



**Trade Policy Review Body  
1 and 3 June 2022**

**TRADE POLICY REVIEW**

NEW ZEALAND

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

*Chairperson: H.E. Mr Ángel Villalobos Rodríguez*

*Revision*

**CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>OPENING STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>STATEMENT BY THE DISCUSSANT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>REPLIES BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON .....</b>	<b>54</b>

## 1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

1.1. The sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand was held on 1 and 3 June 2022. The Chairperson, H.E. Mr Ángel Villalobos Rodríguez (Mexico) welcomed the delegation of New Zealand, headed by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO; the rest of the delegation; and the discussant, H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer (Canada).

1.2. The Chairperson was pleased that, in addition to physical presence, the meeting also benefitted from the Interprefy online connection, allowing for a wider participation of the Membership.

1.3. The Chairperson recalled the purpose of TPRs and the main elements of procedures for the meeting. The Report by New Zealand is contained in document WT/TPR/G/426, and that of the WTO Secretariat in document WT/TPR/S/426.

1.4. Questions by the following delegations were submitted in writing before the deadline: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the United States; Hong Kong, China; Mexico; Canada; Australia; Brazil; Japan; Chile; the European Union; The Republic of Korea; Switzerland; The Philippines; Chinese Taipei; and Colombia. The following delegations submitted written questions after the deadline: Argentina, Ukraine, China, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Thailand, Oman, Ecuador, Iceland, Uruguay, Türkiye, India, and Indonesia.

1.5. The Chairperson recalled some elements of New Zealand's previous Review in 2015 and developments since then, as well as identified some key issues arose from the advance written questions submitted by Members for the current TPR.

1.6. At the time of the previous Review, Members had commended New Zealand for its good economic performance and for its sound macroeconomic policies that had underpinned GDP growth. Nevertheless, Members acknowledged that New Zealand still faced certain important challenges, including a high foreign debt, weak external demand, and low labour productivity.

1.7. According to the Secretariat's report prepared for the current Review, New Zealand's real GDP grew 3.4% annually on average between 2015 and 2019, reflecting positive terms of trade but had witnessed the largest fall on record in the second quarter of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic activity rebounded strongly in the second half of 2020 behind a substantial fiscal policy response and the competitiveness of New Zealand's main goods exports. According to the IMF, New Zealand's real GDP growth rate in 2021 was 5.1%, compounded by strong domestic demand.

1.8. In its 2015 Review, New Zealand was highly commended for maintaining a very open economy and trade regime. While acknowledged that New Zealand had one of the lowest average MFN tariffs, Members had urged New Zealand to reduce the existing gap between the applied and bound MFN rates. In that regard, the Secretariat report indicates that New Zealand's simple average applied MFN tariff rate had decreased from 2.4% in 2014 to 2.2% in 2021, considerably lower than the simple average bound tariff rate of 10.5%.

1.9. The Chairperson was encouraged to read from both the Government and the Secretariat reports that during the period covered by the Review, New Zealand had updated some important elements of its trade and investment regime, notably through the Customs and Excise Act 2018 with a view of making its customs regime more transparent. Moreover, New Zealand developed its new trade strategy, the Trade for All Agenda, and also adopted the Trade Recovery Strategy in light of the pandemic, which included: broadening the support for exporters; refreshing major trade relationships to achieve further trade diversification; and working towards strengthening and reforming the WTO and pursuing trade agreements. Since 2015, New Zealand had added 4 new regional trade agreements (RTAs) to its network, which currently consists of 13 RTAs involving 29 economies, including some of its main trading partners.

1.10. In its 2015 Review, New Zealand's open foreign investment regime was also acknowledged. Nonetheless, some Members had found that there was room for improvement, notably concerning certain restrictions in sensitive sectors and the FDI screening process. According to the Secretariat report, during the current review period New Zealand had removed screening requirements for low-risk transactions to further simplify its foreign investment regime. The Chairperson noted that the practical details of that reform should be of interest to Members.

1.11. A survey of the advance written questions submitted for the Review indicated a wide range of topics of interest to Members regarding New Zealand's trade and investment policies. Some of those issues were also raised at the last TPR of New Zealand. These included the regulations in place in the dairy and kiwifruit markets, including the advantaged position of the kiwifruit's state trading company, support to the agricultural sector, and digital transformation. For the current review there was also significant interest in New Zealand's Trade for All Agenda, its newly signed Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, climate-related policies and targets, the government's COVID-19 response, changes in the foreign investment regime, the public interest assessment for the application of trade remedies, and various aspects of the intellectual property rights regime, including the protection of Māori traditional knowledge.

1.12. In total, New Zealand received 442 advance written questions from 29 delegations for this Review, out of which 268 were sent within the established deadline. Prior to the meeting, New Zealand had already provided written replies to almost all of these questions and the Chairperson look forward to hearing New Zealand's updates on these issues during the two-day meeting.

1.13. This meeting was a good opportunity for Members to discuss in greater detail issues of interest to them and of systemic importance to the multilateral trading system. It was also an opportune moment for New Zealand to inform the Membership on the impact of the pandemic on its economy and the measures it has taken in response. The Chairperson was looking forward to a fruitful discussion.

1.14. The Chairperson closed his introductory remarks by wishing New Zealand a very successful sixth Trade Policy Review.

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## **2 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND (H.E. AMBASSADOR CLARE KELLY)**

2.1. Thank you Mr Chair, Ambassador Villalobos Rodríguez. Ambassadors and Distinguished Representatives, it is an honour to present to you today New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review. I wish to start by expressing my appreciation to Ambassador de Boer for being the discussant for New Zealand's TPR, and to the Secretariat for its significant, valuable work in preparing its Report and these proceedings.

2.2. New Zealand's previous Trade Policy Review took place in 2015. It is difficult to over-state the ways in which the global trading environment, and the situation facing the WTO itself, have become significantly more challenging since then. This underlines the importance of international rules and the multilateral trading system and the need for us all to do what we can to support it.

2.3. As we meet today, the world is confronted with the horrific consequences of the unprovoked and illegal invasion of one WTO Member by another. This clear violation by the Russian Federation of the basic tenets of international law on which the WTO itself is based is a serious threat to global peace and security. I cannot overemphasize New Zealand's level of concern at Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and its appalling humanitarian consequences. Russian Federation's actions have also caused massive disruption to the production and distribution of key crops, threatening the basic living conditions of millions of people around the world. New Zealand has responded strongly to this crisis, including by introducing targeted sanctions legislation. We call on the Russian Federation to stop this war immediately.

2.4. I would like to emphasise the significance that New Zealand places on the Trade Policy Review Mechanism. It is a critical WTO instrument, promoting transparency and assisting all economies to ensure our trade and economic policies are consistent with our WTO obligations and in so doing, reinforces the multilateral trading system that is critical to the health and resilience of the global economy. New Zealand remains committed to sustainable macroeconomic policies and a trade policy consistent with the fundamental WTO goals of expanding both goods and services trade, and the elimination of barriers to trade.

2.5. New Zealand appreciates the interest shown by WTO Members in our trade policy settings, and in particular our climate change policy, our FTA agenda and our approach to open plurilateralism, such as Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA). I would like to thank Members for their written questions.

2.6. Since New Zealand's last Trade Policy Review seven years ago, the New Zealand Government has adopted a "Trade for All" agenda, aimed at ensuring trade policy supports sustainable and inclusive economic development and delivers for all New Zealanders, with the benefits of trade flowing to all sections of the community. Trade for All is central to how New Zealand interacts domestically, regionally, and internationally, including in Geneva, as we seek to advance inclusive and sustainable trade. It has improved and modernized public participation in trade policy. Importantly, Trade for All prioritises enhanced engagement on trade with Māori, the Indigenous people of New Zealand, including to ensure the Government meets its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.

2.7. The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted a devastating toll on human life and brought with it significant and enduring economic costs globally over the past two and a half years, causing the biggest economic contraction since the Great Depression. The effects on New Zealand – an open and trade-reliant economy – were significant, with trade dropping from 55% of GDP to 44% as a result of the pandemic, with the collapse in international education and tourism as a result of pandemic-related border closures.

2.8. New Zealand's health-led approach to the pandemic, coupled with significant economic and fiscal support measures, was critical in protecting the economy and living standards, with employment now at a record high, and a swift, strong economic recovery underway. New Zealand also acted early in the pandemic to support supply chain connectivity, the continued flow of trade, and keep critical infrastructure open, including by co-leading initiatives on supply chains and essential products including medicines and surgical products. We were also proud to secure, during

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New Zealand's APEC host year, an APEC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chains, following which New Zealand removed tariffs on COVID-19 vaccines and related goods.

2.9. Trade is leading New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19. In 2020, the Government launched a Trade Recovery Strategy. This aims to help New Zealand recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and to seize new opportunities for exports and investment. It is focused on maximizing the contribution of trade to the New Zealand economy, which we all know is such powerful catalyst for productivity, employment and incomes, as well as poverty reduction. The Strategy also supports the Government's goals of inclusive economic growth and the transition to a carbon neutral economy as set out most recently in New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan.

2.10. New Zealand is a trading nation, and with one in four of our jobs tied to exports we have in turn created an open market domestically for trade.

2.11. On goods, New Zealand remains committed to removing barriers to the free flow of global trade, and continues to have one of the lowest average MFN applied tariff rates globally of just 1.9% average in 2020. Around 90% of goods enter New Zealand tariff free, and for over 20 years, 100% of goods from least developed countries (LDCs) have entered New Zealand duty free. In agriculture, New Zealand's tariffs on agricultural products were just 1.4% in 2020. Total support provided to the agricultural sector is the lowest in the OECD, with an average Producer Support Estimate of 0.7% during 2018-20, all of which falls under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture "green box" classification. This is focused on agricultural research and innovation, biosecurity controls, and environmental programmes.

2.12. Services form a vital component of the New Zealand economy, with both imports and exports growing strongly until COVID-19. New Zealand has undertaken commitments in 90 sectors and subsectors under GATS, of which around 30 have no limitations placed on market access and national treatment for Modes 1-3. Applied settings are more open still. Since 2015, New Zealand has also granted preferential market access to LDCs in 10 additional subsectors of the WTO Services Sectoral Classification, in accordance with the WTO waiver. In addition, New Zealand includes high-quality services chapters in our FTAs. In the 2021 OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index, New Zealand scores better than average for 21 out of the 22 sectors covered, and in some areas New Zealand operates one of the most open regimes globally. New Zealand's regulatory environment is internationally recognized, including by the OECD, as facilitating uptake of these opportunities.

