



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2026/SOM1/021
Session 2.1

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Chair's Report

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: CTI



**First Senior Officials' Meeting
Guangzhou, China
10 February 2026**

Executive Summary

The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI or “the Committee”) met on 8 and 9 February 2026, in Guangzhou, People’s Republic of China, under the interim chairmanship of Ms. Vanessa Rivas Plata.

In addition to the CTI1 plenary meeting and all 8 sub-fora meetings, 5 CTI fora-level events were held on the margins of the CTI1.

At the CTI1 plenary meeting, CTI members engaged in the discussions of a comprehensive agenda, including the presentation of priorities by the CTI chair and those of the host economy of APEC 2026.

During the meeting, ten initiatives and projects were submitted for endorsement within the framework of the CTI. Given that at least one economy registered comments to each of the referenced initiatives, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) joined the plenary and presented several items related to PSU-led projects. The CTI was joined by the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and CTI Observer, Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (PECC). Non-member guest, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), also joined the meeting.

On February 7, CTI Sub-Fora Convenors (or their designated representatives) participated in the CTI1 Sub-Fora Convenors’ Meeting to report back on the sub-fora and subsidiary bodies. All eight reports were noted by CTI at the plenary meeting.

The Policy Dialogue on FTAAP: Trade Digitalization, led by China, was held within CTI1 plenary. The following FTAAP dialogue on Competition Policy will take place within the framework of CTI2, led by Australia.

Recommendations

CTI recommends that Senior Officials:

- **endorse** the CTI Chair's report from this meeting;
 - **note** the document "*Items for Noting*" (Annex A);
 - **note** the CTI subfora convenors' reports (Annex B);

1012 February 2026

The SOM Chair
First APEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)

APEC COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (CTI): CTI CHAIR'S REPORT

Introduction

1. The Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) met in plenary on 8 and 9 February 2026, in Guangzhou, China. 21 APEC economies were present. The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) joined the plenary and presented several items related to PSU-led projects. The CTI was joined by the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and CTI Observer, Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (PECC). CTI non-member guest, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), also joined the meeting.

2. The meeting was organized in line with the Putrajaya Vision 2040 (PV2040) and the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA).

3. Eight CTI-sub fora had their first meeting for the year on the margins of SOM1, and the convenors' reports are submitted to Senior Officials for information. In addition, to the eight fora plenaries, the CTI sub-fora organised five events on the margins of SOM1 (Note: This figure excludes plenary and subsidiary body meetings). They are:

- i. BMG: Working Group Meetings
- ii. DESG: Combatting Online Fraud and Scams
- iii. DESG Capacity-building workshop on Digital Tools to Address Environment-Related Challenges
- iv. EC and GOS: Workshop on Services and Structural Reform: Innovation, Productivity and Competitiveness
- v. IEG: Workshop on Sharing of Best Practices and Approaches to Impact Investing and the Role of IPAs within the APEC Region

Progress on the 2026 CTI Work Program

4. The main discussion points of the meeting are listed below. Where deadlines for comments have been set, and if no comments are received by the deadline, the proposal would be deemed as endorsed.

APEC 2026 Priorities

5. **China** presented on the host economy's priorities for the year i.e. (i) Advancing Open and Harmonized Regional Economic Integration, (ii) Supporting the Rules-Based Multilateral Trading System, (iii) Strengthening Dynamic Digital Cooperation, and (iv) Developing an Innovative Green Economy. A number of members provided comments.

Matters Arising from the Record of the Last Meeting

6. As the CTI3/2025 Summary Record was endorsed, and outstanding items were discussed during CTI1/2026 plenary meeting.

Update by the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

7. **ABAC** updated members on the outcomes of the ABAC1 meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7-9 February 2025, which included the ABAC-SOM Dialogue. Members provided comments.

Update on 2026 APEC Project Sessions

8. APEC Secretariat updated members on the APEC projects as well as deadlines and milestones for the 2026 project sessions.

CTI Chair's Priorities for 2026

9. CTI Interim Chair presented on the CTI Chair's priorities for 2026: (i) further progress on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda; (ii) advancing the digitalization of trade processes; and (iii) reinforcing cross-fora collaboration.

Implementation of APEC 2025 Key Deliverables

10. **Korea** provided an overview and the way forward on the APEC AI Initiative and the APEC Collaborative Framework for Demographic Changes.

