Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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2022/SOM1/CTI/002
Agenda Item: III

Summary Report – Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting for 2021 (Endorsed 24 Sep 2021)

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: APEC Secretariat

**First Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
18-22 February 2022**

SUMMARY REPORT
COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (CTI)
Third Meeting for 2021
24 to 26 August 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI or "the Committee") held its third plenary meeting from 24 to 26 August. The virtual meeting was hosted by New Zealand. All 21 APEC economies were represented and participated virtually. Representatives from APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) also joined the meeting. Guests included the Hinrich Foundation. The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) was also present and contributed to a number of items in which it is supporting work for CTI.

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

2. The Chair welcomed members, including two new CTI representatives, Emily Flahive (Australia) and Rebecca Barnes (Canada) to the meeting, The Chair thanked New Zealand for hosting and Chair encouraged observers, ABAC members and guests, to join the discussions and share experiences.

3. The Chair noted that prior to the CTI meeting, there were a number of subfora meetings and workshops, including ten CTI-level events:

- Webinar: Recyclable Materials Policy Program (17 June);
- Workshop on Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy within GVCs (28 July)
- Workshop 2: Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-Practices Sharing Workshops (29 June)
- Workshop 3: Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-Practices Sharing Workshops (3 August)
- Regional Consumer Protection Framework Workshop (4 August)
- Workshop on Border Agency Cooperation (WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 8) (11 August)
- Workshop on Supporting Discussions in the WTO: Workshop on the Application of Non-Discriminatory Internal Taxes to Electronic Transmissions (12 August)
- Trade Policy Dialogue on Understanding NTMs on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sectors to Enhance Trade to Improve Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in in the Asia Pacific Region (13 August);
- 13th Meeting of the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) (18 August)
- Workshop: Committee on Trade and Investment - Voluntary Standstill on Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies (19 August);

4. With the exception of the Automotive Dialogue, the remaining 10 CTI-subfora met on the margins of SOM3. Several sub-fora events were held prior to the meeting, some of which include:

- GOS
  - Webinar on 'Digital Credentials and the Mutual Recognition of Professional Services: A Pathway for Implementing the Increased Use of Digital Credentials to Support Recognition Practices' (10 Jun)

- Workshop on APEC Best Practices on Developing Services-related Statistic in Mode 3 (29-30 June)
- Workshops on APEC FinTech and RegTech Capabilities Post-COVID19:
- Regulatory and Institutional Reform and Balance Workshop (27 Jul)
- Consumer Protection and Law Enforcement Workshop (30 Jul)
- Improving Financial Literacy and Skills Workshop (4 Aug)
- Ensuring Access to Financial Services Workshop (6 Aug)
- Workshop "Translating APEC's Non-Binding Principles for Domestic Regulation for the Services Sector into Practice - a Focus on Domestic Regulations in Trade Agreements'' (17 Aug)

- SCCP
  - APEC Customs Business Dialogue (ACBD) on "Enabling Greater and Inclusive Participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Global Trade" (18 June);
  - Workshop on COVID-19 Lessons Learnt for Customs and Trade Facilitation (11 June);

- SCSC
  - "Capacity Building on the Development of Climate Actions for Growth by use of ISO 14080" (14 July);
  - Workshop on Food Adulterated with Drugs and Illegal Products" (10-11 August)
  - Good Regulatory Practices Conference (17-18 August)
  - Workshop to identify future work on non-tariff measures (NTMs) affecting grain trade (24-25 Aug)

- IEG
  - "FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on new trends in Investment Elements negotiations in FTAs/RTAs" (3 - 4 August)

- CD
  - 2nd CD Risk Challenge Virtual Workshop on Facilitating Trade by Improving Risk Assessment Capacity (15-16 June);

- LSIF
  - 2021-2030 Roadmap to Promote Mental Wellness in a Healthy Asia Pacific (endorsed 22 July)
  - The North Star: A 2030 Strategy for Enabling Resilient Health Systems and Promoting the Health of our Populations in the Asia Pacific (endorsed 26 July)
  - Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course (endorsed 30 July)
  - APEC Healthcare Financing Roadmap (endorsed 11 August)
  - Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (25 August)
  - Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC) Good Regulatory Management Center of Excellence (CoE) Workshop (24 August – 16 September)
  - RHSC Webinar "Manufacturing, Supply Chain, and Inspections during the COVID19 Public Health Emergency" (25 August)
  - RHSC Medical Device CoE Workshop (28 August – 11 September)
  - RHSC CoE Workshop in Multi-Regional Clinical Trials & Good Clinical Practice Inspection (MRCT/GCPI) by Peking University (PKU), China (14 to 30 Jun 2021) - Virtual & In-Person
  - RHSC CoE Workshop in Good Registration Management (GRM) by Thailand Food and Drug Administration (Thai FDA), Thailand (9 to 11 Aug 2021) - Virtual
  - RHSC Webinar "Manufacturing, Supply Chain, and Inspections during the COVID19 Public Health Emergency" (25 August)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The agenda was adopted by members.[1]

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING

6. The Summary Record from CTI1 2021 was endorsed intersessionally.[2]

SUPPORT FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: INFORMATION-SHARING MECHANISM

7. CTI held a policy dialogue looking at "Development and Economic Cooperation in FTA Chapters". There were three presentations **discussing the development and economic cooperation chapters in three Regional Trade Agreements**, namely (a) Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus)[3] by Australia; (b) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)[4] by Singapore; and (c) ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA)[5] by Viet Nam. Led by Australia, there was good engagement from members on the topic and members appreciated learning about WTO-plus elements in these three agreements, including different funding mechanisms to implement technical assistance. It was noted that for RCEP and AANZFTA, there are work programmes which are targeted to various chapters, such as Rules of Origins. The CTI Chair noted that, "Development" / Economic and Technical Cooperation is an important pillar of APEC work that complements the Trade & Investment Liberalization and Business Facilitation pillars and is also in the Putrajaya Vision.

Projects and initiatives supporting the MTS

8. Prior to the meeting, the CTI Chair issued a statement expressing her hopes for the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) taking place from 30 November to 3 December 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.[6] The Chair also recalled ABAC's earlier message to the Trade Ministers, that the WTO has been and continues to be the foundation of decades of prosperity for our region and the world needs a strong, relevant and credible WTO as we embark on the long road towards economic recovery and hoped that her statement could spur some action before MC12.