2.13. Making New Zealand's trade policy more sustainable is a key focus of Trade for All. New Zealand sees an important role for the WTO at the intersection of trade and climate change and is leading the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform initiative to establish a pathway for addressing fossil fuel subsidies at the WTO. In addition, New Zealand is negotiating the plurilateral Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), a first-of-its-kind agreement involving six diverse economies that recognize trade policies, practices and rules have an important role to play on climate change and sustainable development. ACCTS will cover areas such as environmental goods and services, fossil fuel subsidies, and eco-labelling, and will be open to Membership by other WTO economies once concluded, in line with New Zealand's policy of concerted open plurilateralism.

2.14. New Zealand is committed to the WTO. We are a long-standing supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system. An open international trading system is essential for the growth of the world economy, and benefits us all. In addition, New Zealand is actively involved in regional integration processes throughout the Asia Pacific, including the critical work of APEC, which New Zealand was pleased to host virtually last year.

2.15. New Zealand is committed to achieving further trade liberalisation through comprehensive and high-quality bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements. These can make an important strategic contribution to supporting the WTO and the multilateral trading system, making them a stepping stone for further multilateral trade liberalisation.

2.16. The Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) was signed close to 40 years ago, and is the most comprehensive and effective free trade agreement in the world, with an active bilateral agenda. Since our last TPR in 2015, New Zealand has ratified five new agreements and two upgraded agreements, and signed another. These include:

- the 11-member Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), in force since December 2018;
- the trade and development-focused Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, in force since December 2020;
- the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), in force since January 2021, and
- the 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), in force since January 2022.
- upgrades to existing FTAs with Singapore and China, in force since 2020 and 2022 respectively.

2.17. In total, New Zealand has ratified 15 high-quality, comprehensive FTAs covering 69% of New Zealand's exports and 63% of imports. This increases to 82% of exports and 86% of imports when accounting for FTAs under negotiation or not yet in force. This includes New Zealand's FTA with the United Kingdom, signed on 28 February 2022, as well as ongoing negotiations with the European Union and the Pacific Alliance, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

2.18. Also, since our last TPR, New Zealand became a Party to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and welcomed the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). New Zealand is an active participant in WTO Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs) on e-commerce; services domestic regulation; investment facilitation for development; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); and trade and gender.

2.19. New Zealand is also a Party to the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) as a stop-gap measure until a fully-functioning WTO dispute settlement system is restored. We remain absolutely committed to finding a multilateral solution to the current impasse – we must achieve nothing less. Binding dispute settlement is critical to the global trading system and economic stability.

2.20. We are now less than two weeks away from the rescheduled Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference. It is critical that Members deliver a meaningful outcome at MC12. In New Zealand's view, this should include a substantive trade response to the global pandemic, demonstrating the WTO's ability to contribute to global economic recovery; disciplines on environmentally harmful fisheries subsidies; and an outcome on agriculture which contributes to improving global food security, including through a new negotiating framework to reduce trade- and production-distorting subsidies in the agriculture sector.

2.21. To achieve this, we urge Members, particularly the largest and most influential, to exercise the leadership needed to find compromises in the best interests of the WTO and the future of the multilateral trading system. New Zealand also looks forward to contributing to an inclusive and open-minded discussion on WTO reform after MC12.

2.22. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to set out the priorities and key developments in New Zealand's trade policy, and to Members for your thoughtful questions and active participation in New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review.

### 3 STATEMENT BY THE DISCUSSANT

3.1. It is a real pleasure to serve as the discussant for New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review. First of all, I wish to thank Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team here in Geneva for their constructive engagement and contributions in the WTO.

3.2. Trade Policy Reviews would not be possible without comprehensive reports as provided by the WTO Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand, which have definitely helped Members submit well-informed questions and engage actively today. Counting on New Zealand's comprehensive transparent practices, I trust we will have a fruitful Review.

3.3. As one of the founding Members of the WTO, New Zealand has been actively engaged in the WTO ever since. The level of dedication, engagement, and creativity that they have invested in the Organization is a real testament to New Zealand's long-standing commitment to international cooperation and the multilateral trading system. While many exceptional contributions could be highlighted, including from DG Moore, I would be remiss if I failed to commend the role played, more recently, by former Ambassador Walker in seeking to ensure the Organization remains relevant.

3.4. As one of the most robust, and open economies in the world, New Zealand has been a vocal supporter of a strong, open, transparent, inclusive, and ruled-based trading system. It comes from a clear understanding that trade has an important role to play in ensuring sustainable income and employment gains, and has the potential to increase wellbeing and prosperity for all.

3.5. As we look towards a full recovery, it is also important to look at the past and assess the impact of trade policy developments and broader international considerations. Today, I intend to draw attention to some areas of notable success since New Zealand's previous review in 2015, and touch on topics that have been identified as possible areas for improvement.

3.6. New Zealand is a trading economy. Its exports and imports accounted for 55% of GDP in early 2020. And, while its total trade was impacted by the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it is also trade that will lead it out of the pandemic. According to the Government Report, GDP growth is forecasted at 4.5% for 2023 and 2.2% in 2024. Leading the charge in terms of trade performance is the agricultural sector, making up approximately half of merchandise exports, in the 2019-2020 period. The share of manufacturing exports in total exports decreased only slightly from about 20% in the last Review period to just under 18% in 2021 in the 2019-2020 period. The share of services in total trade increased between the last Review period and this one – increasing from 25% of total exports to 31% in 2021.

3.7. It is clear that the COVID pandemic has had a negative impact on its economy and its trade performance. However, in large part thanks to New Zealand's ability to contain the spread of the virus and the fiscal measures undertaken to bolster production, demand and employment, New Zealand is now experiencing a large rebound.

3.8. Since the pandemic, and in a continued acknowledgement of trade is a principal driver of growth and sustainable living standards, New Zealand adopted its Trade Recovery Strategy in June 2020, which focuses on better support to exporters, and increasing engagement with the WTO and trade partners to achieve further reforms and trade diversification. This tool has incorporated the Trade for All principles to ensure that everyone benefits through inclusive economic development.

3.9. During the review period, New Zealand had already moved the needle considerably in this strategic direction. Since 2015, New Zealand has signed four regional trade agreements. Other are underway with the European Union, India, and the Pacific Alliance. Under its APEC collaborative chairpersonship, New Zealand had led the development of key outcomes to support the APEC objective to achieve an "open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful for the region by 2040".

3.10. At the WTO, it plays an active role not only in multilateral bodies, but also in plurilateral negotiations and initiatives. Since ratifying the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, New Zealand has modernized its customs legislation, including a single window which offers the possibility to submit information and receive responses from border agencies electronically, and streamlined SPS-related procedures to allow for electronic issuing of export certificates for food, plant and animal products. In addition to its single window, the New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS) had its primary legislation

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amended in 2018 which allows for provisional declaration of goods at the time of importing, and an easier path for customers to appeal decisions.

3.11. These are only some of the examples implemented by New Zealand to reap the full benefits of trade. It can continue doing more. By New Zealand's own standards, it needs to ensure that productivity, inclusion and the zero carbon economy transition go further, since these are the root drivers of long term, sustainable growth and standards of living. Given these were the same issues in the last review period, New Zealand should make an even bigger effort to ensure they are addressed.

3.12. When firms are more productive they can pay higher wages and hire more workers. It's no coincidence that we see higher levels and growth of employment and wages in firms that export. Larger export markets make it more cost effective to not only expand production, but to invest in new capital inputs and innovation. New Zealand still has scope to improve here. For example, while its agricultural sector leads the charge in terms of production, its total factor productivity is below the OECD average.

3.13. In addition, a more competitive enabling environment helps ensure domestic firms are more productive, but also ensures that imports and foreign direct investment contribute to the efficiency of the domestic economy. New Zealand could do more here as well. While it had an open framework for foreign direct investment, with few restrictions for inward investment, it ranked below the OECD average in 2020 in its inward FDI stock. In recent years, New Zealand has been reforming its foreign investment regime and practices. Several Members used the current review to seek further clarification on the application of the national interest test introduced in June 2020, the difference among screening thresholds for investments in existing FTAs as well as the implications of no longer incorporating the investor-state dispute settlement mechanism in FTAs.

3.14. Further boosting productivity and income growth would include more focus on the digital sector and an increased use of digital innovation. In addition to ensuring that regulations keep pace with technological change, there is a need to ensure that workers have the appropriate digital skills. This is all the more important given population aging and a reliance to some degree on migrants with advanced digital skills. I am happy to note that New Zealand is currently addressing some of these issues through Industry Transformation Plans, and the production of a National Digitalisation Strategy, which aims to not only grow the digital economy but also foster inclusion.

3.15. New Zealand recognizes that concrete actions are needed make inclusive trade, particularly for women and indigenous populations, a reality. This is a key issue of mine. For example, in 2018 New Zealand joined the Inclusive Trade Action Group or ITAG with Canada, Chile, and Mexico. The ITAG also established the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement which promotes mutually supportive trade and gender policies, unlocking new opportunities to increase women's participation in trade. Under its Trade for All Agenda, the Government has also been working hand in hand with Māori populations to ensure they can benefit fully from trade and the economy, with a particular emphasis on sectors such as fisheries, tourism and high tech. I am pleased to see that several Members were interested in learning more on this Agenda and its results achieved.

3.16. Attaining a zero carbon economy is also an important element to mention. While New Zealand has been actively advancing WTO trade and environment initiatives and taking steps to reduce its reliance on carbon-based energy and production, I believe it is an area where it will need to continue to do more to meet its own zero-emission targets. Despite New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme having come into force in 2020, the Climate Change Commission estimates that inflation-adjusted carbon prices will need to double between 2021 and 2030, and triple by 2050 to meet its abatement objectives from domestic sources. At the same time, New Zealand is also taking other steps. In 2022, it released its Emissions Reduction Plan which sets out how it will meet its emissions budget for 2022–25. The 2019 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act provides a framework to development and implement clear and stable climate-change policies.

3.17. Turning briefly to some other comments highlighted by Members during the previous review in 2015 and were reiterated in the current exercise.

3.18. A number of Members had expressed concerns about the export management of kiwifruit and certain dairy products in specific markets. While Fonterra Cooperative Group's exclusive rights to



export ended in 2010 with the phase out of export restrictions to specific tariff quota markets, licence allocation is still mandatory for certain markets. The Zespri Group, on the other hand, still has an automatic but not exclusive right to export kiwifruit to all markets except Australia; other private traders can export, in collaboration with Zespri and are subject to authorization by Kiwifruit New Zealand.

3.19. As regards government procurement, while several Members in 2015 called for general legislation, this time Members sought further information on the application and expectations set out in the Government Procurement Charter and Rules, particularly in terms of the broader outcomes, creating opportunities for local business, and quality employment opportunities.