Update on WTO-related Matters

11. The APEC Secretariat provided factual updates on APEC members' implementation of/participation in the following WTO initiatives:

- a. WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement – with 15 APEC members accepting the agreement;
- b. WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- c. Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and ITA Expansion;
- d. WTO Joint Statement Initiatives / Agreements (E Commerce; Domestic Regulations; Investment Facilitation; MSME); and
- e. WTO Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment.

12. **China** updated on the WTO Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP).

13. **China** updated members on the WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD).

14. **New Zealand** updated on the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR).

15. Led by **China**, CTI members discussed economies' preparations for the WTO 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14).

16. **China** also introduced the Interim Pathfinder Initiative Proposal on WTO Reform. CTI Interim Chair reminded members that during the Interim Pathfinder phase, Lead Economy and supporters will need to follow the Updated Guidelines for Pathfinder Initiatives¹.

¹ Appendix 8, 2017 CTI Report to Ministers

Economic Integration in the Region

17. In response to the 2021 AMM instruction to officials to continue supporting ongoing efforts to conclude, ratify, implement and upgrade high-standard and comprehensive trade agreements, updates on regional economic efforts were presented at the CTI:

- **CTI Interim Chair** updated on the implementation of the FTAAP Agenda Work Plan.
- **The Philippines** updated on developments on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP).
- **Mexico** provided updates on the Pacific Alliance (PA).
- **New Zealand** provided updates on the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA).

Policy Dialogue on FTAAP: Trade Digitalization

18. **China** led a policy dialogue on the topic of **trade digitalization** in the context of the PSU Study on Convergences and Divergences of Free Trade Agreements in the APEC. China; Singapore;; PECC; UNESCAP and PSU made presentations on the topics. Several members provided comments.

19. **Hong Kong, China** and the **PSU** provided an update on the Study “Rules of Origin in Modern Trade Agreements – Trends and Challenges”.

20. **Japan** updated on the Project “In-depth study on Digital trade provisions of FTAs/RTAs”.

21. **Korea** provided an update on the Implementation of the 5th Capacity Building Needs Initiative (CBNI) for Advancing Economic Integration in the Region.

22. The **United States** sought endorsement on “FTAAP Agenda Work Program: Labour-related Provisions, on Technical Assistance and Capacity Building in FTAs/RTAs”. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

23. The **United States** also sought endorsement for “Research and Evaluation on State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), an FTAAP Work Program”. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

Trade and Investment Facilitation, Connectivity, Digitalisation and Innovation

Trade and Investment Facilitation

24. **China** provided an update on the Annual Workplan of Asia-Pacific Model E-port Network (APMEN) in 2026, which was endorsed intersessionally. Members provided comments related to the work plan.

25. **China** sought endorsement on Self-Funded Project Proposal “Multi-Year Project of APEC Online Training Program on Cross-Border E-commerce (2026-2027)”, including the curriculum framework for the program. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

26. **Japan** and the **PSU** provided an update on the implementation work of the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) at the IEG.

27. **Australia** and **Singapore** sought endorsement for the inaugural Workplan of the APEC Centre of Excellence for Paperless Trade. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

28. **Indonesia** updated on the project implementation of “Best Practices on Trade Facilitation for MSMEs, including Women-Owned MSMEs: Shaping Better Opportunity in the Regional and Global Value Chains”. Several members provided comments on the project.

29. **Japan** provided an update on the introduction of a Self-funded Project Proposal “Promoting Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for Resilient Infrastructure in the APEC Region” at the IEG. Several members provided comments.

30. **Russia** updated on the Self-Funded Project Proposal “Advancing the FTAAP agenda through exploring best practices in facilitation of trade in agricultural products”.

31. **Singapore** introduced a proposal for the Final Review of Supply Chain Connectivity Framework and Action Plan Phase 3. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

32. **Chile** updated on project implementation: Workshop on trade and investment inter-dependencies in global value chains (GVCs): Analyzing the challenges and differences among SMEs in the APEC region (CTI_208_2024A). Members provided comments.

Connectivity

33. **Japan** and **PSU** updated on the Study “Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment for Papua New Guinea & Peru”.

34. **Japan** and **PSU** also updated on the Study “Peer Review and Capacity Building on APEC Infrastructure Development and Investment for Malaysia”

35. The **United States** provided an update on the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2).

36. The **United States** sought endorsement for the self-funded Proposal on Advancing Responsible Labor Practices in Global Supply Chains. As at least one economy registered comments the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

Digitalisation and Innovation

37. **Australia** provided an update on the Digital Trade Provisions Handbook Project.

