# **GOS PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE**

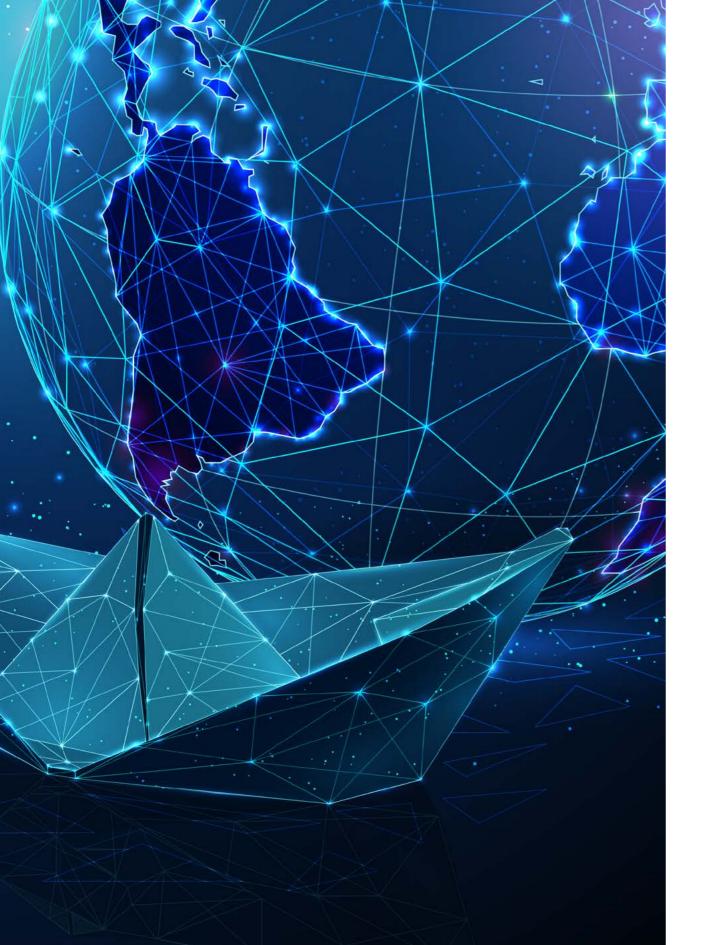
# **Essential Services: Achieving Better Policies** toward Logistics-related Services











Date: Wednesday, 22 February, 2023

Time: 8.30 - 12:30 hours

Venue: Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, California USA

### **Objectives**

APEC economies need improved policies for the logistics-related services that play a vital role in moving essential goods across borders in times of pandemic or crisis. This Public Private Dialogue is the place to discuss, exchange experiences, and compare practices across APEC so as to jointly chart the path toward a framework of better policies. Some of the urgent questions that are in search of clear answers are:

- 1. What are the various types of critical roles that logistics-related services play in the movement of essential goods in the APEC region, especially those required during periods of crises?
- 2. What are the measures governments should have in place or be ready to put into place to ensure the smooth operation of logistics-related services during a future crisis, together with the coordination mechanisms that would allow for a coherent regional approach to allow trade in essential goods to take place?
- 3. Which regulatory reforms should governments think of implementing in order to allow logistics to better play its key role in supply chain connectivity?

The discussion of improved policies for <u>logistics-related services</u> builds upon the common definition of logistics-related services endorsed by the GOS and the CTI, and adopted by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in their May 2022 meeting (<u>Annex A to the MRT Chair Statement</u>). Further APEC work on essential services with an emphasis on logistics services was mandated in the APEC Ministerial Statement 2022 and the <u>APEC Economic Leaders</u> Declaration of November 2022.