3.20. Several Members pointed out the addition of a public-interest assessment as part of the 2017 amendment to the Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties Act, 1988. As there has been no other significant change to its trade remedies regime since the last Review, I wish to highlight that in 2015, several Members had called for greater transparency in New Zealand's procedures.

3.21. Finally, the adoption of new measures in emerging trade issues has also attracted significant interest from Members, including on the new Digital Economy Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability and their relationships to existing trade commitments. It is also not surprising that New Zealand has received such a broad range of questions on its response to climate change and sustainability, as Members are seeking to achieve their own environmental objectives while also maximizing the benefits that flow from free and open international trade.

3.22. Of course, these are only a snapshot of the topics covered in Members' questions.

3.23. I look forward today to hearing constructive exchanges. I wish New Zealand a successful conclusion to this review.

## 4 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

4.1. At the outset, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the delegation of New Zealand headed by H.E. Ms Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO and would like to thank her and her distinguished team for the excellent cooperation between our two missions here in Geneva which serves our mutual interests.

4.2. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also wishes to thank the Government of New Zealand and the Secretariat of the WTO for their detailed reports. We also thank the discussant H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO for his introductory remarks.

4.3. As one of the most open economies in the world, New Zealand continues to strengthen its position by updating some elements of its trade and investment regime to ensure that trade is inclusive. Between 2015-2019, New Zealand's real GDP grew on average by 3.4% between and projected by IMF to grow by 5.1% in 2021. According to the IMF, New Zealand's fiscal and monetary policies have been successful in promoting economic recovery and maintaining price stability.

4.4. We would like to commend New Zealand for launching a broad reform to simplify its foreign investment regime and enhance the coverage of high-risk transactions, for developing its new trade strategy -the Trade for All Agenda-, for adopting the Trade Recovery Strategy, for wider opening its economy by signing four (RTAs) since 2015.

4.5. We congratulate New Zealand for updating some areas such as customs legislation, dumping and countervailing duties, SPS legislation, competition framework, IP law including acceded four new WIPO treaties.

4.6. New Zealand is to be commended for adopting several energy strategic plans and an emission trading system during the review period to achieve environmental targets at both domestic and international levels, including a goal to transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

4.7. We also congratulate New Zealand for being a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and remain actively engaged at the WTO activities including its participation in discussions on joint initiatives, and for its leadership role as chairs of various WTO bodies including the General Council in 2020.

4.8. Saudi Arabia enjoys friendly relationship with New Zealand. The New Zealand Middle East Business Council was established to promote and facilitate the relationships in trade, communication, technology, transfer services, and investment.

4.9. From bilateral front, trade exchange between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and New Zealand reached about SAR 3 billion in 2020. Dairy products, meat, paper, and paperboard are the most exported products from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia while fertilisers, mineral products, glass, and glassware are the most imported products by New Zealand from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

4.10. I wish the delegation of New Zealand a very successful Trade Policy Review.

### UNITED STATES

4.11. We would like to warmly welcome the New Zealand delegation, and compliment the Government of New Zealand on its report for its sixth Trade Policy Review.

4.12. We welcome the recent arrival of Ambassador Clare Kelly, who we are confident will continue New Zealand's long record of contributions to the WTO.

4.13. New Zealand is a strong partner and close friend of the United States. Our relationship is strengthened by a shared commitment to market-oriented and democratic principles.

4.14. As the Secretariat report notes, New Zealand is a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and remains actively engaged at the WTO. As the Report also notes, New Zealand has continued to strengthen its position as one of the most open economies in the world and has also updated certain elements of its trade and investment regime. New Zealand has proactively reduced and eliminated barriers on a unilateral basis. New Zealand's open and transparent approach to trade benefits New Zealand's citizens as well as traders and investors.

4.15. In addition, we acknowledge New Zealand's work to ensure that trade is inclusive and beneficial to its citizens through its Trade for All Approach. Like New Zealand, the United States believes that trade – and the WTO – should create meaningful benefits for our workers and citizens, and should help bring shared prosperity to all.

4.16. This is even more important in the face of adversity, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dangers of climate change and environmental degradation, the unfair policies of non-market economies that are undermining the rights of our workers and rules-based trading system, and the actions of autocracies that threaten the fundamental rule of law. To meet these challenges, we must work together and remain united. New Zealand is a key ally in this regard, as both a strong supporter of the multilateral trading system and proponent of sustainable trade.

4.17. The United States would like to take a moment to acknowledge New Zealand's strong support of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. We encourage New Zealand to join the 14 other WTO Members as a co-sponsor of the Proposed Ministerial Decision on Strengthening Resiliency and Preparedness Through Trade Facilitation to ensure that Members can have focused discussions in the Trade Facilitation Committee that are based on Members' experiences and lessons-learned during COVID-19, with a view to identifying best practices and making recommendations.

4.18. We also value New Zealand's leadership in WTO reform efforts as an early co-sponsor of the General Council proposal on Procedures to Enhance Transparency and Improve Compliance with Notification Requirements Obligations.

4.19. During the review period, New Zealand made a number of commitments with regard to intellectual property (IP). We applaud New Zealand's progress on acceding to important intellectual property treaties, such as the Budapest Treaty; the Marrakesh Treaty; the WIPO Copyright Treaty; the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty; and the Berne Convention. During this period, New Zealand also took on a number of IP related commitments and actions as part of FTA negotiations and implementation of FTA commitments.

4.20. During this TPR, the United States looks forward to learning more about New Zealand's IP protections. Specifically, we would appreciate more information regarding changes to New Zealand's copyright system, including possible expansions of rights for performers. We also look forward to receiving information regarding New Zealand's geographical indication system.

4.21. The United States values New Zealand as a vital partner on a broad array of important trade initiatives. We look forward to continuing to work closely with New Zealand in our collective efforts to create a more viable and durable multilateral trading system.

4.22. We appreciate and look forward to New Zealand's written responses to our questions and comments.

#### HONG KONG, CHINA

4.23. I would like to thank Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team in Geneva for representing New Zealand in the Trade Policy Review meetings. I would also like to thank the discussant Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada, for his valuable comments, and the Secretariat for the comprehensive report.

4.24. Hong Kong, China and New Zealand have enjoyed long-standing and progressive trade and economic relations. Our bilateral trade in goods amounted to USD 1.2 billion last year, with an average growth rate of 2.2% from 2017 to 2021. Hong Kong, China was New Zealand's ninth largest export market and the value of our imports from New Zealand (mainly farm products) was 70 times of that of our domestic exports to New Zealand.

4.25. Hong Kong, China and New Zealand have been close in our trade and economic cooperation. Our Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, which entered into force in January 2011, is Hong Kong, China's first free trade agreement with a foreign country. Based on this agreement, both sides signed three implementing agreements last month to facilitate the ongoing co-operation in the areas of rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and government procurement.

4.26. We have the following observations on New Zealand's trade policy regime.

4.27. On trade facilitation, we commend New Zealand's efforts in continuously improving its Trade Single Window platform. We also note that New Zealand has updated its customs legislation through the introduction of the Customs and Excise Act 2018. The Act provides for new services and better supports compliance, it also facilitates information sharing between border agencies. We are pleased to learn that the Act has brought along various enhancements on advance rulings, including declaration of provisional value for imported goods and cloud storage of business records.

4.28. Regarding tariff, we are pleased to note that New Zealand has bound all of its tariff lines, and 99.9% of its applied MFN tariff lines carry *ad valorem* duties. However, we note that the simple average bound rate of 10.5% is noticeably higher than the currently applied MFN average rate of 2.2%. While the gap between the bound rate and the applied rate is not utilized, it may still pose some degree of uncertainties to the trade.

4.29. About services, we are pleased to note that New Zealand remains one of the most open economies in the world. The services sector contributes to a significant portion of New Zealand's economy, accounting for more than 70% of its GDP. Both Hong Kong, China and New Zealand have been actively engaging in WTO's services discussions including the Joint Statement Initiatives on E-Commerce and Services Domestic Regulation.

4.30. Lastly, it would be a glaring miss if we do not mention agriculture. New Zealand provides the least government support, among OECD countries, to the agriculture sector and all its domestic support measures fall under the green box. Besides, despite having an Aggregate Measurement of Support commitment level under the Agreement on Agriculture, New Zealand does not use or plan to use such entitlement. New Zealand's ongoing efforts in providing timely notifications are also much appreciated.

4.31. Both New Zealand and Hong Kong, China recognize the importance of open markets and respect for trade rules. We look forward to continue working together with New Zealand in various areas in the WTO. We thank New Zealand for their answers to Hong Kong, China's written questions and wish New Zealand a very successful Trade Policy Review.

## MEXICO

4.32. Mexico extends a warm welcome to the delegation of New Zealand, headed by Ambassador Clare Kelly. I also thank Ambassador de Boer (Canada) for his thorough analysis, and the WTO Secretariat for its hard work in preparing its report.

4.33. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge New Zealand's firm commitment to the multilateral trading system, as reflected by the outstanding and active work of its Permanent Mission.

4.34. Within the WTO, we value and are grateful to New Zealand for its leadership in the General Council in 2020. We also highlight its active participation in the joint initiatives on MSMEs, e-commerce, services domestic regulation, investment facilitation and gender, as well as in the structured discussions on sustainability. Mexico and New Zealand both agree on the importance of discussing these matters as a way of equipping the WTO with the tools to address the new realities of international trade.

4.35. New Zealand's real GDP grew 3.4% annually on average between 2015 and 2019. While it witnessed a fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activity rebounded in the second half of 2020 thanks to fiscal policies focused on cushioning the effects of the pandemic.

4.36. The high interest rates, which initially attracted significant flows of international capital, also had a strong impact on housing prices, making them a major challenge for New Zealand's economy.

However, we are confident that the measures geared towards increasing the supply of housing will help to mitigate this impact.

4.37. With regard to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico commends New Zealand for the implementation of timely measures to effectively contain the spread of the virus, from actions to protect jobs and incomes to highly expansionary macroeconomic policies.

4.38. Likewise, we recognize the implementation of the "Trade Recovery Strategy", which focused on helping small and medium-sized enterprises to overcome the adverse effects of the pandemic, by means of three pillars: (i) broadening the support for exporters; (ii) reinvigorating international trade architecture by working towards strengthening and reforming the WTO, and pursuing bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements; and (iii) refreshing key trade relationships to expand market opportunities and achieve further trade diversification.

4.39. Mexico recognizes the efforts that New Zealand has made in implementing reforms to simplify the foreign investment regime. However, our attention is drawn to the restrictions imposed on sensitive sectors, which are greater than the policy applied in comparable countries.

