round Three: Singapore 8-16 May 2023

The Third Negotiating Round on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was hosted in Singapore from 8 – 16 May 2023. This round covered all chapters and pillars of the IPEF (Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy).

Officials from the United States, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam were in attendance.

Pillar I (Trade):

- Environment: The negotiators discussed the full Chapter text, which included initial reactions and text attributions from the majority of the IPEF members. The discussion was facilitated by the US and enabled a better understanding of member's positions. The majority of members – including New Zealand – undertook to reserve positions while domestic consultations are underway.
- Trade Facilitation: Continued to undertake a detailed discussion on the remainder of the draft chapter text, identifying issues and ways to address them, and started providing attributions to elements.
- Inclusivity: Positive progress continues to be made on the Inclusivity Chapter negotiations, consolidating around what Ministers agreed in Los Angeles.
- Labour: The Parties discussed the text in detail for the first time, which is ambitious and includes labour rights and obligations, enforcement, emerging labour issues, cooperation, and consultation and dialogue mechanisms.
- Digital Trade: Singapore was an opportunity for Parties to run through the proposed Digital Economy text, with Parties seeking to further clarify the intent behind many of the newer obligations. Over the week Parties were able to begin coalescing behind a number of provisions, reflecting their commitment to work constructively together in order to meet the ambitious IPEF timeframes.
- Agriculture: Negotiations made slow progress through definitional issues and four articles, which has made numerous subsequent inter-sessional meetings necessary.
- Good Regulatory Practice: There were detailed discussions of the text, along with further sharing of information about different domestic approaches, exploring how

text proposals could accommodate these and identifying areas of common ground.

- Services Domestic Regulation: Good progress was made in services domestic regulation, with Parties beginning to draw together robust and ambitious commitments while preserving their right to regulate sensitive policy areas. Parties had a frank and constructive dialogue that allowed a better understanding of the flexibilities needed, and of the various Parties' sensitivities.
- Technical Assistance & Economic Cooperation: There was a constructive discussion about how technical assistance and economic cooperation would work within the Agreement and the architecture which will need to be established.

Pillar II (Supply Chains): Negotiators made substantial progress over four days of intensive meetings towards closure of the Supply Chains pillar, albeit with a number of significant issues still unresolved by the end of the round.

Pillar III (Clean Economy): Partners explained their proposals for new content for the clean economy agreement and discussed possible work programme initiatives, including a hydrogen supply chain initiative to be considered by ministers in Detroit.

Pillar IV (Fair Economy): The Fair Economy negotiators had a full three days of negotiations which largely covered the Anti-Corruption provisions. Officials agreed to meet intersessionally to further discuss the Tax and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Elements of the agreement before the next negotiating round.

Where can I find out more?

Further information about the IPEF is available [here](#). To get in touch with us, give us your thoughts on the agreement through this link: [Have Your Say](#).