9. **New Zealand** updated members on its *workshop Supporting discussions in the WTO: Workshop on the application of non-discriminatory internal taxes to electronic transmissions* that took place on 12 August. The objectives of the event were to strengthen APEC's role as an incubator of ideas by constructively contributing to discussions occurring on the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions / the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce. The workshop examined ways in which internal taxes (such as VAT or GST) could be applied to electronic transmissions to achieve certain policy goals, such as revenue raising, in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. Experts shared experiences on the use of an internal tax as an alternative policy tool to customs duties.

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[1] 2021/SOM3/CTI/001
[2] 2021/SOM3/CTI/IS09
[3] 2021/SOM3/CTI/002
[4] 2021/SOM3/CTI/003
[5] 2021/SOM3/CTI/004
[6] https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2021/0820_CTI

10. The **MAG Convenor** and **New Zealand** updated members on the progress on the APEC List of Environmental Goods and other related work. The MAG convenor noted that after three rounds of informal/ad hoc group discussions, MAG endorsed (i) the updated APEC List of Environmental Goods in HS2017; and agreed that (a) each economy, on a voluntary basis, update their individual environmental goods implementation plans using the list in HS2017 as a reference point by November 2021, if they have not already done so; and (b) For MAG to continue this work into the next phase of transposing the list from HS2017 to HS2022.[7] New Zealand volunteered to circulate the work their transposition list from HS2017 to HS2022 and shepherd this process, which would involve finding pathways on the potential splits. To this end, New Zealand sought support for economies to (i) be expedient and timely in their domestic consultations and providing feedback/comments; (ii) show a preparedness to outline to the membership, views on the splits, and ex outs. New Zealand welcomed the work done by the APEC Policy Support Unit in reviewing the implementation and effects of the original list and Australia's scoping paper on potential climate mitigation technologies for adding to the list in the longer term.

11. **Japan** updated members on its upcoming 9 September *Policy discussions on trade-related policies to promote trade in environmental products and technologies including regulatory issues, contributing to Global Carbon Neutrality.* Japan noted that in addition to discussion on environmental goods and services, the approaches related to non-tariff trade policy issues: to facilitate transactions from production to consumption, and to prevent arbitrary trade obstacles from being introduced in the future, are especially important to achieve carbon neutrality. It is necessary, not to only utilize existing products and technologies, but also newly develop and globally spread innovative products and technologies that contribute to emission reduction. The objective of this policy dialogue is to therefore discuss and identify possible approaches to address trade related policies relating to products and technologies which contribute to Green House Gas emission reduction an open-ended manner.

12. **Australia** shared with members its *Scoping Study on New and Emerging Environmental Goods* which was circulated on 23 August to the Market Access Group (MAG) for MAG's endorsement by 6 September. The study researched new and emerging goods that support global sustainability, focusing on climate change mitigating technologies that contribute to emissions reduction, and outlines the current landscape for trade in these goods. A corresponding workshop will be held in late September 2021.

13. **New Zealand** updated members on "*Study and Trade Policy Dialogue on Potential Options for a Voluntary Standstill on Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies*". The workshop was held on 19 August which involved presentations including the World Bank, WTO, and OECD where experts offered views on what some potential standstill options could look like and why this work is important in the grander scheme of fossil fuel subsidy reform; as well as the strengths and risks of standstill policies. New Zealand noted that its contractor is in the process of developing its study. New Zealand also noted that there will be an officials-only Trade Policy Dialogue scheduled for 21 September, 2:00pm NZDT and offered to host a follow-up dialogue the week after towards the end of September. New Zealand, requested members to build an understanding of their own domestic fossil fuel subsidies programmes, which could provide officials a basis for better assessing which areas reform or a standstill could target. Finally, New Zealand noted that this project and whatever outcomes are voluntary in nature and that the focus will be on those members that are in a position to do so, and the emphasis is on inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

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[7] 2021/SOM3/CTI/005 & 005a

14. The **Hinrich Foundation** (HF) presented on its *Sustainability Trade Index.*[8] The HF noted that the STI measures the capacity of 20 economies[9] in the Asia Pacific region in achieving economic growth, environmental protection, and better social equity through trade. Its robust set of indicators[10] highlighted issues across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, from technological infrastructure to educational attainment and air and water pollution. Improved performance on STI indicators could help an economy attract more investment. For 2022, it is planned that the STI's coverage include all APEC economies, and the Hinrich Foundation sought APEC's input to ensure the STI covers relevant KPIs/indicators for trade and investment. A number of economies expressed interest in the work of the Hinrich Foundation.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

15. The **US** spoke on its proposals, (a) *FTAAP Work Program on Labour-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs,* and *Work Program related to FTAAP addressing State-owned and Controlled Enterprises (SOEs)* for endorsement. The US highlighted that this work was meant to contribute to the FTAAP Agenda in the Putrajaya Vision that called for APEC to work towards a high standard and comprehensive regional undertaking. The US underscored that these are not new or next generation trade issues given that 19 out of 21 APEC economies participate in an RTA or FTA that has labor provisions in the body of the agreement or in a side letter. The US continued that more than half of APEC economies participate in an agreement with SOE provisions. A number of members spoke in support of the proposals. Acknowledging the US' efforts, China shared that it had consulted with line agencies but unfortunately concerns remained. China agreed to stay open minded would be willing to discuss the proposals with interested members.

16. **Indonesia** updated members on its Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD) on "*Understanding Non-Tariff Measures on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Sectors to Enhance Trade to Improve Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Asia Pacific Region*" which took place on 13 August. Arising from the workshop, Indonesia suggested a number of recommendations, including (a) the adoption of Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) and conducting sustainability impact assessments of both new and existing regulations to provide clearer/better guidelines; (b) Capacity building on training partner standards; (c) three important principles in viewing NTMs, consisting of (i) scientifically justified, (ii) evidence based; and (iii) risk management and (d) development of the quality infrastructure supported by mutual recognition of standards and accreditation.

