

**Roundtable for the Track 1.5 Process to Review and Update the
CPTPP Chapter 14 on Electronic Commerce**

November 27, 2024

SUMMARY

On November 27th, Canada's National Committee of Pacific Economic Cooperation (CANCPEC), and the Australian Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (AusPECC) co-hosted a roundtable discussion to launch a Track 1.5 process to review and update the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Chapter 14 on e-commerce. This event was the first gathering of more than fifteen digital trade experts from eleven APEC economies to discuss how to ensure the CPTPP remains of the highest possible standard for the region in a time of rapid digital advancements.

Throughout the meeting, participating experts discussed the following questions:

1. What are the key gaps and challenges with Chapter 14 in its current form (i.e. interoperability)?
2. What should be considered for inclusion to future-proof Chapter 14 (i.e. role of AI in trade facilitation, ethical AI, AI Safety, classification of new technologies)
3. What best practices can be learned from other more progressive regional trade agreements like DEPA, WTO's e-commerce moratorium, etc.?

Some key points of the discussion highlighted the need to balance updating the provisions of the CPTPP to reflect modernization, while effectively implementing the existing commitments with regular monitoring. There was an emphasis on building trust, particularly with cross-border data flows. The discussion also advocated for more coordination across CPTPP chapters, as well as future-proofing and adapting the agreement to meet the evolving needs of the digital economy.

Key suggestions from the discussion included addressing inconsistencies in rule application, introducing pathfinder initiatives for digital trade, enhancing stakeholder engagement through the CPTPP E-Commerce Committee's activities, and utilizing MOUs for more underdeveloped and experimental areas like digital payments. Public engagement was also encouraged to strengthen dialogue and the overall understanding of trade policy. The discussion also reflected on formal mechanisms of cooperation such as the creation of a secretariat, working group or task force to regularly evaluate the risks and opportunities of e-commerce.

The experts will meet again in February to further identify leading standards on e-commerce and ambitious recommendations to present to the 2025 CPTPP Commission under Australia's leadership.

Participants of Roundtable (November 27)

Name	In person or Online	Economy	Affiliation
Jeff Nankivell	In person	Canada	President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Don Campbell	In person	Canada	CANPEC Chair; Senior Strategy Advisor with Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Hugh Stephens	In person	Canada	CANPEC Vice Chair; Principal, Trans-Pacific Connections
Vina Nadjibulla	In person	Canada	VP Research and Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Dan Ciuriak	In person	Canada	Director and Principal, Ciuriak Consulting Inc.
Danielle Goldfarb	In person	Canada	Advisor and expert on the digital economy, real-time data, geopolitics, trade, and public policy
Dr. Deborah Elms	In person	US, Singapore Based	Head of Trade Policy, Hinrich Foundation
Dr. Kati Suominen	In person	US	Founder and CEO, Nextrade Group
Juan Navarro	In person	Mexico, Canada Based	President and Principal researcher, CMX Partnerships
Loreto Leyton	In person	Chile	Executive Director, Chile Pacific Foundation; CHILPEC Chair
Jacob Hsia	In person	Chinese Taipei	Senior Assistant Director, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Vancouver
Arjuna Nadaraja	Online	Australia	AusPECC Chair
Kristen Bondietti	Online	Australia	AusPECC Vice Chair
Dr. José Carlos Feliciano Nishikawa	Online	Peru	Deputy Director of the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Universidad del Pacífico in Peru
George Lever	Online	Chile	Research Manager, Santiago Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Susan Ariel Aaronson	Online	US	Research Professor, Director of Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub at the GW Elliott School of International Affairs
Dr. Hong Yanqing	Online	China	Professor of law, Beijing Institute of Technology's School of Law
Grace Gown	Online	Australia	Government Experience Manager ANZ, Xero
Richard Braddock	Online	Australia	Partner, Lexbridge Lawyers
Stephanie Honey	Online	New Zealand	Trade policy consultant and former New Zealand trade negotiator
Dr. Jenny Van	Online	Chinese Taipei	Assistant Professor, Soochow University School of Law in Taipei City
Dr. Hideyuki Miura	Online	Japan	Associate Professor, Kyorin University Faculty of Social Sciences

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