4.40. Turning to intellectual property, Mexico commends New Zealand for its fourth-place ranking in The Economist's Global Illicit Trade Environment Index. We also acknowledge the new enforcement measures implemented, the elimination of the requirement to provide a security when filing a notice and the power of the Customs Service to temporarily detain suspected counterfeit goods or pirated copies *ex officio*, with reasonable cause.

4.41. To conclude, we acknowledge and congratulate New Zealand for the excellent work it has carried out not only to meet its commitments under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, but also to commit to reducing net emissions by 50% below gross 2005 levels by 2030.

4.42. Lastly, we thank New Zealand for its replies to the questions raised by my delegation and we wish it every success in this Review.

## CANADA

4.43. Canada joins other WTO Members in welcoming Ambassador Kelly and her delegation to this sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand.

4.44. We thank the New Zealand Government and the WTO Secretariat for their reports, which provided a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the trade and economic environment in New Zealand.

4.45. Canada and New Zealand are long-standing allies and partners across several key areas including foreign policy, trade and investment as well as security and defence. Our people-to-people and commercial ties continue to undergo remarkable expansion. We share a strong history of cooperation in multilateral fora to advance our shared values and objectives. We particularly appreciate working closely with New Zealand in the Ottawa Group and other fora to advance WTO reform and help ensure the Organization is equipped to respond to the 21<sup>st</sup> century trading environment. This collaboration has become even more important today in the current global context.

4.46. Canada commends New Zealand for having one of the most open and successful business environments in the world. Whether navigating the shock of COVID-19, facilitating trade and trade reforms, or transitioning to a low carbon economy, New Zealand has demonstrated itself as a natural leader.

4.47. New Zealand is also a true proponent of free and open international trade. In addition to having one of the lowest average MFN applied tariff rates, new and upgraded bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements cover over 60% of New Zealand exports and imports. Canada would additionally like to recognize New Zealand's leadership and partnership in advancing and promoting inclusive trade internationally and in the Asia Pacific Region. Its Inclusive Trade for All agenda aligns with Canada's priorities by advancing Indigenous trade, women's economic empowerment and sustainable development goals. As one of Canada's key partners in the Inclusive Trade Action Group

(ITAG), the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement (GTAGA) and the historic Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA), New Zealand and Canada work hand in hand to ensure that the benefits of international trade and investment are widely shared within economies, particularly with women, indigenous peoples and micro, small and medium enterprises. Canada congratulates New Zealand for its role as host of APEC 2021.

4.48. New Zealand's concerted open plurilateralism approach works to bolster and revitalize the rules-based system resulting in joining plurilateral joint statement initiatives and agreements, which creates pathways for multilateral reforms. Furthermore, we should commend New Zealand on its commitment to transparency by meeting all of its obligations.

4.49. Canada recognizes New Zealand's commitment to becoming a world leader in fighting climate change and transitioning to a zero-carbon economy. It has enshrined into law a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and committed to reducing net greenhouse emissions by 50% below gross 2005 levels by 2030. Canada appreciates New Zealand's efforts to support actions to phase out or rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

4.50. Furthermore, Canada values the resolute steps New Zealand has taken in response to Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. This conflict has severe humanitarian and economic implication, including for trade in agricultural products, and we appreciate New Zealand's co-sponsoring the Joint Statement on Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products.

4.51. Canada deeply values its close relationship with New Zealand and looks forward to deepening our collaboration and mutual understanding in areas of common interest. Specifically, Canada is interested in New Zealand's plans pertaining climate initiatives such as carbon and methane emission reduction schemes, support for transitional fuel, efforts to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, and restrictions on oil and gas exploration. Canada is also seeking clarification on provisions for intellectual property and copyright protection including Indigenous interests and participation.

4.52. In closing, Canada wishes the delegation every success during this Trade Policy Review and would like to reiterate its appreciation for the opportunity to share our views.

## AUSTRALIA

4.53. Australia's relationship with New Zealand is one of our warmest, oldest, and most comprehensive. We are close and enduring allies in support of a free and open global rules-based order.

4.54. New Zealand is Australia's seventh largest two-way trading partner and is the third largest investment destination for Australia, reflecting the high level of economic integration between our two countries. The Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA), which underpins this trading relationship, is a truly ground-breaking agreement – it was the first trade agreement in the world to include trade in services. At nearly forty years of age, it remains one of the most comprehensive bilateral free trade agreements in existence.

4.55. The Single Economic Market (SEM) that exists between Australia and New Zealand continues to encourage trade and investment across the Tasman, in a seamless regulatory environment. In recent years, work under this mechanism has helped mitigate the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the pressures on supply chains and border closures.

4.56. Outside of our bilateral relationship, Australia also appreciates New Zealand's invaluable contribution to the global rules-based trading system. New Zealand's policy creativity has left a significant and positive mark on that system. An example is New Zealand's initiative, with others, in agreeing the Trans-Pacific Economic Partnership Agreement (P4), which was the nucleus for the later Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

4.57. Australia and New Zealand work closely together to encourage outward-looking, rules-based regional and global trading partnerships. In 2009, both countries signed the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, with the aim of forging closer economic links with ASEAN economies. We also commend New Zealand on its ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which entered into force earlier this year.

4.58. Australia and New Zealand are also working hand-in-hand with our Pacific family to drive economic recovery and sustained prosperity through expanded trade and commercial opportunities. We are parties and contributors to the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) free trade and development cooperation agreement, which came into force in December 2020. This agreement will support Pacific Island countries to become more active participants in global trade, creating opportunities for growth, jobs and increasing living standards.

4.59. We welcome New Zealand's ongoing commitment to the WTO and its contribution to the Organization's two organizing norms of rules and openness. We also welcome New Zealand's efforts towards achieving successful outcomes across the MC12 agenda, particularly its constructive support for small group work to achieve progress on agriculture.

4.60. As a fellow member of the Cairns Group, we thank New Zealand for its commitment to multilateral agricultural trade reform, particularly in encouraging WTO Members to reduce trade distorting agriculture measures to sustain economic growth and food security across the globe.

4.61. We commend New Zealand's contribution to safeguarding and strengthening the WTO. Like Australia, it is one of 13 members of the Ottawa Group, which is seeking constructive solutions on WTO reform and improvements to the multilateral trading system. New Zealand is an important contributor to all four Joint Statement Initiatives, and an active participant in discussions on trade and gender and trade-related environment issues at the WTO. As a party to the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement, we thank New Zealand for its continued commitment to a functioning dispute settlement system.

4.62. We wish New Zealand well in its Trade Policy Review.

#### BRAZIL

4.63. Brazil would like to thank the Government of New Zealand for engaging in its sixth Trade Policy Review and providing Members with an overview of the country's economic performance and commitment to the multilateral trading system.

4.64. We would also like to express our appreciation to the WTO Secretariat for its thorough and comprehensive report, as well as to you, Chair, and the discussant, H.E. Ambassador Mr Stephen de Boer, from Canada, for your contribution to a successful trade monitoring exercise.

4.65. Brazil attaches significant importance to trade policy reviews, especially to ensure greater transparency and predictability for trade stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the global economy and international trade are additional elements that reinforce the relevance of this review.

4.66. In this regard, Brazil would like to highlight New Zealand's response to and strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the adoption of fiscal policy measures and a positive contribution from the country's main exports, which shows that, even under challenging circumstances, trade may play a critical role in promoting economic growth and development.

4.67. Moving on to WTO issues, Brazil commends New Zealand's strong commitment to an open and rules-based multilateral trade system. We note with satisfaction the ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) by New Zealand in 2015, as well as its strong record of notifications.

4.68. We also highlight New Zealand's active and constructive engagement in the Joint Statement Initiatives on E-Commerce, Service Domestic Regulation and Investment Facilitation for Development. Brazil shares the view that the plurilateral negotiations are a promising venue for reinvigorating WTO's negotiating pillar and that the JSIs can deliver concrete results that respond to business needs, as shown by the conclusion of the SDR negotiations last year.

4.69. Regarding our bilateral relations, trade flows between Brazil and New Zealand are still modest compared to its potential, having reached USD 149.8 million in 2021, up from USD 138.5 million in 2020. Brazil's imports from New Zealand are mainly tourism and education services, followed by



starches, raw aluminium, and dairy products. On the other hand, Brazil's exports to New Zealand include mineral oil and fuels, cellulose, machinery, sugar, and coffee.

4.70. We look forward to working with New Zealand to further develop bilateral relations in areas such as science, innovation, and education and to expand trade and investment flows.

4.71. Brazil and New Zealand have been working together in the WTO to uphold and reform the multilateral trading system. We share some of New Zealand's priorities heading towards the MC12, such as achieving meaningful outcomes regarding WTO reform and the reduction of trade and production-distorting subsidies in the agriculture sector.

4.72. Brazil thanks New Zealand for the written replies to our questions, which focus on aspects of its investment policy that are of interest to us, such as the decision to exclude, since 2018, ISDS provisions from FTAs. The replies were forwarded to our capital for examination and follow-up.

4.73. We wish New Zealand a successful Trade Policy Review.

## JAPAN

4.74. Japan welcomes the delegation of New Zealand to this Trade Policy Review, headed by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative to the WTO of New Zealand in Geneva. Japan would like to offer our appreciation to the WTO Secretariat and to the Government of New Zealand, for their respective reports submitted for this review. We also thank and commend the discussant, Ambassador de Boer of Canada, for his insightful remarks.

4.75. We commend that New Zealand further develops and enhances its standing, as one of the most open economies in the world, one in every four its domestic jobs are export-related sectors.

4.76. Today, we would like to highlight three issues.

4.77. First, on our bilateral economic relations. New Zealand and Japan have traditionally maintained a friendly economic relation. We welcome that our bilateral trade increased on a three-year-average term, after, for the first time in 2018, CPTPP brought in the benefits of free trade arrangements to the economic transactions of our two countries. We hope to further deepen our economic relations.

4.78. Second, on our regional cooperation. New Zealand and Japan have long collaborated for and contributed to the expansion of a free and fair economic zone in the Asia-Pacific region. We hope to continue cooperating, including through APEC, for a further development of transparent and market-oriented economic and trade regime in the region.

4.79. Japan hopes that New Zealand would play a leading role, as a co-chair of this year and the chair of the next year of the CPTPP Committee, in maintaining the high standards, the spirit and the principles of the Agreement. We also look forward to cooperating with New Zealand for ensuring a full implementation of the RCEP Agreement, which came into effect this year.

