

MARKET ACCESS GROUP (MAG)

Report for the

CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

For AMM's information

(a) Key outcomes and achievements in 2022

- Environmental Goods Work Plan – A workplan was developed and endorsed by the Market Access Group (MAG) to provide a framework for APEC's expanding environmental goods agenda and to respond to ministerial tasking on this front. This would encompass our work on key issues such as HS transposition, recommendations for potentially producing a voluntary, non-binding reference list of environmental goods, and facilitation of further work on non-tariff measures and regulatory issues for environmental goods – which are tasked to us by our Ministers.
- HS Transposition of the APEC Environmental Goods List – Significant progress has been made since the last MAG meeting, with most of the product lines resolved. There are only two outstanding products that require further discussion, which would hopefully be resolved in good time.
- Developing Recommendations for Potentially Producing a Voluntary, Non-Binding Reference List of Environmental Goods – Progress has been made since the last MAG meeting. A “Trade Policy Dialogue to facilitate development of common APEC understanding of what can be considered an environmental good” as led by Australia, was held on 12 September 2022, which provided us with a good platform to take forward meaningful discussions on this front to facilitate development of a common APEC understanding of what can be considered an environmental good.

(b) Work undertaken by fora in the implementation of the [Putrajaya Vision 2040](#), including through the [Aotearoa Plan of Action \(APA\)](#)

- *Under the Trade and Investment Driver – Collective Actions*
 - Increase trade predictability and openness by improving economies' transparency through trade measures and policies: Foster consistent good utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository, which is utilised by all APEC economies and has shown steady increase in users in the range of 4,000. A “Study on Strategy to Promote the Utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository” is also currently being undertaken by Indonesia to further promote the utilisation of the APEC Trade Repository.
 - Advance capacity building programmes to support the implementation of and adherence to WTO rules, including transparency and notification obligations: A two-part initiative was implemented by Peru: (1) A self-funded study on the “Initiative on Promoting Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) World Trade Organisation (WTO) Notifications” was conducted, with the objective to develop guidelines to improve the completeness and clearness of information contained in these TBT notifications to the WTO. (2) A two-day Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) was organised on the sideline of MAG, where there were sharing and exchanges of best practices on this front.
 - Progress liberalisation of trade in goods by reducing unnecessary barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, and fostering regulatory reform: MAG discussed the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Expansion, and the benefits of joining the ITA. Participating economies encouraged other member economies that are not part of the ITA to consider joining.
 - Support progress of negotiations at the WTO to deliver a trade and investment environment that is free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable: MAG discussed outcomes of the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference and there was broad agreement on the positive outcomes of the MC12. Members also highlighted their openness to further discussions on this front, and to explore meaningful steps that could be taken to possibly support implementation of the outcomes.

(c) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction

- Work on (1) HS Transposition of the APEC Environmental Goods List, (2) Developing Recommendations for Potentially Producing a Voluntary, Non-Binding Reference List of Environmental Goods, and (3) Environmental Goods Work Plan – Details are in (a).

(d) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any); &

- Other important initiatives that contribute to the CTI’s objectives were discussed, including:
 - Work on APEC Trade Repository, Supply Chain Framework Action Plan 3 (SCFAP III) and the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) to support regional economic integration.

(e) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable)

- Nil