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| **New Zealand’s Bogor Goals Progress Report (as at 30 September 2016)**[[1]](#footnote-1)\* |
|   | **Highlights of Achievements and Areas for Improvement** |

* MFN tariffs are low. No import restrictions or prohibitions on commercial grounds.
* New regulations in a number of services sectors to establish clear rules and set a proper regulatory environment to encourage services activities.
* Foreign investment policies are open in comparison to international standards.
* Eighty-seven percent of standards are aligned with Australia. New Zealand is actively participating in relevant international fora in this area.
* The Joint Border Management System is being implemented. Amendments to customs regulations to facilitate information sharing.
* Protection of intellectual property related to the Haka Ka Mate and Geographical Indications. New Zealand is also harmonizing procedures for patents with Australia under the Single Economic Market.
* Immigration Online, rolled out in 2015, facilitates application and processing for most visa types, with up to 80 percent of visa applications able to be lodged online.
* New Zealand is issuing ABTC with validity extended from three to five years.
* Ten FTAs/RTAs are in force including an FTA with Korea that entered into force in 2015. New Zealand is also participating in six FTA negotiations.

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|   | **Summary of Topics** |

**Tariffs**

MFN tariff rates are generally low, with an average of 2.0 percent by 2014. In October 2013, the New Zealand Government announced that tariffs will remain unchanged until at least 30 June 2017, except when tariff concessions have been agreed through the negotiation of trade agreements.

New Zealand continues reducing tariffs through negotiations of trade agreements. An FTA agreement with Korea came into force on 20 December 2015, stipulating that most New Zealand tariffs for goods imported under the FTA will be eliminated within the next seven years.

**Non-Tariff Measures**

New Zealand generally does not apply import restrictions or prohibitions on commercial grounds or to protect the domestic industry, and technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures are in line with WTO provisions. In recent years, some measures have been introduced to regulate the entry of certain goods for public health, animal welfare, or environmental reasons, such as recent amendments to the Animal Welfare Act, National Animal Identification and Tracing Levies, Climate Change Regulations, and Medicines Regulations.

In May 2014, New Zealand announced a three-year suspension of existing anti-dumping duties on residential building materials, as well as a moratorium on new anti-dumping duties on these products during the period.

**Services**

New Zealand has introduced new domestic regulations or amended existing ones in several services sectors in recent years. In general, the measures aim improve regulation and transparency, or enhance consumer protection. For example, in the financial sector, solvency standards, bank disclosure requirements, and regulations on non-bank deposit takers were enacted in 2014-2015 to strengthen financial sector performance, improve transparency, and ensure depositor confidence.

In the construction sector, the Building Amendment Act 2013 Commencement Order 2014 and the Construction Contracts Amendment 2014 clarified disclosure requirements for builders of residential buildings exceeding NZ$30,000 and dispute settlement mechanisms, respectively.

In the transport sector, air service relationships were enhanced with China; Hong Kong, China; and the Philippines. Meanwhile, regulations covering the use of remotely piloted aircraft (e.g., drones) were introduced.

In the health sector, the Psychoactive Substances Amendment Act 2014 removed all psychoactive drugs from the market until they have gone through testing to prove low risk of harm to users and approved for sale.

**Investment**

Regulations on foreign investment in New Zealand are open in comparison to international standards. Foreign investments are screened in New Zealand only under certain conditions: 1) acquisition of a 25 percent or more in business assets valued at over NZD100 million; 2) fishing quota investments; and 3) investment in sensitive land.

The Companies Amendment Act and the Limited Partnerships Amendment Act was approved in July 2014, which defines offences to breaches of directors’ duties and requires companies to have New Zealand resident agents.

Moreover, Double Tax Agreements that reduce tax impediments to cross-border trade and investment with five economies (three in APEC) came into force in 2014-2015.

**Standards and Conformance**

As of June 2015, New Zealand had 3,001 standards in its catalogue, 192 less standards than in June 2013. Forty-four percent of them were identical to the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards. 87% percent of all standards were aligned with Australia.

New Zealand has been participating actively in international standardization activities. In 2014-2015, New Zealand attended 180 ISO and 117 IEC technical committee and subcommittee meetings. In the area of legal metrology, New Zealand has an active participation in the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) and the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF), hosting the 49th OIML and 21st APLMF annual meetings. In October 2015, New Zealand began its responsibilities as President and Secretariat of the APLMF with a term of four years.