### Arrival of participants, registration and breaks

08.15-08.30 Registration for in-person participants (please note that virtual participation requires registration through Eventbrite)

9:45 - 10:00 Networking break (15 minutes)

# **Background**



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The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a prolonged crisis with severe economic impacts worldwide. It disrupted the operation of supply chains that were responsible for the cross-border movement of critical health products and services, as well as those essential workers involved in transportation, distribution and health care. The global economy's total output fell by 3.4% in 2020. World merchandise and services trade fell by 8% and 21% respectively year-on-year in 2020. Recovery of merchandise (and to a lesser extent) services trade occurred in 2021, before new disruptions added to existing policy uncertainties in 2022 and shortages due to pent-up demand led to inflationary challenges. After the two first years of the pandemic (2020 and 2021) there were 112 million fewer full-time jobs than before. Massive working-hour losses have translated into a sharp drop in labour income and increase in poverty and many economies are being pushed into an inflation-debt trap.

The APEC region was not spared the negative impact of the pandemic, although its economic output contracted year-on-year only by 1.8% in 2020. The strong rebound to a 5.9% GDP growth in 2021 proved however to be short-lived as economic expansion in the APEC region is expected to have significantly slowed to 2.5% in 2022 and projected at 2.6% growth in 2023 (PSU, 2022). These projections are now lower for the Asia-Pacific region than those for the global economy and the rest of the world. Trade in the region continues to be impacted adversely by policy uncertainty, as well as by pandemic and post-pandemic linked supply and demand shocks, including the temporary closure of borders, disruptions in global and regional supply chains, and shortages of labour, among other.

Logistics services are at the heart of trade. They are the irreplaceable links in the chains of moving goods from the point of production to that of consumption. When operating smoothly, they are unnoticed. But in times of crises, any disruption to logistics services is immediately felt as it impacts costs, timeliness of delivery and ability to meet demand, whether it comes from intermediary firms along the supply chain or final consumers. Logistics enable trade, and trade in turn enables both production and transfer of knowledge and technology. Logistics services are indispensable for regional and global economic integration, and sustained, inclusive prosperity.

### 8.30-8.45 Welcome remarks (15 minutes)

### **Christine Schaeffer**

Assistant Director, APEC Trade and Investment Section, DFAT, Australia

### **Scott Pietan**

Deputy Assistant USTR, APEC host Economy, United States

This Public Private Dialogue (PPD) will discuss what are the most appropriate measures that will bring about improved policies for those logistics-related services that play a vital role in moving essential goods across borders in times of a pandemic or crisis. Better policies applied to these services will help ensure that the future treatment of these services will allow them to continue to play their vital role in moving essential goods across borders, thus ensuring supply chain connectivity and resilience in the APEC region during periods of disruption to trade.

The agenda of the PPD is structured so as to foster an in-depth discussion of those elements that could be included in a future set of *Non-binding Guidelines for the Treatment of Logistics-related Services during a Crisis*.

After the introductory session providing an overview of the PECC State of the Region Report 2022, the sessions are focused on the following five areas:

- Trade measures
- Measures affecting logistics involved in port operations and clearance services
- Measures affecting the providers of essential logistics services
- Transparency and coordination measures
- Digitization of logistics-related services

# 8.45-9.15 Session 1: Views from the region on the importance of better logistics services: Results from the PECC

State of the Region Survey and Report for 2022 (30 minutes)

This session provides an overview of the views of the respondents from business, government and academia on the importance of better operation of logistics services in the Asia Pacific and what APEC can do to achieve this objective.

**Moderator:** Christopher Langman, Australia's former SOM Lead Official; currently Chair, Australian Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (AusPECC)

**Presenter:** Eduardo Pedrosa, Secretary General of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), Singapore

Comment by: Christine Bliss, President, U.S. Coalition of Services Industries

### ▶ How did respondents rank the factors impacting supply chain disruptions in 2022?

- Limitations on the supply side (domestic and international responses to increased demand).
- Capacity limitations on port operations and related logistics constraints.
- Rapid increase in demand for consumer goods.
- Shortages of air and maritime crew.

Overall, the perception throughout the region is that supply side limitations and capacity issues in ports and logistics operations had the biggest impact on supply chain disruptions.

- ► How did respondents rank importance of improving the quality of essential services to facilitate more resilient supply chains?
- Improving regulation of transport services (air, sea, rail and road).
- Improving regulation of data flows connected with essential services.

More than 50% of respondents ranked logistics-related services as either very important or important in the context of restoring resiliency to supply chains.