38. **China** introduced a proposal to develop an APEC Trade Digitalization Cooperation Framework (2026-2030). Several members provided comments.

39. **China** sought endorsement for a self-funded Project Proposal “Practice of Cross-border Paperless Trade Collaboration through E-port among APMEN Member Entities. As at least

one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

40. **China** also sought endorsement for a self-funded Project Proposal “The Development of Digital Trade and the Evolution of Related Trade Rules in the Context of Artificial Intelligence” As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

41. **Hong Kong, China** introduced its self-funded Project Proposals “Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity through Data Standards” and “A Comparative Study on Digital Services Trade Rules in the APEC Region”.

42. **Indonesia** updated on the project implementation “Workshop on Towards Digital Trade Ecosystem in the Asia Pacific Region” (CTI 205 2024A).

43. **Indonesia** also sought endorsement on their proposal “Sharing Best Practices on Artificial Intelligence for Trade Facilitation: Opportunities, Risks, and Mitigations in the APEC Region” As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

44. **The United States** sought endorsement on the Self-funded Project Proposal “APEC Digital Trade Policy Dialogues and AI Innovation”. As at least one economy registered comments, the deadline of 25 February 2026 was set for comments or endorsement.

Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

45. **New Zealand** provided updates on the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) and the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA) to share how work is progressing.

46. **Japan** introduced a Concept Note on “Quality Infrastructure Investments for environmental challenges and Green Economy”. Several Economies provided comments.

Other Initiatives and Projects

47. **China** introduced an Interim Pathfinder initiative: Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value to Promote Trade Facilitation in APEC Region (China). Members provided comments. CTI Interim Chair reminded members that during the Interim Pathfinder phase, Lead Economy and supporters will need to follow the Updated Guidelines for Pathfinder Initiatives

Reports of Sub-Fora Convenors & Endorsement Sub-fora Convenors’ reports

48. The eight CTI sub-fora and subsidiary bodies held their plenary meetings on the margins of SOM1.

- i. Business Mobility Group (BMG)
- ii. Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG)
 - a. Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS)
- iii. Group on Services (GOS)
- iv. Intellectual Property Rights Experts Group (IPEG)
- v. Investment Experts’ Group (IEG)
- vi. Market Access Group (MAG)

- vii. Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)
 - a. Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (RHSC)
- viii. Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP)

49. The respective Convenors (or their designated representatives) participated in the CTI1 Sub-Fora Convenors' Meeting to report back on the sub-fora and subsidiary bodies. All eight reports were noted by CTI and were annexed to the CTI Chair's report for Senior Officials' information.

50. Members discussed the process for CTI Chair's Report and CTI Sub-Fora Convenors'. CTI PD will provide an update on the process by CTI2 2026.

Updates By Other APEC Fora

51. The Chair of the **Economic Committee (EC)** provided updates on the recent developments and the EC priorities for 2026.

Implementing the Putrajaya Vision, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action

52. The CTI Interim Chair provided an update on Five-year review of collective actions of APA.

53. **Peru** reported on APEC and domestic initiatives to support the Lima Roadmap to Promote Transition to the Formal and Global Economies (2025-2040).

Updates from Guests

54. The **Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)** provided updates on their work and priorities for 2026

Governance

55. The **APEC Secretariat** reminded members on the APEC's Non-Member Participation Guidelines and provided clarifications.

Updates from the APEC Secretariat

Items for noting

56. CTI continued with the practice of having *Items for Noting*, which serves as an update to the CTI of developments of other CTI projects. The plenary **endorsed** this document and submitted this to Senior Officials for information.

Other Business

57. The Philippines updated members on its ASEAN 2026 Chairmanship, which would be organised under the theme of "Navigating our Future Together".

Summary and conclusion

58. The CTI Interim Chair closed the meeting by thanking CTI members, ABAC, observers and guests for their active participation, and China for its gracious hospitality.

Vanessa Rivas Plata
Interim Chair, APEC Committee on Trade and Investment

Enclosed

Annex A	Items for Noting
Annex B	Sub-fora convenors' reports

Annex A

Items for Noting – Third Committee on Trade and Investment Meeting 2025

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Annex B: Convenors Report