17. **Hong Kong, China** and the **PSU** provided an update on the *Study on Tariffs – Analysis of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Tariff Liberalisation Schedules.*[11] The PSU explained that this study was an extension of the earlier study on tariffs as part of the FTAAP Work Programme on Tariffs. The study analysed RCEP tariff liberalisation schedules, examining base tariffs, products under immediate liberalisation, products liberalised in 10 years or more, partial liberalisation and exclusions. The PSU highlighted the increased market access brought about by RCEP, and its importance due to regional significance and large market coverage. It also included important bilateral flows not previously covered by any existing FTAs. The PSU noted the complex tariff

[8] 2021/SOM3/CTI/006
[9] Brunei, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Hong Kong, China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vietnam. There are plans to include the following economies in 2022: Australia, Chile, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, & Russia.
[10] Indicators include: Tariff barriers, Non-tariff barriers, Financial sector depth, Export market concentration, Foreign direct investment, Technological Innovation, Labour standards, Gender non-discrimination in hiring, Air pollution, Environmental standards in trade, Educational attainment
[11] 2021/SOM3/CTI/044

liberalisation schedules in RCEP, which could be harder and costlier to manage from the administrative perspective. With 39 schedules, the RCEP probably has the highest number of tariff liberalisation schedules in any RTA/FTA in the world. The number of parties and the differentiated development levels also led to exclusions, goods under partial liberalisation, and long liberalisation periods in RCEP.

TRADE FACILITATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Projects and initiatives supporting Trade Facilitation and Connectivity

18. **Japan, Papua New Guinea** & **PSU** provided updates on the *Implementation of the Peer Review and Capacity Building for APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment*, highlighting the priority areas for capacity building. The PSU explained the final report of Peer Review to PNG, including capacity building needs, which was just endorsed by CTI intersessionally.[12] Japan expressed its intention to continue these peer review and capacity building initiatives.

19. **China** updated members that the Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN) admitted a new member, the Port Authority of Thailand.[13] With this APMEN has a total of 24 APMEN members coming from 14 economies. China also updated that APMEN had conducted the second phase of freight logistics visualization project and the second phase of digitalization of air freight logistics project. China welcomed more economies to join APMEN.

20. Sharing the agenda for the *Conference on Promoting Smart Cities through Quality Infrastructure Investment in Rapidly Urbanizing APEC Region*, **Japan** sought members' support and participation for the 15 September event.[14] The virtual conference would include presentations on Smart Cities through quality infrastructure investment (QII) in each economy; progress of Good Practice on Smart Cities through QII; and sharing of experience and technologies of private companies on Smart Cities through QII. This project aims to further deepen the discussions and knowledge on smart city and quality infrastructure investment (hereafter "QII") by fully sharing and analysing related good practices, lessons learned and how to overcome the challenges amongst APEC economies, contribute to the capacity building in terms of planning, procurement, implementation and operation among officials in charge of smart cities development as well as infrastructure investment and planning sectors. Cooperation with multilateral development banks and related international organizations will also be sought in order to promote smart city activities through QII in APEC region, based on the suggestions of the last conference held in 2019. Indonesia noted that discussions related to smart cities are developing at this time, where many elements in the city must be connected to each other with the support of adequate facilities and infrastructure. Indonesia said it would participate in the project and would be nominating speakers.

21. **Singapore** and the **PSU** updated on the next steps on the *Final Review on Phase II of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan (SCFAPII)*.[15] The draft report was tabled for members' comments.[16] Singapore thanked the members who contributed the eight case studies and welcomed views on the next phase of SCFAP. The PSU highlighted some of the findings of the report and noted that COVID-19 has impacted supply chain

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[12] 2021/SOM3/CTI/045
[13] 2021/SOM3/CTI/048
[14] 2021/SOM3/CTI/049
[15] 2021/SOM3/CTI/046
[16] 2021/SOM3/CTI/047

connectivity and trade costs. The Final Review will be completed by CSOM. A number of economies noted that APEC has been working on trade facilitation and supply chain issues and were keen to explore the next phase of this workstream, including in the area of E-Commerce. PECC suggested looking into the high costs in maritime trade. Singapore recognised the need to produce a high quality action plan that benefits businesses and undertook to consult with various stakeholders

INCLUSION ISSUES

22. **China** updated members on two initiatives related to inclusion. First, on *APEC Cross Border E-commerce Training (CBET) Workshop II "Accelerating Digital Transformation toward Inclusive Growth – the COVID-19 Impact"*, the workshops would take place on 8, 15 & 22 September 2021. China invited members to participate in the workshops. Second, China thanked members for endorsing the Summary Report for the 14 May Seminar on *"Advancing Economic Inclusion through Trade and Investment in Asia-Pacific Region"*. Together with the Chair, China welcomed more economies to propose more initiatives on inclusion. The Chair urged members to table more proposals on Inclusion, cognizant that there is a lot of work going on at APEC, including on Women – where CTI has provided inputs to the *La Serena Roadmap* Report; with SMEs via the *Boracay Action Agenda*; with Indigenous peoples; and also in the Finance track on financial inclusion. The Chair suggested that CTI could focus on economic and digital inclusion and how trade policies help groups of people that are usually left out, including the ageing population that some of economies are facing, such as youth unemployment.

UPDATE ON OTHER CTI INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

23. **Chile** updated members on the Canada-Chile initiative, "*The role of government procurement in responding to COVID-19".* The proponents circulated a first draft of the report on 13 August which included key findings and economies responses to the survey. In the view of the proponents, it fulfills Ministers' instruction in 2020 "to share best practices and information on policies and measures undertaken by APEC Economies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic". While the first draft report is for information only, the proponents welcomed economies comments and updating their responses and information. The deadline for this is August 27. With regard to the event component, the proponents are looking to host it on 5 October at 1800hrs Singapore time. Chile undertook to circulate more information, including a draft agenda and sought support, including securing speakers.

