

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Negotiations

Report on Round One: Brisbane 10-15 December 2022

New Zealand Officials attended the first round of negotiations on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) from 10-15 December in Brisbane, Australia. This followed the conclusion of the scoping phase, and agreement of the four Ministerial Statements ([Trade](#), [Supply Chains](#), [Clean Economy](#), [Fair Economy](#)) in September 2022.

Approximately 450 officials from the United States, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the negotiating round.

Discussions focused on text proposals provided by the US before the round for Pillar II (Supply Chains), Pillar IV (Fair Economy: Tax and Anti-Corruption) and for the trade facilitation, agriculture, services domestic regulation and transparency and good regulatory practice chapters of Pillar I (Trade). For Pillar III (Clean Economy) and the labour, environment and digital economy chapters of Pillar I, the US led conceptual discussions. Australia led discussion of the competition chapter and New Zealand and Australia jointly chaired the inclusivity chapter discussion. The parties also discussed a number of non-papers put forward by members across the four Pillars.

The discussions were positive, with members showing ambition in a number of areas reflective the collective wish of the participants for a high quality agreement.

A schedule of further rounds is being planned for 2023.

Pillar I (Trade):

- Environment: The US led a discussion of its key objectives for the chapter. Building on the Ministerial Statement, other members, including New Zealand, made proposals and engaged on how the chapter can meaningfully contribute to environmental protection and respond to sustainability challenges.
- Trade Facilitation: There was positive engagement and discussion on all Articles in the proposed draft text, with the US outlining the rationale and intent of Articles and other members seeking clarification and exploring the potential impact.
- Competition Policy: Australia chaired a conceptual discussion to advance the competition and consumer protection objectives set out in the Ministerial Statement.
- Inclusivity: The Inclusivity session, co-chaired by Australia and New Zealand, was a positive conversation amongst partners.
- Labour: There was an initial conceptual discussion on the potential elements of a labour chapter within the Trade Pillar of the Agreement. Issues discussed included labour rights and obligations, enforcement, emerging labour issues, cooperation, and consultation and dialogue mechanisms. Text-based discussions are expected to commence at the next Round.

- Digital Economy: While text has not yet been proposed, the parties actively engaged in discussion of possible elements of the digital chapter. New Zealand spoke to its experience in recent trade negotiations and the importance of protecting the rights and interests of diverse communities.
- Agriculture: There was good engagement on text proposed by the US covering a range of non-tariff measure issues, many of interest to New Zealand, as well as other subjects of interest mainly to the US. Sustainable agriculture was also a key topic of interest.
- Good Regulatory Practices (GRP): There was discussion of the US proposed text, as well as a useful sharing of experience on GRP practice and discussion of how our different systems operate.
- Services Domestic Regulation: There was a productive discussion of the issues, which included canvassing how we could build on the WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation to support the direction set out in the Ministerial statement.
- Technical Assistance & Economic Cooperation: The importance of technical assistance and economic cooperation was discussed across the IPEF Pillars and as part of a dedicated discussion.
- Definitions and Institutional Provisions: The legal group had a productive discussion on the US' proposed drafting guidelines, which will be used to ensure consistency across all IPEF pillars and chapters.

Pillar II (Supply Chains): The Pillar II group completed a substantive first review of text proposed by the US and discussed a number of non-papers.

Pillar III (Clean Economy): While there was no US zero draft text for Pillar III, the discussion was fast-paced and allowed countries to gain more of a sense of high ambition for the Clean Economy Pillar.

Pillar IV (Fair Economy): There was strong engagement in the Pillar IV discussions, which involved a first read-through of the US' zero draft text, demonstrating IPEF partners' commitment to working together on anti-corruption, tax and associated capacity building for the benefit of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

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](#).