4.80. Japan appreciates New Zealand's efforts which contribute to the promotion of open trade, including the conclusion this February of its FTA negotiation with the United Kingdom, and its ongoing negotiations with the EU, India, and the Pacific Alliance. We believe that the FTAs signed by New Zealand will further complement and strengthen the multilateral trading system.

4.81. Third, we would like to highlight timely and strong leadership New Zealand has exhibited in the multilateral trading system, including through chairing various WTO bodies. In this regard, we would also like to renew our appreciation to the service Ambassador Walker rendered to the WTO, in his capacity as the GC Chair and as facilitator on important agenda.

4.82. We continue to cooperate with New Zealand so as to deliver at the coming MC, results that would maintain business's trust in the WTO.

4.83. Also, in the current geopolitical situation arising from an attempt to change the status quo by force, we value our close cooperation with New Zealand, for ensuring the functioning of the MTS,



which stands on the mutual trust among Members based on respect for sovereign and territorial integrity thereof.

4.84. New Zealand became a party to the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) in August 2015. In December of the same year, negotiations to expand the scope of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) were concluded. We have high expectations for New Zealand's activities as a strong partner in maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

4.85. Japan considers that a utilization and promotion of negotiations by like-minded Members is vital for improving the negotiating functions of the WTO. We value the active participation of New Zealand in the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs), including those on E-Commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development, and MSMEs.

4.86. Lastly, we would like to touch upon foreign investment regime of New Zealand. In New Zealand, while foreign investments are permitted, in principle, without restrictions, we note that investment in risk assets with price fluctuations needs to be approved. Since 2020, foreign investment cap has been placed in some business sectors such as aviation and telecommunications. On the other hand, during the review period, there has been improvements such as simplifying the foreign investment regime and improving transparency. We expect that New Zealand will continue to maintain a favourable investment environment.

4.87. In conclusion, Japan appreciates New Zealand's constructive contribution to the MTS and its active participation in today's TPR. We wish the delegation of New Zealand a successful and fruitful Trade Policy Review.

## CHILE

4.88. Chile would like to extend warm greetings to our friends from New Zealand and especially to its Ambassador, Clare Kelly, with whom I had the pleasure of working almost 25 years ago, very early on in her career.

4.89. We would also like to acknowledge the work carried out by both the Secretariat and New Zealand in preparing the respective reports. We commend Ambassador Stephen de Boer for his work as discussant.

4.90. It is difficult to find a closer relationship between two countries that are so far from one another, although some say that we are neighbours separated by a very wide border. It is precisely this Pacific Ocean that unites us and through which we share cultures and nations. This affinity is naturally replicated in this Organization, within which we share common goals. Such goals include the protection of our seas, and this is why 20 years ago, both countries, as "Friends of Fish", proposed the most ambitious agreement possible to effectively eliminate the subsidies that cause so much damage to fisheries resources. Time will tell whether what we are able to achieve in the coming weeks will fulfil this objective or not.

4.91. Chile and New Zealand are two economies open to the world that share a common vision in their integration strategies and are promoters of free trade, with both continually seeking to coordinate on the major issues on the international agenda. We are also convinced of the importance of inclusive trade that brings prosperity to all, without leaving behind women, indigenous peoples, our innovators, young people and MSMEs. It is no coincidence that, two years ago, both countries, together with Canada, signed the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement, aimed at promoting policies and opportunities to increase female participation in trade.

4.92. Today, we are also interested in New Zealand's experience with citizen involvement in trade issues, particularly the "Trade for All" initiative.

4.93. Bilaterally, both countries, together with Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, signed the Economic Partnership Agreement in 2005, which is also known as the P4. It was designed as a strategic alliance to comprehensively confront the challenges associated with large markets and their dynamics, especially in Asia. This innovative agreement was the basis of a process for even greater

integration, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which led to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership.

4.94. Two years ago, together with Singapore, New Zealand and Chile signed up to the first Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), a world pioneer of this kind that was born out of our common interest in benefiting the smaller economies and providing more opportunities for our citizens, especially MSMEs.

4.95. In addition, we are both active members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), where we seek greater regional economic integration through cooperation and the sharing of good practices, creating a free and open trade and investment regime. In this connection, we commend New Zealand for its success as host of APEC 2021, with the forum enabling members to go into depth on matters such as recovery from COVID-19, support for the multilateral trading system and the WTO, inclusiveness and sustainability.

4.96. At the WTO level, Chile and New Zealand also have broadly similar visions, supporting a strong multilateral trading system based on transparent and non-discriminatory rules, which provides predictability for all stakeholders, including in the agricultural sector, as members of the Cairns Group. As a result, we also participated in the joint initiatives on investment facilitation, MSMEs, services domestic regulation and e-commerce, as well as in the structured discussions on environmental sustainability.

4.97. This Trade Policy Review has taken account of the efforts made by the Government of New Zealand to manage the impact of COVID-19, with a focus on human health and emphasis on recovery, laying the groundwork for the future in areas such as the energy transition, housing and childcare.

4.98. Along these lines, we highlight New Zealand's energy strategy, which includes plans and new legislation to tackle climate change, as well as its progress in research, science and innovation. We are also interested in the progress shown during the review period in digital services and trade, which has led to the development of new policies and architecture to support sustainable and ethical growth and innovation in digital technologies and services.

4.99. In connection with this Trade Policy Review exercise, Chile submitted questions in areas such as, *inter alia*, investment, anti-dumping and countervailing measures, financial services and regional trade agreements. We are grateful for the replies to these questions.

4.100. Lastly, we wish New Zealand a successful sixth Trade Policy Review.

## EUROPEAN UNION

4.101. On behalf of the European Union, I would like to warmly welcome H.E. Ms Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, and the delegation of New Zealand and thank the WTO Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand for their comprehensive reports, which will serve as a basis for our discussions. My appreciation is extended to the discussant, Ambassador H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer (Canada), for his introductory remarks.

4.102. Today's world is changing rapidly, and unfortunately not for the better. In the very recent past, we have seen, among other things, a global recession caused by the health crisis, and in the last three months, the return of war in Europe.

4.103. In such a context, the European Union would like to commend New Zealand's unwavering commitment to openness and to the rules-based international order, demonstrated by its swift reaction to the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. Together, we stand strong in our solidarity with the Ukrainian people in the face of these acts of violence.

4.104. With these introductory remarks, let us now return to the subject of today's meeting, the Trade Policy Review of New Zealand.

4.105. As the Secretariat's report emphasized, trade is a strong driver of the post-pandemic economic recovery. New Zealand continues to be a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and remains actively engaged in the WTO. Also, it signed multiple new trade-related agreements since its last Trade Policy Review in 2015. The EU in particular welcomes New Zealand's accession to the WTO's GPA.

4.106. We also congratulate New Zealand on the conclusion and entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, for which New Zealand acts as the repository, and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. These are two significant regional trade agreements that - while differing in scale and ambition - both carry the flag of promoting the rules-based agenda and closer regional integration through trade.

4.107. The EU and New Zealand are long-standing partners with strong and healthy commercial ties. The EU is New Zealand's fourth trading partner and New Zealand's second source of imports and our two-way investments are significant. At the time of New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review today, our relationship is stronger than ever. Since New Zealand's last review at the WTO, we have strengthened ties by entering into a partnership agreement containing a number of economic and trade cooperation rules and we opened negotiations for a high-quality modern Free Trade Agreement in 2018. Our relationship will grow stronger and deeper still with what we have set ourselves to jointly achieve by finalising our FTA talks as soon as possible.

4.108. I also wish to convey the EU's appreciation for New Zealand's significant contribution to the multilateral trading system by promoting solutions to strategic issues such as on WTO reform or the multilateral response to the pandemic. We also appreciate our excellent cooperation and New Zealand's active engagement as likeminded country on other key issues of common interest, such as the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement. New Zealand has also played a proactive and pioneering role in international trade policy development on innovative and progressive, inclusive and sustainable trade participating in a number of joint initiatives and plurilateral processes. I would like to highlight especially in this context New Zealand's leading role in the plurilateral initiative on fossil fuel subsidy reform which the EU co-sponsored.

4.109. In acknowledging New Zealand's exceptionally strong record, there are some areas though where we would like further clarification or information. I will mention just two of the issues raised by the EU in the questions submitted ahead of this TPR and that we find particularly important. One is related to the decisions taken by Kiwifruit New Zealand, and the other covers the pricing of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. We thank New Zealand for the timely replies to our questions that we will study closely.

4.110. To conclude, the EU applauds the transparency of New Zealand's trade policies and its continued engagement in the multilateral trading system.

4.111. On behalf of the EU, I wish New Zealand a successful review, being confident that all suggestions and feedback provided by Members during this exercise will be well received.

## SINGAPORE

4.112. Let me begin by conveying my warmest greetings to Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team. We thank New Zealand for its comprehensive Government Report and Statement. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Chair Ambassador Ángel Villalobos (Mexico), the discussant Ambassador Stephen de Boer (Canada), as well as the Secretariat for their insightful reports and statements. Allow me to make three points.

4.113. First, Singapore and New Zealand enjoy excellent and long-standing political and economic relations. Both Singapore and New Zealand are small, outward-looking countries, and we share a similar strategic outlook and bilateral collaboration is multi-faceted and wide-ranging. Singapore and New Zealand have made excellent progress in the Enhanced Partnership, which was established in May 2019 through a Joint Declaration signed by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. Both sides have since developed 26 bilateral cooperation initiatives covering the four pillars of: (a) trade and economics; (b) security and defence; (c) science, technology and innovation; and (d) people-to-people links. On the trade front, the Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership (ANZSCEP)

was Singapore's first and New Zealand's second bilateral FTA. This Agreement, which entered into force more than 20 years ago, has been reviewed and upgraded no less than three times and has brought significant mutual benefits. For example, Singapore is New Zealand's fifth largest trading partner, and bilateral trade volume grew by over 8% to USD 3 billion in 2021, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.114. As like-minded partners, Singapore and New Zealand have also embarked on pathfinder initiatives to promote global trade and connectivity. At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore and New Zealand responded expeditiously to resist protectionist tendencies, ensure that trade continued to flow unimpeded and keep critical infrastructure such as air and seaports open. To this end, Singapore and New Zealand kickstarted a bilateral Declaration on Trade in Essential Goods against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic on 20 March 2020, which was concluded in just 10 days after the WHO declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic. This Declaration later expanded to become a plurilateral statement that included 11 other countries such as Australia, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay. This was later complemented by the Singapore-New Zealand Air Freight Project, or SNAP, which helped regularise trade flows and support the flow of essential supplies at a time when supply chains were disrupted across the world.