### What did respondents view as the top priorities for future APEC work?

- In the top five priorities: Putting in place an initiative to improve the delivery of logistics services in the region.
- In next five years: APEC should develop a work program on supply chains, with digital trade as a top priority.

**Read more in "Better logistics for better supply chain connectivity".** 

# 9.15-9.45 Session 2: Examining trade measures impacting logistics-related services in times of crisis (30 minutes)

Moderator: Sherry Stephenson, Consultant, APEC Essential Services Project

**Industry representative:** Phil Levy, Chief Economist, Flexport Washington DC, USA

**Government representative:** Thomas Fine, Convenor, APEC Group on Services

### Comments by policy analysts and members of the HLAG:

Simon J. Evenett, Founder, St. Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade and Head, Global Trade Alert (GTA) Database

John Drummond, Head of Division, Trade in Services, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Covid-19 pandemic was the wake-up call to the disruptions that could affect trade flows and their derivative negative impacts. Though the pandemic has now lessened in its severity, without doubt there will be future crises of a different nature that will again severely affect trade flows of essential goods in the region. APEC governments need to address how best to deal with the application of future trade measures on logistics-related services during periods of crisis in order to ensure that these do not unnecessarily restrict trade in the pursuit of public policy objectives. Given the goals of the Putrajaya Vision and the Aotearoa Plan of Action around regional connectivity, environmental sustainability and inclusive growth, this should be part of the preparation for any future crisis that may substantially disrupt trade, supply chains and economic activities in the APEC region.

This session will discuss policies that will help to ensure that any measures affecting trade taken in periods of crisis will not unduly harm trade in essential goods and the operation of supply chains in the APEC region. Suggested recommendations may include general principles as well as those addressed to specific actions addressed at logistics-related services. Specific actions addressed at the providers of logistics services will be discussed in session 3.

### Questions:

➤ Can the principles that have been agreed at the WTO and in APEC to apply to trade measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic be applied to logistics-related services in the same way in periods of future crisis?

These principles ensure that trade measures should be: targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary, do not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption or disruption to global supply chains, and are consistent with WTO rules.

▶ What other guidelines would be desirable with respect to logistics-related services?

#### Selected resources

- Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, May 2020 https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Trade/2020 trade
- Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods by the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT), June 2020 <a href="https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Trade/2020\_MRT/Annex-A">https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Trade/2020\_MRT/Annex-A</a>
- Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods for Combatting the Covid-19 Pandemic, April 2020.
   The Declaration covered essential goods such as PPE equipment, medical equipment nutritional products, medicines and hygiene supplies.
   <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2020-04-17/new-zealand-singapore-new-declaration-on-trade-in-essential-goods-for-combating-the-covid-19-pandemic/">https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2020-04-17/new-zealand-singapore-new-declaration-on-trade-in-essential-goods-for-combating-the-covid-19-pandemic/
- United Nations, Joint statement on "Open markets, flow of essential goods and supply chain connectivity", May 2020 <a href="https://italyun.esteri.it/en/news/dalla\_rappresentanza/2020/05/comunicato-congiunto-su-open-markets-2">https://italyun.esteri.it/en/news/dalla\_rappresentanza/2020/05/comunicato-congiunto-su-open-markets-2</a>
- WTO Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics, June 2022 <a href="https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN22/31.pdf&Open=True">https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN22/31.pdf&Open=True</a>
- APEC Ministerial Meeting Statement, November 2022
   https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/annual-ministerial-meetings/2022/2022-apec-ministerial-meeting

# 10.00-10.30 Session 3: Examining measures affecting logistics involved in the operations of port and clearance services appropriate for times of crisis (30 minutes)

Moderator: Mia Mikic, Consultant, APEC Essential Services

**Industry representative:** Oscar Hasbun, Chief Executive Officer, Compania Sudamericana de Vapores, Santiago de Chile

**Government representatives:** Jason Hill, Chair, APEC Transportation Working Group

Kristie McKinny, Director, International Organizations and Agreements Division, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# Comments by policy analysts and members of the HLAG:

