

## LAUNCH OF THE FUTURE OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE (FIT) PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF OPEN AND FAIR TRADE

1. Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Uruguay announced the establishment of the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership via a virtual Ministerial Meeting today. The World Trade Organization Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was also present at the launch. Singapore was represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong. The Ministers<sup>1</sup> also issued a joint Ministerial Declaration setting out the Partnership's objectives, principles, and priorities (appended with the joint press release in [Annex B](#)).
2. In recent years, developments in global trade have placed significant strain on the rules-based trading system, threatening to fragment markets and dampen global growth. These developments have been concerning for small, medium and trade dependent countries like Singapore, who rely on an open and level-playing field for our growth and development.
3. Against this backdrop, Singapore, together with our like-minded partners, have established the FIT Partnership in support of open and fair trade. This reflects the member partners' belief in international trade, and its role in driving prosperity, enabling growth and innovation, and building resilience against economic shocks.
4. The FIT Partnership will serve as an agile and informal platform to foster cooperation between private and public partners and catalyse new initiatives that address emerging challenges and opportunities in three domains: (i) supply chain resilience; (ii) investment facilitation; and (iii) non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation, as well as a horizontal enabler on trade technology.
5. Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said, "The FIT Partnership reflects our countries' collective purpose to support the rules-based multilateral trading system, and address the challenges of today and tomorrow. We hope the FIT Partnership will be a catalyst for innovation that can be scaled up to the multilateral level to strengthen the WTO. Singapore will continue to work with our partners to ensure that our economies remain open, connected and future-ready."
6. Singapore will host the inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum that will be happening in Singapore from 19-21 November 2025. Ministers agreed to work towards endorsing concrete initiatives to be announced at the Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Full list of Ministers from the participating countries are listed in the joint Ministerial Declaration in Annex B.

**Annex A: Photo of the Virtual Meeting**

**Annex B: Joint Press Release on the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership and Joint Ministerial Declaration**

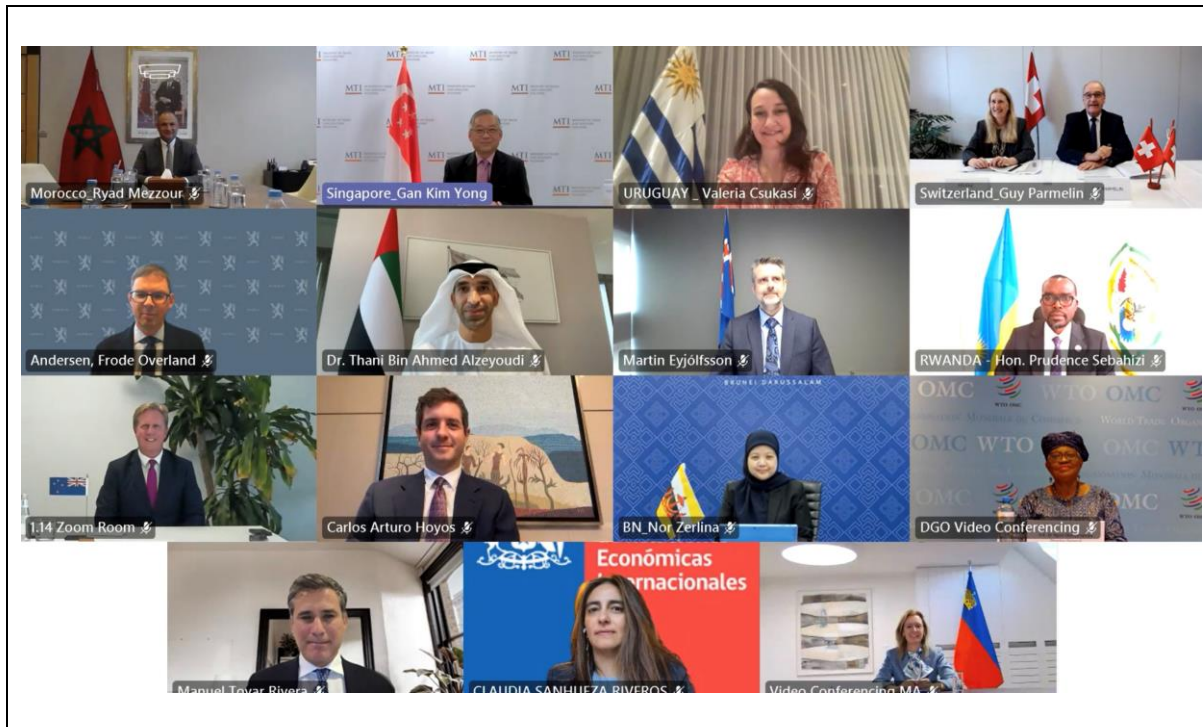
**16 September 2025**

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**PHOTO OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING**



**Caption:** Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and Ministers from the participating countries at the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership virtual Ministerial Meeting on 16 September 2025.