4.115. Second, Singapore looks forward to deepen and expand our collaboration with New Zealand on a wide-range of issues including digitalisation and green economy. We note that New Zealand is developing a Digital Strategy, which centres around the themes of trust, inclusion and growth. Singapore and New Zealand are also partners, together with Chile, in of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) that entered into force in December 2020. Overall, these initiatives, coupled with New Zealand's participation in the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce, will enable the development of a more resilient economy, expand opportunities in the digital economy, and help build the foundation for post-pandemic economic recovery and future growth. Singapore also looks forward to rejuvenating our bilateral collaboration, including in supply chain cooperation and the climate change and green economy, which has now been institutionalised as a new pillar under our Singapore-New Zealand Enhanced Partnership.

4.116. Third, on the multilateral front, New Zealand and Singapore are both steadfast supporters of the WTO. As small, trade-dependent countries, Singapore and New Zealand rely on the WTO to strengthen the rules-based multilateral rules-based trading system so that might does not become right and provide predictability and stability for global trade to grow. Hence, New Zealand has often punched above its weight at the WTO and played a constructive role. Singapore also commends New Zealand's active participation in the development of the Multi-Party Interim Arrangement (MPIA) and the JSIs to revitalize the WTO's dispute settlement and negotiations functions respectively. In addition, New Zealand is working tirelessly with Members to ensure the WTO's relevance in the 21st century. For example, New Zealand is an active proponent in the environmental initiatives at the WTO, including the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP) and Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD).

4.117. In conclusion, as a fellow like-minded Member Singapore looks forward to continue working closely with New Zealand, Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team to further strengthen our bilateral economic ties, and to jointly contribute to the continued success of the WTO. Let me end by saying Noho ora mai (all the best in Māori) to New Zealand and wishing it every success for its sixth Trade Policy Review.

## SWITZERLAND

4.118. I would like to join others by extending a warm welcome to New Zealand's delegation led by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly. I would also like to thank H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer (Canada) for his valuable observations as a discussant, and the Secretariat for its substantive contribution to this review.

4.119. It is a great pleasure for me to take the floor on this occasion, as Switzerland would like to commend New Zealand for its generally excellent economic performance since the last TPR in 2015. The pandemic of course also had its effect on the economy of New Zealand, affecting particularly the tourism sector, but also other parts of the economy. However, recovery seems quicker than expected, also thanks to New Zealand's open economy in all sectors of trade.

4.120. We would also like to congratulate New Zealand for its outstanding contributions to the multilateral trading system. We would particularly like to underline New Zealand's remarkable engagement in the joint statement initiatives, in particular in the field of trade and environment. Switzerland and New Zealand share many common interests and positions in this area, as shown in our respective participation in the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS). We are looking forward to further fruitful cooperation with New Zealand in the field of trade and environment.

4.121. We also raised some questions in the framework of this TPR. Regarding tariffs, we noted that applied rates exceed bound rates for two tariff lines. This remains however marginal and by no means reflects New Zealand's outstanding open economy. We also noted a quasi-monopoly on exports of kiwi fruits to markets other than Australia and were wondering whether there is any plan to abolish this quasi-monopoly in the near future.

4.122. In order to conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to commend New Zealand for its constructive role at the WTO.

4.123. We wish New Zealand constructive and fruitful exchanges in the context of this Trade Policy Review.

## PHILIPPINES

4.124. The Philippines warmly welcomes and congratulates the delegation of New Zealand led by Ambassador Clare Kelly on their sixth Trade Policy Review. We also thank Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada for his insightful comments as discussant, and the WTO Secretariat for a comprehensive Report.

4.125. The Philippines also associates itself with the ASEAN statement to be delivered by Cambodia highlighting the strategic partnership between New Zealand and the ASEAN.

4.126. The Philippines and New Zealand enjoy a long-standing bilateral relationship since the establishment of our diplomatic relations in July 1966. Through the years, we have witnessed the growing breadth and depth of Philippines-New Zealand bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and investments, defence and security, health, development cooperation, and cultural engagements. The broad spectrum of our bilateral relations is underpinned by enduring people-to-people ties with tens of thousands of Filipinos in every profession and employment level being considered among the largest group of skilled migrants in New Zealand.

4.127. In 2021, New Zealand ranked as the Philippines' 28<sup>th</sup> trading partner in the world with total bilateral trade amounting to USD 510.91 million. Among the Philippine top exports to New Zealand are bananas, pineapples, carrageenan, and lead-acid used for piston engines. While Philippine top imports from New Zealand include milk and cream, fats and oils, and buttermilk.

4.128. The Philippines recognizes New Zealand's new Trade for All Agenda and its Trade Recovery Strategy, which included: (i) broadening the support for exporters; (ii) working towards strengthening and reforming the WTO and pursuing trade agreements; and (iii) refreshing major trade relationships to achieve further trade diversification.

4.129. Since the last Trade Policy Review in 2015, New Zealand added 4 new regional trade agreements (RTAs) to its network, which currently consists of 13 RTAs involving 29 economies, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to which the Philippines is a party, together with other ASEAN members.

4.130. New Zealand is a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and an active Member of the WTO. It notably took leadership roles as chairs of various WTO bodies, including the General Council in 2020, and promoted and participated in discussions on joint initiatives such as, the micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, e-commerce, services domestic regulation, investment facilitation, trade and gender, and trade and climate.

4.131. The Philippines notes the significant developments in the economic policies of New Zealand, and we appreciate the opportunity to learn more about these policies through this Trade Policy

Review. Our delegation has submitted advance written questions and we thank the delegation of New Zealand for its timely responses.

4.132. In closing, the Philippines looks forward to further enhancing the mutually beneficial economic relations between New Zealand and the Philippines in the bilateral, regional, and multilateral fora.

#### SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU

4.133. On behalf of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu; I would like to extend our warm welcome to the New Zealand delegation, led by Ambassador Clare Kelly, for its sixth Trade Policy Review. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the discussant, Ambassador Stephen de Boer, for his in-depth introduction, as well as to the WTO Secretariat for their hard work in preparing the reports.

4.134. During the review period of 2015-21, New Zealand maintained its position as one of the most open economies in the world. According to the latest World Competitiveness report issued by the Institute for Management Development, New Zealand ranked the 20<sup>th</sup> among the 64 economies. This remarkable achievement results from some of its main strengths such as having an effective legal system, keeping the stability of policy, and maintaining a business-friendly environment. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand's real GDP grew 3.4% annually on average between 2015 and 2019. By adopting a substantial fiscal policy response concentrating on mitigating the negative effects of households and businesses resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand's economy rebounded strongly in the second half of 2020. Since June 2020, New Zealand has also adopted the Trade Recovery Strategy to help businesses to overcome the economic disruptions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes broadening the support for exporters, reinvigorating international trade architecture by strengthening and reforming the WTO and refreshing key trade relationships.

4.135. On its participation in the multilateral trading system, New Zealand actively engages in the works of the WTO, including participating in negotiations, monitoring functions and dispute settlements. We are pleased that New Zealand supports WTO's discussions on new issues such as MSMEs, e-commerce, disciplines on domestic regulation and investment facilitation for development, to update the rule book of the WTO. We are also pleased that New Zealand supports the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, endorses the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA II) and recognizes the need of reforming and strengthening the WTO.

4.136. On the bilateral front, we have enjoyed stronger economic ties with New Zealand since the entry into force of our bilateral Agreement on Economic Cooperation in 2013. We are now New Zealand's 13<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner. In 2021, the value of our goods exported to New Zealand has peaked an all-time-high record, amounted to NZD 1.1 billion. Under this Agreement on Economic Cooperation, we have initiated many new cooperation projects such as women entrepreneur's online fora, as well as indigenous peoples' economic and trade cooperation.

4.137. We note that New Zealand is a party to two major regional FTAs, i.e., the CPTPP and the RCEP. We also note that New Zealand has concluded certain new types of agreement such as the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, which covers various important aspects of digital trade. We commend New Zealand's intention to upgrade its existing trade agreements while we also recognize the value of upgrading trade framework to cope with the emerging trade issues.

4.138. In conclusion, we commend New Zealand on its achievements and its projection going forward. We look forward to deepening our bilateral economic and trade relations. We wish New Zealand a very successful and constructive review.

#### COLOMBIA

4.139. We extend a warm welcome to the delegation of New Zealand, headed by Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative to the WTO, and also send our greetings to our colleagues and friends from the delegation.



4.140. We highly appreciate the detailed analysis and comments provided by the discussant, Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada, as well as the work carried out by the Secretariat and the New Zealand authorities in preparing their reports for this Trade Policy Review.

4.141. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank New Zealand for its readiness to respond to the questions raised by Colombia as part of this Review. The questions cover a wide variety of subjects, such as fiscal policy, trade remedies, export restrictions, incentives and some important concerns related to the phytosanitary requirements for agricultural products imported into New Zealand from its trading partners, including Colombia.

4.142. Colombia and New Zealand established diplomatic relations several decades ago and share many common goals. Like us, New Zealand is a producer and exporter of food to the world, and a member of the negotiating group of the Cairns Group, in which we call for open, fair and undistorted trade as one of the potential solutions for food security.

4.143. New Zealand has been an active observer to the Pacific Alliance, which includes Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru, since 2012.

4.144. New Zealand is a serious and proactive participant in the multilateral system. It has also participated actively in the negotiations on market access for services and in the design of new standards in this sector. In addition, the country has been a firm defender of an agreement that seeks to limit and reduce the use of distorting subsidies in agriculture and fisheries, a matter on which it is closely associated with Colombia.

4.145. New Zealand also joined the Ministerial Statements among various subsets of WTO Members seeking to make headway in the work on e-commerce, services domestic regulation, investment facilitation, MSMEs, women's economic empowerment and fossil fuel subsidy reform.

4.146. We therefore recognize this Member's commitment to the multilateral trading system and its fundamental principles. We also acknowledge and appreciate the country's active participation in the ongoing negotiations and the functioning of the regular bodies.

4.147. Trade relations between Colombia and New Zealand are close. In 2021, NZD 63 million worth of goods were traded bilaterally. Colombia's exports stood at NZD 19 million (coffee, pharmaceutical products, flowers and fungicides) and its imports from New Zealand exceeded NZD 44 million (gas turbine parts, ozone therapy apparatus, paper and paperboard).

4.148. Companies from New Zealand are focusing on Colombian opportunities in agro-industry, food processing, retail (food and beverages and fuels), construction, aviation and health. New Zealand's agro-industry technology, particularly in the dairy sector, has the potential to support the Colombian sector in increasing its productivity and profitability.