By the end of 2015, one specific trade concern regarding the importation of cut flowers raised against New Zealand at the WTO SPS Committee had not reported a resolution. Regarding TBT, three specific trade concerns raised at the WTO TBT Committee have not reached a resolution. These TBT concerns pertain to food labelling, a ban on the importation of trout, and the introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products.

**Customs Procedures**

The New Zealand Customs and the Ministry for Primary Industries are implementing the Joint Border Management System, a major part of which is the Trade Single Window (TSW) which has been operational since August 2013, enabling online information management for brokers.

Several amendments to customs and excise regulations were also enacted in 2014-2015 to facilitate information sharing and recover border processing costs through levies.

**Intellectual Property Rights**

New Zealand initiated several policies in 2014-2015 to protect its intellectual property. The Haka Ka Mate Attribution Act of 2014 requires any publication or firm using any part of the haka to attribute Te Rauparaha as the composer of Ka Mate and a chief of Ngati Toa Rangatira. Likewise, the government has committed to bring the Geographical Indication (Wines and Spirits) Registration Act 2006 into force by 2016, allowing geographical indications to be registered in New Zealand.

As part of the Single Economic Market between Australia and New Zealand, both sides have agreed to have single patent application and examination processes. Similarly, they have agreed to implement a single trans-Tasman registration regime for patent attorneys practicing in both economies. Meanwhile, the Patents Act 2013 and Patents Regulations 2014 imposed stricter criteria for granting patents. On the other hand, the Copyright (Infringing File Sharing and Cellular Mobile Networks) Order 2015 indefinitely exempted internet protocol address providers from issuing infringement notices for alleged copyright breaches done through cellular networks.

**Competition Policy**

The Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 was amended in June 2014 to introduce “responsible lending” principles, require pre-contract disclosure from creditors, and implement new processes for “unforeseen hardship” applications.

The government is currently initiating bills and reviews on the persistence of cartels and anticompetitive behavior in various sectors such as transportation, dairy, and telecommunications.

**Government Procurement**

The government procurement system is open, transparent and accountable. New Government Rules of Sourcing were published in 2013. These rules represent government standards of good practice for procurement planning, approaching the market and contracting. Effective 1 February 2015, these rules apply to a wider range of government agencies and not just public service departments.

The Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) was updated and became operational in mid-2014. GETS aims to promote open and fair competition in tenders opened by the New Zealand Government.

New Zealand acceded to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement on 12 August 2015.

**Dispute Resolution**

In 2014-2015, New Zealand entered into two FTAs: the New Zealand-Korea Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. Both agreements include provisions for dispute settlements between member economies, with the possibility of good offices, conciliation, and mediation on offer.

New Zealand also participated in the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding Review and in WTO Dispute Settlement proceedings.

**Mobility of Business People**

New Zealand has rolled out Immigration Online for most visa types including students, visitors, and workers. This system enables more online processing and automation of simple visa tasks, facilitating visa processing for applicants and employers. As of 2015, up to 80 percent of visa applications can be lodged online. Also, since 2014, four industry partnership schemes for visitors from APEC economies were implemented or amended with the purpose to streamline visa applications for low risk travelers.

Starting September 2015, New Zealand issues APEC Business Travel Cards with a validity of five years.

**Transparency**

New Zealand ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption on 1 December 2015. The convention aims to prevent corrupt practices such as domestic and foreign bribery, embezzlement, influence-peddling, and money laundering in signatory economies, with transparency and accountability as key elements in preventing corruption.

**RTA/FTAs**

New Zealand has ten FTAs/RTAs in force[[2]](#footnote-2). On 20 December 2015, an FTA with Korea entered into force. On 4 February 2016, New Zealand signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement in Auckland.

New Zealand also reported its participation in six FTA negotiations, including those for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

1. \* This brief report was prepared with information from New Zealand’s submission of the 2016 APEC Individual Action Plan (IAP) template; the 2015 WTO Trade Policy Review – Report by the Secretariat – New Zealand; the 2015 World Tariff Profiles; and the Treasury and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment websites. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. New Zealand’s RTA/FTAs that have been concluded previously are as follows: New Zealand–Australia (1983), New Zealand–Singapore (2001), P4 (2006), New Zealand–Thailand (2005), New Zealand–China (2008), ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand (2010), New Zealand–Malaysia (2010), New Zealand–Hong Kong, China (2011), New Zealand–Chinese Taipei (2013), and New Zealand–Korea (2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)