24. **Chinese Taipei** shared updates on its Webinar on *"Promoting Trade by Utilizing Digital Technology"* which will take place on 14 September. Speakers from public and private sectors will share experiences and practices of using advanced digital technology to facilitate trade promotion and reshape business models to achieve digital transformation, particularly the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. It provides a venue for APEC economies to share practices and policies on how to advance trade promotional tools, and give opportunities to the private sector to share practical experiences. Chinese Taipei underlined the importance of issue in promoting trade and investment facilitation and liberalization while contributing to New Zealand's 2021 priorities and the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER). Border lockdowns and zero-contact policies had disrupted physically delivered trade promotional activities and had negative impact on enterprises in grasping new business opportunities. This event hopes to facilitate post-COVID economic recovery.

(f) Update on APEC Pathfinders

o The **United States** provided a status update on the four (CTI-level) pathfinders,[17] namely:

(i) Pathfinder on the APEC Technology Choice Principles
(ii) Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value
(iii) Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically
(iv) Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade

The US shared that (iii) and (iv) will be discussed at the October 2021 Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade. The Chair noted that pathfinders are a very unique mechanism in APEC, with voluntary participation. This helped incubate ideas and making APEC a test-bed for ideas, so that when more members are ready, they can join these endeavours.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 CTI REPORT BACK TO THE APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

25. **New Zealand,** on behalf of co-proponents, Malaysia and Singapore, recalled that Trade Ministers requested a number of follow ups for AMM, including for *the 2020 Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods; the 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chains Statement* and *2021 MRT Statement relating to medical supplies and digital trade facilitation.* It had circulated a survey for completion by 15 September to capture all relevant data required. The purpose of this survey is to collate qualitative data from APEC economies on the commitments made by APEC Trade Ministers in 2020 and 2021 on COVID-19 goods related areas. This would complement baseline quantitative data where relevant, and compiled to produce a report for Trade Ministers at AMM. New Zealand suggested to compile all of the relevant reports above into one single document, to be sent out 1 October for CTI members' consideration and endorsement by 15 October. This will then be submitted to the AMM via the CTI Chair's report, either as a separate document, or as part of the full report. The ultimate aim is that these responses help contribute towards Ministers gaining a better picture of how APEC economies are faring with respect to movement of essential goods and vaccines, and trade facilitation (including digitalization of border processes), so as to act as a springboard for APEC discussion on where opportunities and challenges lie for any potential further work.

UPDATES FROM ABAC & OBSERVERS

26. The PECC informed members that it had provided views on the Putrajaya Vision comments. The comments had been made on the basis of the work of the PECC task force on APEC Beyond 2020 as well as the discussions during the 28th PECC General Meeting. PECC suggested that the chapeau language of the Implementation Plan not only mentions the Covid-19 Pandemic which will be first and foremost in the minds of APEC Ministers, Leaders and especially the public, but underscore the importance of collectively recognizing that how jurisdictions respond to the pandemic will have real implications for achieving the short and medium-term outcomes that will support the 2040 Vision. PECC noted developments in the CPTPP, RCEP and PA which showed positive movement in the pathways towards FTAAP. PECC also commented on the need to have concrete outcomes at MC12 recalling that a strong and open multilateral trading system has been at the heart of APEC's work and that MC12. PECC also reminded CTI on the importance of communicating the benefits of free trade in a way that can easily be understood by non-trade experts.

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[17] 2021/SOM3/CTI/050

UPDATES FROM SUB-FORA CONVENOR / CHAIR

27. The following convenors provided verbal updates in addition to their subfora reports:

    i.   Business Mobility Group (BMG)[18]
    ii.   Group on Services (GOS)[19]
    iii.   Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)[20]
    iv.   Investment Experts' Group (IEG)[21]
    v.   Market Access Group (MAG)[22]
    vi.   Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)[23]
    vii. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)[24]
    viii. Automotive Dialogue (AD)[25]
    ix.   Chemical Dialogue (CD)[26]
    x.   Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF)[27]

28. CTI endorsed all 10 reports including the Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG) Chair's report.[28]

29. In addition, the Chair asked members to note:

- The SCCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025;[29]
- The two letters from the Auto[30] and Chemical[31] Industries which would be submitted to Senior Officials;
- The Chemical Dialogue's request to include the *Executive Summary of the Report to AMM on Implementation Convergence of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Report* to the CTI report to Ministers.

SECRETARIAT UPDATE

CTI sub-fora assessment & Renewal

30. The Secretariat recalled that in 2019, CTI endorsed the methodology for its sub-fora assessment. Subfora then conducted its assessment in the 1st half of 2021 and the completed assessments were provided to CTI members who then conducted CTI-level assessments in June 2021. The final results of all the assessments were shared with CTI members and subfora convenors through their respective Programme Directors. The assessment looked at data, such as quorum, number of projects in the last four years, how active the fora in areas such as cross-fora collaboration and collaboration with the private sector. The Project Management Unit at the Secretariat also provided analysis and data

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[18] 2021/SOM3/CTI/007
[19] 2021/SOM3/CTI/010
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[27] 2021/SOM3/CTI/017
[28] 2021/SOM3/CTI/018
[29] 2021/SOM3/CTI/013
[30] 2021/SOM3/CTI/015a
[31] 2021/SOM3/CTI/016a

on the projects. The 11 fora assessment reports were now loaded into the ACS (and would be transferred to the MDDB). The Secretariat also recalled that at SOM2, Senior Officials asked that subfora submit their Terms of Reference (TORs) to the Ad Hoc Group one month ahead of their meeting in early August 2021. The accompanying TORs – be they finalised/endorsed/or not – were also uploaded into the ACS. Members took note of the Assessment Reports and ToRs.

31. Following discussions, CTI agreed to recommend to Senior Officials, to renew the following subfora, where their Terms of Reference had been endorsed by CTI:

    i.   Business Mobility Group (BMG)
    ii.   Group on Services (GOS)
    iii.   Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)
    iv.   Investment Experts' Group (IEG)
    v.   Market Access Group (MAG)
    vi.   Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
    vii.   Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)
    viii. Automotive Dialogue (AD)
    ix.   Chemical Dialogue (CD)
    x.   Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)

32. While several economies' view was to renew the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF), CTI was unable to reach consensus on the recommendation to renew it.