4.149. Recent support from New Zealand in Colombia has brought us significant investment in rural development, including an agricultural extension training project delivered by the Agribusiness Group in association with the National Apprenticeship Service, and a watershed management project delivered by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research in the department of Cauca. New Zealand also works with the HALO Trust to provide humanitarian de-mining assistance in Colombia, and with the International Red Cross and the UN agency for refugees to provide humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans.

4.150. I would like to conclude by wishing New Zealand and its delegation a successful Trade Policy Review. We extend our warm appreciation to the team in Geneva for the cooperative relationship between our two Missions. We reiterate our ongoing support for the work of Ambassador Clare Kelly; Alison Hamilton, Deputy Permanent Representative; and the entire team in Geneva.

## ARGENTINA

4.151. We would like to join Members in welcoming the delegation of New Zealand, headed by Ambassador Clare Kelly.

4.152. We also thank the Government of New Zealand and the Secretariat for their reports, which have enabled us to deepen our understanding of this Member's trade practices. Furthermore, our thanks go to Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada for his comments and observations.

4.153. New Zealand is a valued trading partner of Argentina. In recent years, trade between our countries has increased significantly. Between 2016 and 2021, the value of our bilateral trade rose from USD 118.9 million to USD 208.9 million. According to the provisional data for 2021, Argentine exports amounted to USD 183.2 million and imports to USD 24.9 million. Our main exports to New Zealand are animal feed, vehicles and vehicle parts, fruit and vegetables, seeds, and fats and oils. In turn, New Zealand provides us with machinery and mechanical equipment, optical appliances, paper and paperboard, electrical apparatus and pharmaceutical products.

4.154. Despite being the second largest exporter to New Zealand from Latin America, bilateral trade is still far from reaching its potential, influenced by the geographical distance and competition in certain export products. However, we consider that there are significant opportunities to expand trade.

4.155. Moreover, it should be highlighted that Argentina is interested in strengthening ties in the area of cooperation. We are of the view that cooperation in promoting agricultural technology companies, as well as in development-related experiences, is of mutual benefit to our countries.

4.156. We also highlight the recent resumption of the Working Holiday programme. We consider that this programme is key for personal exchanges and better understanding among our young people.

4.157. Turning to New Zealand's economic situation, it should be noted that, after a number of years of steady growth, the economy contracted by 3% in 2020. Argentina welcomes the containment-focused health measures and the expansionary macroeconomic policies, which have allowed for a strong recovery, protecting workers' incomes and jobs.

4.158. Argentina greatly appreciates New Zealand's contributions to the rules-based multilateral trading system and its active participation in the activities and bodies of the WTO. We would particularly like to highlight its multilateral efforts since 1986 to continue the agricultural trade reform process as a valued member of the Cairns Group.

4.159. New Zealand's excellent notification record should also be mentioned. It has submitted over 300 notifications to the WTO since 2015, demonstrating its serious commitment to transparency.

4.160. As part of this Trade Policy Review, we have submitted a series of questions to New Zealand on, *inter alia*, import prohibitions and restrictions, tariff measures, the "Trade Recovery Strategy", the "Trade for All" programme and the Customs and Excise Act 2018. We thank New Zealand in advance for its replies, which will be duly studied by our authorities in Buenos Aires.

4.161. To conclude, we reiterate our appreciation of this renewed opportunity to exchange reflections on this Member's trade practices. We wish the delegation of New Zealand a successful conclusion to this Review.

## UKRAINE

4.162. On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, I would like to warmly welcome the distinguished delegations of New Zealand led by H.E. Clare Kelly Permanent Representative to the WTO.

4.163. We appreciate the significant work of the Chair, the WTO Secretariat, discussant H.E. Mr. Stephen de Boer and the Government of New Zealand to prepare to this Review.

4.164. Ukraine welcomes the opportunity to participate in the sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand.

4.165. We are very grateful to New Zealand for the continued assistance and standing with Ukraine in these terrifying times and not remaining indifferent in the face of the unprecedented and illegal aggression of the Russian Federation.



4.166. We highly value New Zealand's principal position on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as active diplomatic efforts to support Ukraine in its fight against the aggressor.

4.167. New Zealand and Ukraine share common commitment to the rules-based international order that was undermined by the disastrous impact of the full-scale war, launched by the Russian Federation. The war continues to cause huge human suffering and economic losses, to destroy infrastructure and to block Ukrainian seaports, to affect the world economy and international trade, threatening food security.

4.168. We are extremely thankful to New Zealand for expressing its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemning Russian Federation's military assault on Ukraine at the various WTO meetings as well as for participation in the joint statements, circulated in support of Ukraine.

4.169. We would also like to recognize New Zealand's efforts to promote open and predictable agricultural trade and for co-sponsoring appropriate Joint Statement aimed, among other things, at achieving global food security.

4.170. Ukraine remains grateful for New Zealand's contribution to the multilateral trading system and appreciates our cooperation within the WTO.

4.171. We are looking forward to continue working with New Zealand and other WTO Members to deliver substantial outcomes at the MC12, including to avert negative repercussions of Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine on trade, development and food security.

4.172. Development of further partnership between our countries at bilateral level is also a matter of great importance for Ukraine.

4.173. In 2021, Ukrainian – New Zealand trade in goods increased by 23 % compared to 2020 and amounted to USD 35.4 million, trade in services raised by 39 % compared to the same period and amounted to USD 1.2 million.

4.174. These indicators of bilateral trade demonstrated its positive dynamics for both countries. Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine has placed unprecedented pressure on trading system, extreme uncertainty in financial markets, including the currency markets.

4.175. We are convinced that regardless the disaster in Ukraine made by Russian Federation's aggression and available challenges, we can continue strengthening our trade and economic relationship.

4.176. Further increase in trade in goods and services, enhancing collaboration between the businesses of our countries are the priority areas of our future bilateral cooperation in the economic area.

4.177. Given the importance of this TPR exercise, Ukraine raised some questions to New Zealand.

4.178. In particular, we are interested in finding out more about New Zealand's policy regarding the promotion of innovative practices in aquaculture industry and tourism sector, financial assistance to farmers participating in an emissions pricing scheme, advice on collaboration in the IP area.

4.179. We also take note of New Zealand's generous support to LDCs and a number of developing Members through granting reduced tariffs under its GSP. We consider trade liberalization, including through preferential tariff treatment, as of extreme importance for recovery of our economy after the Russian Federation-brought destructions and support for future economic growth. Therefore, we posed questions concerning particularities of New Zealand's GSP and its current review process.

4.180. I would like to express our gratitude for the written responses to our questions and we wish the delegation of New Zealand a very successful Trade Policy Review.

## CHINA

4.181. I would like to thank Ambassador Clare Kelly for leading the delegation of New Zealand to this Trade Policy Review and appreciate the Government of New Zealand for the preparation work. I would also like to express my gratitude to the discussant, Ambassador Mr Stephen de Boer for his insightful comments and guiding questions. Many thanks also go to you, Chair, and the Secretariat for the valuable contribution to this Review.

4.182. Let me start by commending New Zealand for its continuing development achievements during the review period. As mentioned in the Secretariat report, the economy of New Zealand grew at an average annual rate of 3.4%, even with the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its exports and imports of goods and services.

4.183. China welcomes the continuous efforts of the New Zealand Government in trade and investment liberalization. The Trade for All Agenda and a set of reforms to simplify its foreign investment regime are very impressive. Apparently, New Zealand's economic openness and international trade contribution play important roles in supporting its economic performance. This might be the most vivid illustration that openness instead of protectionism or unilateralism is the right path leading to prosperity.

4.184. On the multilateral front, China highly commends the firm commitments and continuous contribution of New Zealand to the rules-based multilateral trading system, especially in the most difficult situation, when the WTO is facing the biggest existential challenges since its establishment. In this regard, we want to express our sincere thanks to New Zealand's leading role in this Organization. Among them, I just name a few, such as the GC Chair, the DSB Chair and the Facilitator of WTO response to the pandemic.

4.185. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand. Over the past half a century, New Zealand has been several "first" in China's bilateral relationships with developed countries. It is the first developed country China signed the Free Trade Agreement with, and both sides witnessed the fast development in our bilateral trade relations. Bilateral economic and trade cooperation in 2021 exceeded pre-pandemic levels in all respects, with the bilateral trade increasing by 36.4% year on year to USD 24.72 billion. China continues to be New Zealand's largest trading partner since 2015, accounting for nearly 30% of New Zealand's total exports of goods and services.

4.186. On 7 April 2022, the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement between China and New Zealand came into effect. It further improves access to the Chinese market for New Zealand exporters and reflects the new trends in trade and business models between the two countries. New commitments made in the upgraded FTA further facilitate New Zealand's exports to China, and reduce compliance costs for New Zealand exporters. A range of non-tariff issues have been addressed, such as a six-hour limit on customs clearance of perishable goods and proper storage while pending release.

4.187. While recognizing that New Zealand launched a broad reform to simplify its foreign investment screening regime, we note that New Zealand has expanded the coverage of high-risk transactions and sensitive assets, which has in some way created uncertainties for normal business activities such as investment acquisition, etc. We hope that New Zealand could ensure its foreign investment screening regime continues to be transparent, predictable, and non-discriminatory, and give confidence to investors to invest in New Zealand.

4.188. Finally, we would like to once again thank the New Zealand delegation for their timely responses to our questions and wish this Review a complete success.

## UNITED KINGDOM

4.189. Let me welcome the delegation of New Zealand, represented by Ambassador Kelly to this, New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review. And what better week to be doing it, when we are both celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

4.190. The United Kingdom is grateful to New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for producing their respective reports. I wish also to express our thanks to you, Chair, and to our discussant, Ambassador de Boer, for ably facilitating this review and setting the scene so well.

4.191. Before delving into the detail, let me underline how much the United Kingdom values New Zealand's partnership inside this house. That ranges from the multilateral agenda - where we have benefitted from New Zealand's recent stewardship of processes across dispute settlement, the DG selection process and health - to the plurilateral agenda, where New Zealand's inject energy and pragmatism across the Joint Initiatives.

4.192. A concrete foundation beneath that active work, we deeply value your partnership on protecting the integrity of the international rules-based system, both inside and outside the WTO. Most recently that has meant demonstrating our joint solidarity with Ukraine, in the face of the illegal Russian Federation invasion - where your position here has been reinforced by new policy back home, including on sanctions.

4.193. It goes without saying that New Zealand and the United Kingdom enjoy a close and historic relationship. Even after the last cricket test series. In 2021, total trade between the UK and New Zealand was worth GBP 2.5 billion, having grown 13% between 2014 and 2019. In 2020 alone, UK foreign direct investment in New Zealand was worth GBP 900 million and almost 6,000 UK SMEs exported goods to New Zealand, employing well over 200,000 people. There are also significant similarities between our economies, in which services represent the lion's share of GDP economic activity.

