

**Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**  
**General Report for Subsidiary Bodies Meetings in 2022**

This year, 13 subsidiary bodies met virtually, hosted by Singapore. Members continued the implementation of the Agreement, and exchanged views and information on their cooperation activities and experiences under the respective Chapters.

**Electronic Commerce, 13 April 2022**

- The Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce) Committee, which was established in 2021, held its first meeting on 13 April 2022.
- Members agreed to commission a study by an independent third party on the implementation progress of the E-Commerce Chapter, by reviewing the laws, regulations and policies adopted by Members pertinent to the provisions. The study was undertaken by the St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity through Trade and funded by Singapore. The first draft of the study had been circulated to Members for comments.
- Members held a workshop, co-organised by Singapore and Japan, on digital economy topics that go beyond the CPTPP E-Commerce Chapter and their ongoing efforts to develop their digital infrastructure, to brainstorm potential new topics to be included in the E-Commerce chapter in the future. The workshop was held on 29 and 30 June 2022 and featured eleven presentations from seven Members under the broad themes of (i) Data; (ii) E-Commerce Facilitation; (iii) Emerging Technologies & Risks; and (iv) Connectivity and Access to the Digital Economy.

**Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, 28-29 June 2022**

- Members exchanged experience and information on the implementation of certain Articles of Chapter 7 (SPS), including their engagements in other international fora and cooperation amongst members.
- Canada updated on the work to develop a procedural document related to transparency, which would be further discussed.
- The Committee confirmed for the ad hoc Certification Working Group to continue its work on the development of Model Certificates and promotion of electronic certification.
- The Committee confirmed the inclusion of certain topics such as remote audit and verification and Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) guidelines for pesticides as standing agenda items to facilitate further discussion and information sharing.

### **Trade in Goods & Agricultural Trade, 6 July 2022**

- Members agreed to exchange preferential utilisation data for the year 2021 by end-September 2022 and no later than end-2022. Members who had yet to exchange the correlation and concordance table in the HS 2022 nomenclature agreed to do so no later than end-2022.
- Members exchanged their views on transparency of export restrictions on foodstuffs and tariff-rate-quota administration.
- Canada updated on the Sub-Working Group on Products of Modern Biotechnology.

### **Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures & Textile and Apparel Trade Matters, 13 & 14 July 2022**

- The Committee continued its discussion on the implementation of Annex 3B (Minimum Data Requirements) of the certification of origin, and other implementation issues.
- The Committee discussed the outstanding transposition issues from HS 2012 to HS 2017 nomenclature and how this would interface with future transposition work from the HS 2017 to HS 2022 nomenclature. Members also discussed how the eventual transposed Product Specific Rules (PSRs) could be implemented.
- Members exchanged views on their experiences in the operation and implementation of the Textile and Apparel Goods Chapter.

### **Professional Services Working Group, 14 July 2022**

- Members agreed to work towards: (i) submitting inputs to the questionnaire on the regulatory systems for professionals; and (ii) finalising the non-binding Guidelines for Mutual Recognition Agreements or Arrangements (MRAs) for Professional Services.
- On next steps, the Working Group will submit a clean text of the Guidelines for MRAs for adoption by the Commission in October 2022. The Working Group is still in the process of collating returns for the questionnaire on the regulatory systems for professionals.

### **Environment, 19 July 2022**

- The Committee discussed areas of interest for cooperation under the Environment Chapter (Art 20.12) and experiences on cooperation activities that had been undertaken under other bilateral or regional agreements.
- Singapore introduced its plans for the CPTPP Webinar on “Green Economy Cooperation in the CPTPP” to take forward discussions among Members on new and emerging issues pertaining to the green economy. The webinar was conducted on 17 August 2022.

### **Technical Barriers to Trade, 20 July 2022**

- The Committee confirmed the completion of the initial phase of the framework to facilitate information exchange and agreed that further discussion on the path forward could be discussed once in-person meetings resumed.
- Members exchanged preliminary ideas on possible future activities such as collaboration on organic products and wine and spirits, and greater cross collaboration on TBT and SPS issues.

### **Financial Services, 21 July 2022**

- Members shared their experiences (i) with the “Transfer of Information” (TOI) provision in Annex 11-B; and (ii) in facilitating the growth of opportunities created by the digitalisation of financial services, challenges that could impede progress and development, and areas where multilateral cooperation would be important to address these impediments. There were various suggestions raised on cross-border data flows, prohibition of data localisation, and cross-border payments to futureproof the CPTPP and to help seize new growth opportunities for all Members.

### **State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) and Designated Monopolies, 7 September 2022**

- Members provided updates on the status of their respective SOEs list notifications and agreed that their notifications would be informed by the updated Special Drawing Rights (SDR) threshold calculation, which was agreed upon intersessionally. The SDR threshold takes effect from 1 January 2022.

### **Competitiveness and Business Facilitation & Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, 8 September 2022**

- Canada updated Members on the progress of the empirical analysis of the impact of the CPTPP on supply chains and Members noted that the 2021 import data could be utilised, subject to confirmation by the Trade in Goods Committee. Members also noted that it would be useful to supplement the empirical analysis with case studies for the supply chains review.
- Members shared about their experiences and best practices in (i) developing and strengthening supply chains; and (ii) supporting and assisting SME exporters.