33. CTI endorsed six subfora's ToRs - GOS, IPEG, IEG, SCCP, CD and DESG.

34. Four subfora ToRs received comments CTI. They are from the BMG, MAG, SCSC (including its subsidiary bodies), and AD. These have been sent to the subfora to improve and finalise. The subfora are expected to submit the updated ToRs to CTI by 17 September 2021 for CTI's endorsement. Senior Officials would be informed of the outcome.[32]

Update on APEC CTI website

35. APEC FTA Database (FTADB).The Secretariat noted that CTI had on 30 July 2021 approved the closure APEC FTABD. The Secretariat noted members could use databases such as the WTO RTA Database) which had additional functions.

Project Update

36. The Secretariat briefed members on APEC project management and other administrative issues, noting that for Project Session 2/2021, all three CTI proposals from Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam, received BMC's in-principle approval for APEC funding. These are:
    • Best Practices Sharing Workshop: Utilising Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (Phase II) (Japan);
    • APEC Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges for GVCs during COVID-19 Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery (Viet Nam);
    • APEC Best Practices for Green and Innovative MSMEs by using Bio-Circular Green (BCG) Model (Thailand).

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[32] At the SOM plenary, Senior Officials reaffirmed CTI's decision viz para 35 and renewed the GOS, IPEG, IEG, SCCP, CD and DESG.

37. The Secretariat requested economies to be prepared to convert physical events to virtual or hybrid events and in the case of hybrid events, it should include the physical participation of at least two APEC economies,

Selection of the next CTI Chair (2022-23)

38. The Secretariat noted that one nomination was received and members were welcome to provide comments until 27 August 2021. Blake van Velden of New Zealand was subsequently endorsed by members as the incoming CTI Chair for 2022-23.

Items for noting

39. The Items for Noting document, which contains updates by economies on their initiatives, was endorsed by CTI.

Document Classification

40. The document classification was circulated for members' consideration and endorsement.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

41. The CTI Chair closed the meeting by thanking CTI members for their active participation.

- END -

Items for Noting – Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting 2021

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
1.	**APEC Investment Commitment Handbook Project** (IEG 02 2018S)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Australia	**Current status and progress/update:** - Phase 2 of the Handbook Project with Viet Nam is progressing toward conclusion - A full draft has been finished and comments have been received from relevant stakeholders across the Vietnamese government - The draft will be the subject of a workshop with Vietnamese officials. This will be the second workshop held on the project. The purpose of the workshop will be to (1) confirm the handbook meets the requirements of Vietnamese officials and (2) raise awareness of the handbook across government. At present the workshop scheduled to take place virtually in September. **Next steps:** - Second phase of project expected to be completed by late 2021 or early 2021. - Welcome advice from economies interested in participating in the next phase of the project. **Request to CTI members** - N/A
2.	**APEC Single Window Interoperability Action Plan**	Supply Chain Connectivity	Chile, China and Peru	**Current status and progress/update:** - The technical group has continued its work intersessionally and through virtual meetings to define the parameters to set up the pilot. - Economies have agreed that the document to be exchanged in the pilot will be the customs data declaration. - As a further development, Korea requested to participate in the pilot as an observer instead of as a voluntary economy. Therefore, the economies that will actively participate in the pilot program are Chile, Peru and

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[33] For members' ease of reference, a document number from 2021 CTI meetings will be provided

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				Singapore with New Zealand and Korea as observers. **Next steps:** - The group is currently analyzing each other's custom data declaration, as to familiarize with the design and particularities of the document in each Economy. This will, in turn, help determine the best technology to use to interoperate and also the standards that will define the pilot like, for example, applicable international regulations or treaties. - Once this analysis is concluded the group will work on a Harmonization Matrix and Service Contracts for the document to be exchanged. - The intersessional work will continue, and further meetings of the technical group are expected before the end of the year. However, given the current status of things and, particularly, the delays due to the pandemic it is possible the actual launch of the pilot is moved to 2022 instead of 2021 as originally planned. **Request to CTI members** - Nil
3.	**Initiative "Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in Trade Agreements"**	Regional Economic Integration	Chile	**Current status and progress/update:** - Due to internal and unexpected circumstances the project has delayed more than expected. The Project Overseer is working on the summary report with the information collected through the survey to circulate to CTI on August or latest by September 2021. **Next steps:** - Because of the previous delay, we are now considering hosting the webinar that is part of this project in 2022 instead of 2021. A final decision hasn't been made yet and we will brief the CTI on this as soon as a final decision is made

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
4.	**Work Plan on Digital Trade and E-Commerce for the Realization of the FTAAP** 2020/SOM1/CTI/034	REI - Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) Agenda	Japan	**Current status and progress/update:** - Japan has been working on completing the draft report, gain feedbacks from various economies. Japan reflects all the feedbacks in the report and tries to gain endorsement by CTI 3 (August 26th) **Next steps:** - The draft plans to be revised based on comments and feedback from economies. **Request to CTI members** - N.A.

5.	**Utilizing digital technology in the field of trade facilitation under the current COVID-19 pandemic and beyond**
	
	(CTI 07 2020T)
		Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Japan	**Current status and progress/update:**
				- Japan held a series of workshops this year:
				  • 1st workshop (11 May): Trade facilitation through trade platforms;
				  • 2nd Workshop (29 June): E-Commerce-Enabling Technologies;
				  - 3rd Workshop (3 August): Interoperability and Data Security for Single Windows
				
				Next steps:
				- Japan will hold the last series of workshop on 14 September, which is focused on empowering MSMEs to Participate in Cross-Border Trade.
				- Japan also consider further workshops to deal with the issues that could not be covered under the previous workshops next year and submitted the CN for session 2 of 2021.
				
				Request to CTI members
				- Economies are encouraged to join our workshops and co-sponsor the next project.