Hikari Ishido, Chiba University, Japan

Cordula Rastogi, Senior Transport Economist, World Bank, MTI, Global Trade and Regional Integration

The initial policy reactions to the spread of the corona virus from one APEC economy to the next consisted of a menu of unprecedented measures to minimize or completely stop people-to-people contacts by closing borders, production, education, travel and entertainment. These steps were necessary because public health measures at the time were insufficient to save human lives. However, a contagion of another type quickly started to spread through international networks involving not only reduced productive capacity but also affecting the services that normally enable the smooth operation of supply chains, both global and local. The sudden combination of supply and demand shocks on top of restrictive policies on people movement generated challenges globally to logistics-related services, affecting customs clearance of goods and port operations. It was widely felt that the shortages in air-, land- and sea-cargo capacity, congested ports, unstocked warehouses and long delivery times were worsened by a lack of preparedness, a lack of digital readiness, and a lack of appropriate coordination among governments.

This session will discuss policies aimed at strengthening the resilience of APEC port operation and clearance services in periods of future crises affecting trade that will help to ensure that essential goods continue to move smoothly across borders.

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#### Questions:

What policies could help to bring about improved customs clearance and port operations?

Relevant to this objective one could think of the following: better design, adoption of region-wide common standards, automation of port operations; adoption of electronic documents for customs; and coordination of policies in areas critical to the functioning of logistics-related services such as operating hours.

What lessons have been learned by APEC economies during the COVID-19 crisis that could be incorporated into these guidelines to ensure less cumbersome customs approvals and more efficient port operation processes?

### Selected resources

- APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Virtual Meeting Joint Statement 2020
   July 2020
   https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/sectoral-ministerial-meetings/trade/2020 mrt referring to the Declaration on Facilitating the Movement of Essential Goods (https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Trade/2020 MRT/Annex-A)
- Trade Facilitation Measures to Mitigate Trade Disruptions: COVID-19 Lessons and Response Toolkit (APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures) November 2021 <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/trade-facilitation-">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/trade-facilitation-</a>
  - https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/trade-facilitation-measures-to-mitigate-trade-disruptions/221 sccp trade-facilitation-measures-to-mitigate-trade-disruptions.pdf?sfvrsn=d83aa3f6 2
- WTO How WTO Members have used trade measures to expedite access to COVID-19 critical medical goods and services (Information Note)
   September 2020 https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\_e/covid19\_e/services\_report\_16092020\_e.pdf
- Virtual Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security Statement on COVID-19
   October 2020
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Food-Security/2020">https://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Sectoral-Ministerial-Meetings/Food-Security/2020</a> food security
- Best Practice Guidelines for APEC Customs Administrations -to facilitate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and related goods (Committee on Trade and Investment)
   May 2021
   http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2021/CTI/CTI2/21 cti2 is11.pdf
- Promote Supply Chain Connectivity by Enhancing and Better Understanding Digital Innovation in APEC Port Industry (APEC Transportation Working Group) June 2022

https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/6/promote-supply-chain-connectivity-by-enhancing-and-better-understanding-digital-innovation-in-apec-port-industry/222 tpt promote-supply-chain-connectivity-by-enhancing-and-better-understanding-digital-innovation-in-apec-port-industry.pdf?sfvrsn=46143872 2

# 10.30-11.00 Session 4: Examining measures affecting the providers of essential logistics services in times of crisis (30 minutes)

**Moderator:** Eduardo Pedrosa, Secretary-General, PECC Secretariat

**Industry representative:** Natalie Shaw, Director, Employment Affairs, International Chamber of Shipping

**Government representative:** Cherdchai Chaivaivid, APEC Senior Official, Thailand and Former Chair, APEC Safe Passage Task Force

### Comments by policy analysts and members of the HLAG:

Christopher Findlay, Professor, Australian National University (ANU), Australia

Akhmad Bayhaqi, Policy Analyst and Economist, APEC Policy Support Unit

The APEC region put into place some of the most stringent cross-border travel restrictions in the world including complete border closures and non-issuance of entry permits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on movement of sea and air crew impacted the ability for essential goods to move across borders. The introduction of public health measures that required vaccination, testing and quarantine contributed to make mobility of seafarers and air crew an enormous challenge. Some seafarers were stuck on vessels for months at a time without being able to transit or return home, adding to significant delays in maritime transport, including shipments of essential vaccines, therapeutics and medical equipment.

