

**DRAFT MINISTERIAL TEXT FOR TRADE PILLAR OF THE
INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY**

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Pillar I –Trade

We, the Trade Ministers of the United States, [Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam], seek to build high-standard, inclusive, free, and fair trade commitments and develop new and creative approaches to trade and technology policies that advance a broad set of objectives and that fuel economic activity and investment, promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, and benefit workers, consumers, and micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises.

To further our shared interests, with a view to advancing durable, broad-based, economic connectivity and integration in the Indo-Pacific region, we intend to negotiate provisions addressing labor, environment, digital economy and emerging technology, trade facilitation, agriculture, competition policy, transparency and good regulatory practices, gender, indigenous populations, and development and economic cooperation. In these negotiations, we will seek to:

- *Labor.* Achieve high-standard labor commitments that benefit working people, including related to: implementing and enforcing internationally-recognized labor rights; corporate accountability in cases of labor law violations; public engagement; and cooperative mechanisms on emerging labor issues, including with respect to workers in the digital economy.
- *Environment.* Achieve trade-related commitments that can meaningfully contribute to environmental protection and effective responses to our common sustainability challenges, including those that are climate related. These will include: general obligations on trade and environment; enhanced environmental cooperation; protection of the marine environment; conservation of wild fauna and flora; climate change and renewable energy; circular economy; promotion of “green” data centers and data transmission; voluntary market mechanisms for promoting sustainability of information and communications technology; promotion of lower-carbon sourcing in supply chains; corporate accountability and responsible business conduct; and implementation of obligations under multilateral environmental agreements.
- *Digital Economy & Emerging Technology.* Achieve commitments that: advance inclusive digital trade by building trust in the digital economy with provisions that address online consumer protection, personal information protection, and cybersecurity; enhance access to information and use of the Internet with provisions that address digital inclusion and open government data; facilitate the use of digital technologies through provisions on electronic contracts and signatures; advance trade rules that address discriminatory practices in key areas; and advance resilient and secure digital infrastructure in areas such as 5G wireless networks, undersea cables, and Internet connectivity. We will also work together to promote the equitable growth of the digital economy in a manner that supports our labor and environment objectives, to share best practices on regulatory approaches and policy issues in this dynamic area of the economy, and to promote the responsible use of emerging technologies.

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- *Agriculture.* Achieve commitments to increase transparency in regulatory development; advance science- and risk-based decision making; improve processes for import licensing, certification, facility registration, and regionalization; allow for systems-based audits; improve transparency for import checks; and enhance cooperation. Further, we will pursue provisions to support collaborative/cooperative mechanisms on the use of production practices, including new and innovative technologies, that increase productivity while decreasing land, water, and fuel use and help contribute to climate adaptation and resiliency.
- *Transparency and Good Regulatory Practices.* Achieve commitments relating to: the publication of proposed regulations and allowing a meaningful opportunity for public comment by interested persons; improving public accessibility to information about regulations and regulatory processes; having processes and mechanisms for internal coordination; and reliance on high-quality information, science, and evidence in rulemaking. We will use this arrangement as an opportunity to cooperate on the adoption of sound, transparent regulatory practices and thereby promote good governance. With respect to services, we will seek to build on the understanding reached in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Joint Statement Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation.
- *Competition Policy.* Achieve commitments to: maintain competition laws to ensure open, fair, and competitive markets, including digital markets; and cooperate on competition enforcement and policy issues.
- *Trade Facilitation.* Achieve commitments that: harness international best practices with respect to facilitating trade, including accelerated implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement; provisions on digitalization of trade facilitation measures; and provisions promoting inclusivity in accessing customs procedures. We will seek provisions to promote electronic processing of customs data and documentation and also shape responsible rules on the efficient and trustworthy handling of trader data. In addition, we will seek commitments on: enhanced publication; electronic payments; goods vulnerable to deterioration; protection of trader information; and customs cooperation.
- *Gender.* [placeholder requested by IPEF partner]
- *Indigenous Populations.* [placeholder requested by IPEF partner]
- *Development and Economic Cooperation.* Achieve commitments that recognize the importance of ongoing development and economic cooperation, including existing bilateral and regional trade-related technical assistance and capacity building, in facilitating the full implementation of high-standard trade commitments and new initiatives in the Indo-Pacific. We will build upon existing assistance platforms and coordinate assistance to help IPEF partners implement negotiated IPEF commitments and goals in line with identified needs.

We look forward to jointly creating an environment conducive to boosting flows of trade and investment among our economies, to enhancing standards, and to expanding access to opportunities for workers, companies, and peoples in our markets.