6.	**Study / Report**	Trade Facilitation & Connectivity	Korea	**Current status and progress/update:** - The final report was endorsed by CTI on 19 Aug

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	COVID-19 and Cross-Border Mobility in the APEC Region - Passports, Tickets and Face Masks			**Next Steps** - The report will be published in the APEC website and shared with relevant APEC groups
7.	**FTAAP Capacity Building Workshop on E-commerce Elements in FTAs/RTAs (Phase 2)** (CTI 02 2020T)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Korea	**Current status and progress/update:** - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for one-and-a-half day virtual workshop. - Korea circulated General Information and is now accepting speaker/participant nominations by 25 August. **Next steps:** - Korea will hold the virtual workshop on 8-9 September.
8.	**Consumer Protection in Digital Trade / E-commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework** (CTI 09 2020A)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Korea	**Current status and progress/update:** - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for the one-day virtual workshop. - Korea finished accepting speaker/participant nominations. **Next steps:** - Korea held the virtual workshop on August 4.
9.	**The APEC GVCs Blueprint 2020-2025: Realizing the Role of the Digital Economy Within GVCs** (CTI 06 2020A)	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Korea and Chile	**Current status and progress/update:** - Korea decided to shift the format of the workshop to a virtual format. - Korea developed a draft agenda for the one-day virtual workshop. - Korea held the virtual workshop on July 28. **Next steps:** - Korea will submit Summary Report and Research Report.

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10.	**PPD on Advertising Standards in the Digital Economy** (CTI 05 2019T)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Peru	**Current status and progress/update:** - The project contemplated the development of a workshop, which was held at SOM3 2019, and the elaboration of document "Digital Advertising Guide: Recommendations on advertising standards in the digital economy". The PO is still working on the document. **Next steps:** - Given to the difficulties that COVID-19 caused in the coordination among domestic agencies, the PO requested to update the approved calendar. **Request to CTI members** - When circulated, the endorsement of the recommendations by CTI.
11.	**PPD on promoting Consumer Protection in the dispute resolution and redress mechanisms in E-commerce** (CTI 09 2019T)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives & Projects	Peru	**Current status and progress/update:** - The PPD was held between 27-29 April 2021 and it was attended by 90 representatives. **Next steps:** - The PO circulated on 16 August the following documents: (i) PPD Summary Report and the (ii) Recommendations to promote best practices for consumers' dispute resolution and redress mechanisms of eCommerce - Both documents are seeking CTI's comments and endorsement with deadline of 23 August **Request to CTI members** - When circulated, the endorsement of the recommendations by CTI. [Afternote: both documents were endorsed on 24 August]

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
12.	**Outcomes on the Application of the Test of Ex Ante Control of Regulations on Advertising** (CTI 06 2020S)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Peru	**Current status and progress/update:** - The self-funded project was endorsed in July 2020. The project is under implementation. **Next steps:** - The PO is elaborating the study. It is expected that the first draft will be circulated among CTI members for comments intersessionally after CTI 2021. **Request to CTI members** - Endorsement of the study by CTI
13.	**Self-Funded Initiative on Promoting Transparency of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) World Trade Organization (WTO) Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information** 2020/CTI2/IS06	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	Peru	**Current status and progress/update:** - The self-funded initiative was endorsed in September 2020. The initiative is under implementation. - The PO presented a Concept Note to Project Session 1 2021 titled "Public Private Dialogue on Promoting Transparency of TBT WTO Notifications: Improving Completeness and Clearness of Information". The proposal was approved for APEC funding. - Peru circulated the Terms of Reference of the Study which was endorsed on 1 April 2021. The Study is currently being carried out and processing the information collected. **Next steps:** - The PO is in the process of elaborating the study. The first draft will be circulated after CTI3 2021 for intersessional comments.. **Request to CTI members** - CTI's revision and endorsement of the study intersessionally before CSOM.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
14.	**Implementation of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs (BAA) & progress/ update on the Final Review** *Update on (i) the Final Review of the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSME: Study Report and (ii) APEC Global MSME Forum*	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Philippines	**Current status and progress/update:** - The Philippines conducted the APEC Global MSME Forum last 28-30 June 2021. More than 250 participants from the 21 member economies attended the three-day event. - The Philippines is currently finalizing the BAA Study Report **Next steps:** - The Philippines will be circulating the final version of the BAA Study Report at the SMEWG for economies' review and approval to finalise and publish the report.. **Request to CTI members** - CTI members to note updates
15.	**APEC Trade Repository**	Updates from Sub-Fora Convenor/Chair	Philippines	**Current status and progress/update:** - The Philippines provided MAG members the latest APECTR usage report covering the period 16 February to 31 July 2021. - The Philippines also uploaded the updated file on the APEC Survey on E-commerce Regulations (led by Singapore). **Next steps:** - Intersessionally, the Philippines will request MAG members to provide their APECTR reporting templates in line with the APECTR's annual updating (done every 30th September). **Request to CTI members** - N/A
16.	**Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	Singapore	**Current status and progress/update:**

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	• **Progress/update of economies' implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation** 2021/SOM1/CTI/040a			- CTI members endorsed the proposal on 17 May to upload the "Table Monitoring TFA Implementation" onto the [APEC CTI webpage] and [APEC Trade Repository] - The table is now "live" on both websites. **Next steps:** - See below. **Request to CTI members** - Members may contact the Secretariat to provide updates on their status of implementation.
17.	**Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC as part of the work plans on FTAAP** 2020/CTI2/IS05	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:** - Russia has updated the Stock-take of ongoing and completed APEC initiatives on transparency based on the inputs received from economies after VECTI 2020 and considering information on APEC projects contained in the AIMP. The updated Stock-take was endorsed in the CTI on 3 August 2020 (2020/CTI2/IS05). - Russia is finalizing a draft summary on key conclusions from the undertaken Stock-take. **Next steps:** - A draft summary on key conclusions from the undertaken Stock-take and suggested next steps will be circulated in CTI intersessionally. **Request to CTI members** - Once the draft summary is circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to provide comments in writing with a view to seek endorsement of the document.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
18.	**Work Program on Environment-related Provisions in FTAs/RTAs** 2020/SOM1/CTI/011	Regional Economic Integration	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:** - Russia has updated the Stock-take of environment-related provisions in FTAs/RTAs based on the inputs received from economies. An updated Stock-take of environment-related provisions in FTAs/RTAs will be circulated for endorsement in the nearest time. - A desk research is being prepared based on the existing results of the undertaken Stock-take. **Next steps:** - Russia will be seeking for endorsement of the Stock-take and the desk research to be prepared on its basis. **Request to CTI members** - We look forward to receiving inputs from the remaining APEC economies with a view to endorse the Stock-take.
19.	**Proposal for Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC: Tariff Policies** 2020/CTI2/007 2020/CTI3/IS06	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:** - The revised version of the proposal for Enhancing Trade Policy Transparency in APEC: Tariff Policies was endorsed on 23 October 2020 intersessionally. - The questionnaire for government authorities was circulated to collect data on the existing practices, international requirements, and possible ways to enhance transparency on tariff policies. Inputs were received from 14 APEC economies. - Further to previous questionnaire, Russia has prepared an additional one for private sector, which has been circulated among APEC economies to collect data on private sector views on the existing practices and international requirements, and their impact on business activities. These questionnaires will make possible to prepare detailed analysis and allow a more complete picture to be painted. **Next steps:**