This session will discuss measures that can improve policies directed at ensuring the regional mobility of providers of the logistics-related services, including in particular seafarers and air crew, with the purpose of allowing such workers to fulfil the functions necessary for the movement of essential goods across borders in times of crises.

#### Questions:

▶ Can the recommendations developed and agreed by the APEC Safe Passage Task Force at the conclusion of its work in 2022 be made applicable to the providers of logistics-related services in the future during times of crises?

The SPTF recommended, in particular, the following: border requirements that are riskand evidence-based, development of interoperable digital vaccination certificates; and the dissemination of information relating to vaccinations and specific public health requirements for entry during times of crises.

- ▶ What other recommendations may be useful as directed specifically at the essential workers that operate logistics-related services? Are there other experiences to draw upon?
- What type of a mechanism within APEC could be established to help with the discussion and possible coordination of policies around the treatment of essential workers in logistics services?

#### Selected resources

- APEC Safe Passage Task Force: Report and Recommendations to Senior Officials, Thailand, Nov 2022 http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/SOM/CSOM/22 csom 005.pdf
- APEC Policy Support Unit report on COVID-19 and Cross-border Mobility in the APEC Region: Addressing Uncertainties at the Border, Nov 2022
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/11/covid-19-and-cross-border-mobility-in-the-apec-region-addressing-uncertainties-at-the-border/222\_psu\_covid-19-and-cross-border-mobility-in-the-apec-region.pdf?sfvrsn=6464711b\_2</a>
- APEC Connectivity Blueprint: the 2020 Mid-term Review, APEC Policy Support Unit, Nov 2020
   https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/Publications/2020/11/APEC-Connectivity-Blueprint---The-2020-Mid-Term-Review/220 PSU APEC-Connectivity-Blueprint rev.pdf
- APEC Transportation Working Group's Contributions to the APEC Safe Passage Taskforce, Sep 2022 <a href="http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/TPTWG/TPTWG52-PLEN2/22">http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/TPTWG/TPTWG52-PLEN2/22</a> tptwg52 plen2 008.pdf
- Shipping Policy Principles for Pandemic Recovery, International Chamber of Shipping, Jun 2022
   https://www.ics-shipping.org/publication/shipping-policy-principles-for-pandemic-recovery/
- Seafarers and aircrew need priority for COVID-19 vaccination, ILO, May 2021 https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS 776797/lang--en/index.htm

# 11.00-11.30 Session 5: Transparency and coordination measures appropriate for logistics services in times of crises (30 minutes)

Moderator: Sherry Stephenson, Consultant, APEC Essential Services Project

**Industry representative:** Carlos Grau Tanner, Director, Global Express Association

**Government representative:** Foo Cher How, Deputy Director (Multilateral Trade Policy/ International Trade Cluster) Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore

### Comments by policy analysts and members of the HLAG:

Devi Aryani, Executive Director, Indonesian Services Coalition (ISC)

Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Transparency has always been one of the fundamental principles of both the multilateral trading system and the APEC process. Transparency around the adoption and implementation of trade measures and actions is critical for APEC's ability to meet its free trade and investment goals. The high priority APEC economies place on transparency in carrying out their work was manifested more than two decades ago when APEC Leaders agreed to a set of general Transparency Standards.

Individual Action Plans (IAPs) were the main vehicle for APEC economies to provide detailed information on trade measures adopted each year between 1995 and 2020, in order to track progress towards attainment of the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the APEC region. This notification mechanism was superseded by the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the Aeoretea Plan of Action in 2021. It appears that currently the main channel of notification of trade actions by APEC economies is through the WTO notification obligations.

This session will discuss measures aimed to strengthen notification, information sharing and channels of policy coordination between APEC governments on measures that affect logistics-related services so as to better address the challenges posed by future crises that disrupt trade and supply chain operations.