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE ON THE FUTURE OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE (FIT) PARTNERSHIP  
AND JOINT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

**Launch of the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership**

**16 September, 2025:** Fourteen small- and medium-sized countries have issued a Joint Declaration to establish the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership, a new international initiative committed to affirming open and fair trade, supporting inclusive growth, addressing contemporary and emerging trade issues, and enhancing FDI flows. The FIT Partnership is designed to be a principles-based grouping that will champion a forward-looking trade agenda, address emerging challenges and opportunities in trade and investment, and promote dialogue between public and private stakeholders.

For small- and medium-sized countries that rely on open and fair trade with the world, the rules-based multilateral trading system are vital to our stability and prosperity. Globally, measures that restrict trade risk fragmenting the global economy, dampening global economic growth, and heightening inflationary and unemployment pressures. The FIT Partnership will champion open and fair trade so that all countries can benefit from increased economic security and job opportunities.

The founding members Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay will work together to develop solutions-oriented initiatives to strengthen the rules-based trading system. The FIT Partnership will strive to amplify the collective influence of its members on the global stage.

The FIT Partnership seeks to be an agile platform in which members can collaborate on a range of trade topics, including the strengthening of supply chains, the removal of non-tariff trade barriers, the facilitation of investment and the adoption and integration of emerging technologies. These efforts remain rooted in collaboration, advancing shared goals through a non-binding and flexible approach.

The FIT Partnership will be distinguished by its focus on having real-world impact. As it grows, it will invite other countries interested in these objectives and willing to uphold its

principles, ensuring that the initiative remains inclusive, agile and adaptable to a rapidly changing global landscape.

## FUTURE OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE PARTNERSHIP MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

### Preamble

*We, as Ministers:*

**Reiterating** our support for the rules-based multilateral trading system, providing for a predictable, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and fair global trading environment;

**Recognising** that countries must navigate increasingly intricate technology and trade landscapes;

**Reaffirming** the vital role that foreign direct investment (FDI) plays in developing infrastructure, fostering international trade, creating export opportunities and enabling sustainable economic growth;

**Emphasising** the need for small, medium and trade-dependent countries to partner in affirming the principles of open and fair trade and to strengthen adherence to the rules-based trading system;

*Have reached the following understanding:*

### Objectives

1. We will establish a Future of Investment and Trade Partnership (FIT Partnership) that will work toward the following objectives and develop concrete actions to advance the priority areas:

- a. Affirm the need for principles of open and fair trade and adherence to the rules-based trading system;
- b. Support inclusive growth through enhancing access to resources and technology;
- c. Address contemporary and emerging trade issues; and
- d. Enhance FDI flows with the aim of fostering greater and more sustainable growth.

### Principles

2. To this end, the FIT Partnership will adhere to the following principles:
  - a. Supporting and abiding by the rules-based multilateral trading system;
  - b. Maintaining an open and fair trading environment as well as minimising and removing unnecessary barriers to trade and investment;
  - c. Promoting transparency and predictability in trade and investment policies;
  - d. Facilitating a level playing field for businesses;
  - e. Engaging, as appropriate in multi-stakeholder approaches;
  - f. Promoting collaborative solutions in emerging trade-related issues; and
  - g. Facilitating and enabling cross-border investment to drive economic growth and resilience.

#### Priorities

3. The FIT Partnership will prioritise the following elements:
  1. Supply chain resilience;
  2. Investment facilitation;
  3. Non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation; and
  4. Trade technology, recognising this priority area as a horizontal enabler that can reinforce and enhance progress across all the priorities.
4. The FIT Partnership will develop concrete actions to advance these priorities.
5. The FIT Partnership will also continue to identify other priorities based on consultations to further the FIT Partnership's objectives.

*Endorsed by the Ministers of the following countries on 16 September 2025:*

**MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY  
II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, DR AMIN LIEW ABDULLAH**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHILE, ALBERTO VAN KLAVEREN**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, COSTA RICA, MANUEL TOVAR RIVERA**

**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ICELAND, ÞORGERÐUR KATRÍN GUNNARSDÓTTIR**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LIECHTENSTEIN, SABINE MONAUNI**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE, MOROCCO, RYAD MEZZOUR**

**MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEW ZEALAND, TODD MCCLAY**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWAY, ESPEN BARTH EIDE**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PANAMA, JAVIER EDUARDO MARTÍNEZ-ACHA VÁSQUEZ**

**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, RWANDA, PRUDENCE SEBAHIZI**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE, GAN KIM YONG**

**FEDERAL COUNCILLOR AND HEAD OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, SWITZERLAND, GUY PARMELIN**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DR THANI BIN AHMED AL ZEYOUDI**

**ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, URUGUAY, AMBASSADOR VALERIA CSUKASI**