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				- Russia will prepare a draft report reflecting the information collected to promote an exchange of views on existing practices, international requirements, and possible ways to enhance transparency on tariff policies. **Request to CTI members** - We look forward to receiving inputs on the questionnaire from the remaining APEC economies. - We asked APEC economies to review the additional questionnaire and fill it, if necessary, within the set timelines.
20.	**Workshop on Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Digital Content Trade** (CTI 02 2019)	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:** - Russia has prepared the Workshop Summary Report based on the outcomes of the conducted event. The document will be circulated among APEC economies intersessionally. - Russia is in the process of preparing a proposal on further steps on enhancing IPR protection in digital content trade in APEC region **Next steps:** - Russia will prepare a proposal on further steps on enhancing IPR protection in digital content trade in APEC region. **Request to CTI members** - Once the Workshop Summary Report and the proposal are prepared and circulated, we will be asking APEC to review the documents and provide comments on them.
21.	**Blueprint 2.0.: Compilation of modern-day factors affecting the formation and**	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:** - A Stock-take of the respective past work undertaken by APEC was endorsed by the CTI on 29 May 2020.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	development of global value chains 2020/SOM1/CTI/IS09 2020/CTI-E/IS05			- A questionnaire regarding modern-day factors affecting the formation and development of GVCs has been developed based on the results of the undertaken Stock-take. - Russia is in the process of updating the questionnaire in line with the comments of some economies. The updated questionnaire will be circulated among APEC economies intersessionally. **Next steps:** - Russia will prepare a survey focused on addressing factors that have an impact on GVCs' functioning and the integration of APEC economies into global production processes. **Request to CTI members** - Once the questionnaire is updated and circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to complete the questionnaire - Once the survey is prepared and circulated, we will be asking APEC economies to provide comments in writing with a view to seek endorsement of the document

22.	**Blueprint 2.0.: Workshop on Effective Domestic Policymaking for Stimulating Economic Upgrading through Global Value Chains**
	
	(CTI 14 2019A)
		Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	Russia	**Current status and progress/update:**
				- Preparations for the Workshop are currently focused on:
				  a. Selection of speakers; and
				  b. Finalization of the draft program and agenda of the Workshop, as well as the Questionnaire to be completed by APEC economies within the framework of preparing for the event.
				
				Next steps:
				- Russia will circulate intersessionally a Questionnaire for the completion by APEC economies within the framework of preparing for the event.
				
				Request to CTI members

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				- Economies are encouraged to complete the Questionnaire to be circulated by Russia intersessionally.
23.	**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 3 (Advance Rulings) – Phase 3** (CTI 11 2019A)	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - The United States launched Phase 3 of the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 3 in 2019. As part of Phase 3, the United States hosted a workshop on Advanced Rulings Best Practices on 5 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The one-day workshop enabled participants to discuss economies' implementation of advance rulings and to identify overlaps and differences in their systems. The workshop focused on the usability of advance rulings systems and honed in on the ways economies could make their application of rulings more user-friendly, efficient, and transparent. Participants worked with one another to collectively draft example rulings that would reveal differences in approach and then discussed potential areas of improvement that economies could consider for more effective practices. The revised workshop report was endorsed in February 2021. **Next steps:** - The pandemic impacted technical assistance and training. However, we are working to identify assistance-eligible economies to receive targeted technical assistance and training. **Request to CTI members** - Nil.
24.	**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**	Support for the Multilateral Trading System	United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Article 1 requires economies to publish trade-related information (import, export and transit) in print and provide documents, forms, contact information, and "how to import" guides online. Publication and access to information and forms creates a transparent

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
	Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information – Phase 2 (CTI 12 2019A)			and predictable trade environment for all businesses, governments and citizens. Phase 2 of the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs related to WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information was launched in 2019 and will provide technical assistance and training for developing member economies implementing WTO TFA Article 1 obligations. The US-SEGA project has been working with Peru to analyze the publication of trade-related information. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism (Mincetur) requested an analysis of best practices for trade portals featured as modules within broader single windows, as Peru is considering something like this for the "VUCE 2.0". Mincetur also asked us to examine health and agricultural agencies' publication of information. Consultants in Lima confirmed that US-SEGA/APEC recommendations had been incorporated into the design of a trade information portal to be featured in the upgraded VUCE. The report also features a framework for an import/export guide for agricultural products. The report was endorsed in April 2021. **Next steps:** - Nil **Request to CTI members** - Nil
25.	**Blueprint 2.0.: Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs**	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	China, Indonesia and United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - China, Indonesia, and the United States Work Plan on Cooperation on Implementing and Taking Full Advantage of Statistics Related to GVCs[34] for workstream 3 of Blueprint 2.0 was endorsed on 9 March 2020. The Work Plan seeks to help APEC economies to better utilize the TiVA database by undertaking a survey of economies' needs and challenges in developing and