### **Questions:**

Are the elements contained in the APEC Transparency Standards adequate for application to logistics-related services in time of crises? Should further elements on transparency be drawn from the APEC Non-binding Principles for Domestic Regulation of the Services Sector and the WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation?

The APEC Transparency Standards committed members to carrying out such measures as publishing all laws and regulations, and establishing appeal mechanisms for administrative decisions.

What type of mechanism, if any, should be suggested to improve channels of policy discussion and coordination relevant to logistics-related services between APEC governments as well as between relevant APEC for a in times of crises?

### Selected resources

- APEC Transparency Standards: Leaders Statement to implement APEC Transparency Standards, October 2003 <a href="https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/leaders-declarations/2003/2003">https://www.apec.org/meeting-papers/leaders-declarations/2003/2003</a> aelm/leadersstmtimplapectranspstd
- APEC Report on the Implementation of the APEC Transparency Standards (Appendix 6 to CTI 2007 Annual Report)
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/transparency/07">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/transparency/07</a> cti ctirpt appdx6.pdf
- Final Review of APEC's Progress Towards the Bogor Goals, APEC Policy Support Unit, November 2020
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/Publications/2020/11/Final-Review-of-APECs-Progress-Towards-the-Bogor-Goals/220">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/Publications/2020/11/Final-Review-of-APECs-Progress-Towards-the-Bogor-Goals/220</a> PSU Bogor-Goals-Final-Assessment rev2.pdf
- WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, February 2017
   https://www.wto.org/english/docs\_e/legal\_e/tfa-nov14\_e.htm
- APEC Non-binding Principles for Domestic Regulation of the Services Sector (in Appendix to the CTI Report, November 2018)
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/Publications/2018/11/2018-CTI-Report-to-Ministers/TOC/Appendix-13---APEC-Nonbinding-Principles-for-DR-Drafting-Group.pdf">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/Publications/2018/11/2018-CTI-Report-to-Ministers/TOC/Appendix-13---APEC-Nonbinding-Principles-for-DR-Drafting-Group.pdf</a>
- WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation: Reference Paper on Services
   Domestic Regulation, November 2021
   <a href="https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/INF/SDR/2.pdf&Open=True">https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/INF/SDR/2.pdf&Open=True</a>
- WTO Information Note: Transparency Why it matters at times of crisis, April 2020 <a href="https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/mia.mikic%40gmail.com/">https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/mia.mikic%40gmail.com/</a>
   FMfcqzGrcPMxHkxbMqcJpFrcWPtdWmph?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1

# 11.30-12.00 Session 6: Digitization of measures for logistics-related services (30 minutes)

Moderator: Mia Mikic, Consultant, APEC Essential Services Project

**Industry representative:** Stephanie Honey, Lead Staffer, Economic Integration Working Group, ABAC, New Zealand

### **Government representative:**

Ekapong Rimcharone, Chair, APEC Digital Economy Steering Group Blake Van Velden. Convenor. APEC CTI

### Comments by policy analysts and members of the HLAG:

Ruosi Zhang, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO Elizabeth Chelliah, Principal Trade Specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore

Not surprisingly, digitization is widely accepted as the chief disruptor of the traditional economy and the key enabler of more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economies. The challenge of digital innovation is its tendency to evolve faster than the regulation needed to manage its uses. This is in particular true for digital technology applications to cross-border transactions. APEC economies understood the importance of digitization of trade even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the supply disruptions in essential goods and other markets during the pandemic certainly hastened the engagement of economies with regard to digitization, taking it beyond the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Notably, the focus within APEC on deepening understanding about the existing obstacles to digitization and building on action plans and initiatives to minimize or remove such obstacles has resulted in a number of projects and analyses in support of evidence-based changes in policies and other commitments in the broad area of trade facilitation, including logistics-related services.

This session of the PPD will discuss the use of digitization to enhance the efficacy of logistics-related services such as customs and trade procedures and move towards modernization and automation of the trade processes with an aim to provide ideas and proposals for the APEC to help improve regulation in this field.

#### **Questions:**

What type of digitized procedures would be most useful to improve the performance of logistics-related services?