[34] 2020/SOM1/CTI/033

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	2020/SOM1/CTI/033 2020/CTI-E/IS02 2020/CTI3/IS02			utilizing TiVA data; providing capacity building; and assisting APEC economies in developing better underlying statistics that goes into TiVA compilation. Phase 1 of the five-year work plan calls for a survey to be conducted to identify the level of understanding TiVA statistics; assess capacity building needs; and identify the type of extended SUTs and supporting data that are needed by each economy. On 9 September 2020, the draft survey was circulated in CTI for comments and endorsement. On 2 December 2020, the survey was circulated to economies for completion and re-circulated on 22 January 2021. **Next steps:** - The next step is for remaining economies to submit a response to the survey after which responses will be compiled. Individual economies will have engaged with ministries, departments, and agencies that are interested in the use of statistics that are related to global value chains in their work. Each economy will have submitted one (1) consolidated response that reflects the input from the various organizations that were consulted. In order to ensure that those agencies are engaged in future capacity building activities, the survey asked for specific information regarding the organizations and individuals consulted. A capacity building plan will be developed based on information gathered from the survey that addresses various needs from APEC economies on how to access the database and how to effectively use and improve the quality the TiVA data for policy analysis. **Request to CTI members** - We ask economies to respond to the survey if they have not already submitted a response.
26.	**APEC Trade in Value Added (TiVA) Database**	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States and China	**Current status and progress/update:** - Completed revising the APEC inter-economy input-output tables based on the review comments from member economies.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				- Completed revising the APEC TiVA indicators based on the revised APEC inter-economy input-output tables. - Completed updating the APEC TiVA Initiative Report 2 based on the revised APEC TiVA indicators. - Completed the publication of the APEC TiVA Initiative Report 2. - Completed the revision and visualization of the online APEC TiVA database. **Next steps:** - China is revising the APEC TiVA database on the website. **Request to CTI members** - Nil.
27.	**Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to Implement Programs Related to WTO TFA Article 8 (Border Agency Cooperation)** (CTI 05 2020A) 2020/SOM1/CTI/035	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - The United States hosted a workshop on August 11 on Border Agency Cooperation (WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Article 8). The workshop was designed to build economy-level benefits of WTO TFA Article 8 implementation and raise awareness of border agency cooperation best practices to improve APEC economies' efficiency, predictability and transparency of border clearance procedures. **Next steps:** - Several assistance-eligible APEC economies have notified WTO TFA Article 8 as Category B or C, signaling the need for technical assistance and training to comply with Article 8 requirements. The project overseers have already made preliminary contact with potential volunteer economies to gauge their interest and brainstorm potential terms of reference. **Request to CTI members** - Nil.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
28.	**APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2), including its extension until the end of 2023** 2020/CTI2/008	Trade Facilitation and Connectivity	United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - The Thirteenth Meeting of the Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2) took place on 18 August 2021. The meeting focused on stop gap measures put in place during COVID-19 and the possibility for permanent reform; emerging simplified procedures for low value shipments; and provided an update on supply chain programs and future work for APEC. - The APEC A2C2 was renewed for three additional years at CTI2 2020. The forum will foster innovative approaches to ongoing supply chain challenges in the coming years by bring together regional stakeholders to discuss potential local or regional solutions. In addition, A2C2's work will continue to provide guidance and technical input surrounding implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). **Next steps:** - Planning for the Fourteenth Meeting of the A2C2, to take place next year, are underway but no date has been set. **Request to CTI members** - Participate in the upcoming A2C2 meeting.
29.	**Proposal for Recyclable Materials Policy Program (RMPP)** (CTI 04 2020S) 2020/SOM1/CTI/020	Update on Other CTI Initiatives and Projects	United States	**Current status and progress/update:** - The self-funded Recyclable Materials Policy Program proposal was endorsed by economies on 13 June 2020. **Next steps:** - The United States hosted a webinar on 16 June on Improving Waste Management and Recycling Policies in the APEC Region. During the webinar there was a presentation on the preliminary findings of the study on Waste Management and Recycling (WMR) practices in APEC and alignment with APEC's policy directions; a panel discussion involving public sector officials on existing policy frameworks guiding WMR, implementation challenges

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				including investment related constraints, social impacts, lessons learned and WMR solutions across the various APEC economies; and a private sector panel on attracting investment for WMR programs and infrastructure, aspects relating to trade in waste including e-waste and recyclable materials, and other innovative approaches for developing effective waste management solutions in the Asia Pacific region. - Work on the study is underway. The intention is to provide a resource document for APEC on waste management and recycling (WMR). This seeks to help build capacity of policymakers to identify appropriate domestic policies that promote better WMR infrastructure, and help stakeholders to identity best practices appropriate for the scale, scope, and geography of their domestic waste management and recycling challenges **Request to CTI members** - Nil
30.	**Trade Policy Dialogue on Digital Trade** (CTI 01 2021S)	Internet and Digital Economy and E-Commerce	**United States**	**Current status and progress/update:** - A Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD) on Digital Trade was held on May 18, 2021. The TPD discussed the ways in which cross-border data flows can facilitate the development of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence as well as emerging data transfer mechanisms and their impact on cross-border data flows. The discussion also focused on the continued evolution of trade agreements to meet digital realities, and specifically how APEC can play a concrete role in furthering discussions around digital trade. A second Digital Trade Policy Dialogue will occur during the first half of October 2021, which will delve further into these issues. **Next steps:** - A summary report will be circulated to CTI members for endorsement.

No.	Initiative or item[33]	CTI agenda topic	Lead economy	Progress update or other information to note
				Request to CTI members - CTI will need to endorse the summary of the TPD once it is circulated. Economies are also encouraged to participate in the second Digital Trade Policy Dialogue in October 2021.
31.	**Study: Policies and Regulatory Frameworks on Modern Digital Economy Issues – Open Government Data** (CTI 05 2021S)	Internet and Digital Economy and E-Commerce	**United States**	**Current status and progress/update:** - A self-funded proposal on open government data was endorsed by economies on May 12, 2021. **Next steps:** - Work on the study is underway to identify emerging practices across the APEC region on the subject of facilitating access to open government data (OGD). The study will examine policies and regulatory frameworks surrounding this issue in APEC economies to identify divergences as well as alignment. By better understanding the various policies and regulatory frameworks of OGD measures, regulators can facilitate ways for companies to make more effective use of available data both domestically and internationally. - The United States will reach out to APEC economies interested in providing specific case studies or features in the report during the third or fourth quarters of 2021 and will deliver a summary of initial findings of the report on the margins of the First Senior Officials' meeting in 2022. Feedback on the report in early 2022 will feed into the finalization of the report and possible follow-on activities (e.g., technical assistance and workshops during 2022 and 2023). **Request to CTI members** - Interested economies are encouraged to provide case studies that can be included in the report.