Access to digitally enabled services is key to mitigate any future crisis and to fast-track recovery of supply chain operations.

- Would digitized procedures be open to standardization as across APEC economies?
  Would this be a goal to pursue?
- ► Should regulatory issues around digitized processes for logistics-related services be discussed separately as a priority issue under the APEC GOS and the DESG?

#### Selected resources

- APEC Guidelines for Paperless Trade: APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
   (APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures), Nov 2021
   <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/guidelines-for-paperless-trade/221">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2021/11/guidelines-for-paperless-trade/221</a> sccp guidelines-for-paperless-trade-doc.pdf?sfvrsn=fc955e27
- APEC PSU Analysis and Pathway for Paperless Trade: Report APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (APEC Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures), March 2022 https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/3/analysis-and-pathway-for-paperless-trade-report/222 sccp\_analysis-and-pathway-for-paperless-trade-report. pdf?sfvrsn=fdd43e59\_2
- Technological Toolkit: Industry 4.0: Enabling Technologies and Inclusive Digitization for Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery in APEC Value Chains (APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation), Sep 2022 <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/9/industry-4.0-enabling-technologies-and-inclusive-digitization-for-post-covid-19-economic-recovery-in-apec-value-chains/222">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/9/industry-4.0-enabling-technologies-and-inclusive-digitization-for-post-covid-19-economic-recovery-in-apec-value-chains/222</a> ppsti technological-toolkit.pdf?sfvrsn=61f7a3bb 2
- APEC Phase Three of Supply-Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2022-2026 (August 2022 http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/CTI/CTI3/22 cti3 012.pdf
- Enhancing Implementation of APEC Connectivity Blueprint in the Digital Era: Digital
  Connectivity for Stronger Recovery (APEC Policy Support Unit), March 2022
  <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/3/enhancing-implementation-of-apec-connectivity-blueprint-in-the-digital-era/222">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/3/enhancing-implementation-of-apec-connectivity-blueprint-in-the-digital-era/222</a> psu enhancing-implementation-of-apec-connectivity-blueprint-in-the-digital-era.pdf?sfvrsn=6df7cff3
- Promote Supply Chain Connectivity by Enhancing and Better Understanding Digital Innovation in APEC Port Industry (APEC Transportation Working Group), June 2022 <a href="https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/6/promote-supply-chain-connectivity-by-enhancing-and-better-understanding-digital-innovation-in-apec-port-industry/222">https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/publications/2022/6/promote-supply-chain-connectivity-by-enhancing-and-better-understanding-digital-innovation-in-apec-port-industry.pdf?sfvrsn=46143872</a>
- Cost of Customs Procedures, submitted by Washington CORE to "Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation Under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-Practices" (3 Aug 2022) <a href="http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/CTI/WKSP6/22">http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/CTI/WKSP6/22</a> cti wksp6 002.pdf
- Policies and Initiatives with Digital Technologies for Paperless Trade Submitted by New Zealand to "Utilizing Digital Technology in the Field of Trade Facilitation Under the Current COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: Best-Practices (3 Aug 2022) http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2022/CTI/WKSP6/22 cti wksp6 004.pdf

# 12.00-12.10 Summary of main points and recommendations put forward in the discussion (10 minutes)

Alex Parle, Executive Vice President, U.S. National Center for APEC

# 12.10-12.20 Closing of Public Private Dialogue and next steps (10 minutes)

Christine Schaeffer, Assistant Director, Apec Trade and Investment Section, DFAT, Australia

# 12.20-12.25 Live survey (5 minutes)

Reference note: In 2022 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement of Chair (Annex A) APEC economies endorsed a common definition of Logistics-related Services, describing these as "...a series of essential economic activities that enable the operation of efficient, sustainable, secure and resilient supply chains and allow for the predictable transport, storage, and delivery of goods and services for businesses". Including in this definition are ten logistics-related service activities, including:

- Customs brokerage services
- Cargo handling
- Storage and warehousing
- Freight forwarding
- Courier services
- Distribution services, and
- Air-, maritime-, rail and road transport services.