4.194. Turning to the Reports, let me salute New Zealand's advocacy for mutually supportive trade and environment outcomes. And we should all be thankful to New Zealand for highlighting the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, including through extra unpaid care work, increased gender-based violence, and economic disparity and insecurity. It is right and proper to draw attention to these important areas.

4.195. New Zealand's Report also highlights the adoption in 2018 of the Trade for All Agenda. The modernization of public participation in trade policy development is something we should all be learning from - to ensure that trade continues to innovate, and deliver for 21<sup>st</sup> century business and society.

4.196. As outlined in the Secretariat's Report, the United Kingdom congratulates New Zealand for updating and modernizing its customs legislation. As the Report rightly acknowledges, New Zealand remains one of the most open economies in the world. Indeed, such are New Zealand's efforts to innovate, it consistently tops the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index - an accolade that we are certainly aspiring to, as we also seek to use trade and regulation to boost growth and jobs.

4.197. On 28 February, New Zealand and the United Kingdom took their bilateral relationship to a new level, signing a comprehensive, modern Free Trade Agreement, which sets the pace for FTAs globally.

4.198. This is a deal that will remove 100% of tariffs without exception, and we expect that the FTA will increase UK trade with New Zealand by almost 60%. And through the modern rules of origin agreed, businesses will be able to better take advantage of tariff elimination without the need to significantly change their supply chains.

4.199. As well as protection for investors and cutting-edge data and intellectual property rules, this modern partnership will set the stage for greater cooperation on issues such as climate change and digital trade.

4.200. And the agreement also includes a ground-breaking Environment Chapter which reinforces our commitments from Paris and Glasgow, and our efforts to meet net zero through greening global trade. It will, of course, liberalise tariffs on a large list of environmental goods and encourage trade and investment in low carbon services and technology.

4.201. It also upholds high standards and fosters collaboration on shared challenges, such as promoting gender equality and unfair trading practices, and creates the right conditions for decades

of future growth, security and innovation to help the UK and New Zealand thrive in a changing world. To New Zealand's credit, the agreement also recognizes the importance and value of Māori to New Zealand's economy and society, and the unique relationship between the UK, New Zealand, and Māori.

4.202. We look forward to presenting this deal jointly to the CRTA, and hope some of the provisions can inspire others. We also welcome New Zealand's very constructive approach to the UK's ambition to accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership.

4.203. In closing, let me thank Clare and her New Zealand colleagues here and back home for their continued engagement in this review Body and for their invaluable contribution to this Organization, to effective multilateralism, and the cause of open and free trade. We wish New Zealand a fruitful sixth Trade Policy Review.

## THAILAND

4.204. Thailand would like to associate itself with the ASEAN statement to be delivered by Ambassador Kemvichet Long of Cambodia.

4.205. It is our pleasure to participate in the sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand and to welcome the delegation of New Zealand led by Ambassador Clare Kelly.

4.206. We would like to thank you Chair for your introductory remarks. Our appreciation also goes to Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada, for his insightful comments as discussant and the Government of New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for the comprehensive reports.

4.207. First of all, Thailand and New Zealand have had a strong bilateral relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. As an economy where agriculture, food, and tourism play a major role, Thailand and New Zealand have many things in common. While Thailand has rubber, fruits, and rice as top agricultural exports, New Zealand's answers to those are dairy products, meat, and wool. For both countries, tourism contributed significantly to GDP and employment before suffering from the impact of the pandemics and has now been on the road to recovery.

4.208. Thailand and New Zealand also have close economic and trade relations as both countries have successfully concluded several bilateral and regional trade agreements namely, Thailand-New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership (TNZCEP), Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to expand the bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

4.209. In terms of merchandise trade, the average total trade value between the two countries in 2021 amounted to approximately USD 2.72 billion which expanded by 39.87% from 2020 (highest growth rate in 11 years). Thailand hopes to expand the bilateral trade exchanges with New Zealand, particularly in agricultural sector, which Thailand still faces difficulties in complying with New Zealand's strict SPS requirements and we look forward to further dialogue and cooperation with New Zealand on this issue.

4.210. Thailand commends New Zealand's efforts in modernizing her trade policies and regulations across the board which have helped the country respond to new and emerging trade issues. Thailand also notes New Zealand's "Trade Recovery Strategy" launched in 2020. By virtue of the strategy, coupled with effective fiscal and monetary policy management, New Zealand could attain strong and quick economic recovery from the pandemic with GDP growth rate of 5.6% in 2021 according to Statistics New Zealand.

4.211. We also welcome New Zealand's "Trade for All" scheme, introduced in 2018, which provides an opportunity for all New Zealanders, including Māori to benefit from trade.

4.212. Tourism is another sector where Thailand and New Zealand could collaborate. Thailand notes that New Zealand has adopted a holistic approach to build resilience for the sector after the pandemic through various support programmes including the "Support, Recovery and Reset Plan".

Furthermore, Thailand would appreciate further collaboration in education and agriculture and food technology where New Zealand has strong expertise.

4.213. Last but not least, Thailand applauds New Zealand for her substantial contribution to the work of WTO. New Zealand has always been a strong supporter of the open and rule-based multilateral trading system and participated actively in various discussions/negotiations, including Agriculture, as an active member of Cairns Group, the WTO reform, and several plurilateral initiatives. Thailand commends New Zealand's consistent support of equitable access to COVID vaccines for all, not least by her active participation in the TRIPS waiver negotiation. Moreover, it would be remiss of Thailand not to mention one of the iconic figures of the WTO, Ambassador David Walker of New Zealand, for his leadership role as a Chair of Dispute Settlement Body in 2019 and Chair of General Council in 2020 and, most recently, as a facilitator in the WTO Response to the Pandemic which resulted in the highly acclaimed "The Walker's text" and Thailand looks forward to the meaningful outcome on this issue for the upcoming MC12.

4.214. In this review, Thailand has submitted questions on New Zealand's trade and economic policy, particularly on New Zealand's agricultural, services, and investment regimes especially on Investor-State-Dispute Settlement. We thank New Zealand for having responded to our questions.

4.215. In closing, Thailand appreciates New Zealand's active engagement in the WTO and able leadership of Ambassador Clare Kelly. We look forward to enhancing the cooperation between our two missions. Finally, Thailand wishes New Zealand a successful sixth Trade Policy Review.

## OMAN

4.216. It is a great pleasure for the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand and we join other WTO Members in welcoming the distinguished delegation of New Zealand headed by H.E. Mrs Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO, as well as her distinguished team.

4.217. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the WTO Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand for their detailed and comprehensive Trade Policy Review Reports. I also thank the discussant H.E. Mr. Stephen de Boer, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO.

4.218. The Sultanate of Oman and New Zealand enjoy a friendly relationship. We look forward to continuing engagement on trade issues.

4.219. The total volume of commercial bilateral trade between New Zealand and Sultanate of Oman in 2021 was about USD 47 million, the total import was around USD 37 million and the total exports was about USD 9 million.

4.220. Oman congratulates New Zealand as one of the most open economies in the world, the simple average applied MFN tariff rate was 2.2% in 2021 (2.4% in 2014).

4.221. New Zealand considers trade as critical for its prosperity and seeks to ensure that trade is inclusive. New Zealand has developed its new trade strategy, the Trade for All Agenda and also adopted the Trade Recovery Strategy.

4.222. Since last Review, many issues have been changed, New Zealand has updated and modernized its customs legislation, has launched a broad reform to simplify its foreign investment regime and has enhanced the coverage of high-risk transactions. On IP, New Zealand acceded to four new WIPO treaties.

4.223. New Zealand is a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and remains actively engaged at the WTO. It took leadership roles as chairs of various WTO bodies.

4.224. As the international community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand supports a temporary TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines.

4.225. New Zealand became the first country in the world to pass legislation requiring all listed companies and large financial institutions to report on their climate related risks as key priority for the New Zealand Government is responding to climate change, supporting sustainability and ensuring a just transition to a low carbon economy.

4.226. As we are approaching from MC12, Oman looks forward to New Zealand continuing contributions and constructive role in the WTO.

4.227. In the end, I would like to thank the delegation of New Zealand in advance for their replies to our questions on specific aspects of its trade policy.

4.228. To conclude, the delegation of Oman wishes the delegation of New Zealand a very successful sixth Trade Policy Review.

## ECUADOR

4.229. First of all, Ecuador would like to welcome the delegation of New Zealand, led by its Permanent Representative to the WTO, Ambassador Clare Kelly, and the other members of its diplomatic mission who are joining us. My delegation would also like to express its gratitude to the WTO Secretariat and New Zealand for the reports that they have submitted and for the responses given to the questions from Member States. I would similarly like to acknowledge the work of the Ambassador of Canada, Mr Stephen de Boer, as the discussant in this exercise.

4.230. Ecuador joins the others in congratulating New Zealand for its effective management of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. As shown in the Report, sound economic management, combined with its response to the pandemic, afforded the country greater resilience in the face of the emergency.

4.231. This exercise has given us the opportunity to review the figures on trade between New Zealand and Ecuador, and we note that we still have horizons to expand and opportunities to explore in order for trade to increase to the benefit of both countries. If we compare levels with other nations in the geographical area of New Zealand and Ecuador, we might need to work on promoting trade in the near future. Ecuador therefore hopes that our countries will extend our commercial ties, and we believe that there is potential for identifying areas of trade that would benefit our economies, which need to diversify the markets with which they interact.

4.232. In this vein, I would stress that Ecuador sees the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) as an ideal arena in which to expand our economic and trade relations with not only New Zealand, but also other countries party to the Agreement. Ecuador formally submitted its application to join the Partnership in December last year and we eagerly await approval of our application as soon as the relevant procedures have been completed.

4.233. In addition, my delegation would like to know more about the policies introduced by New Zealand to promote innovation and create a climate that encourages private enterprise, as outlined in the reports under review. The questions that Ecuador has put to New Zealand for the purposes of this trade policy review concern the investment and dispute settlement mechanism, deals involving sensitive land and the grant scheme in the context of foreign investment.

4.234. To conclude, I wish to underscore that we share New Zealand's commitment to a multilateral system of effective, efficient and active trade, and that we are also actively participating in negotiations in areas such as agriculture and fisheries subsidies. Agricultural products are an important component of the trade balance of both countries and their economies, thanks to efficient private sectors. We therefore share the goal of eliminating subsidies that can cause market distortions, including in agricultural markets.

4.235. I once again congratulate the delegation of New Zealand for participating in this review and wish them every success with it.

## ICELAND

4.236. It is with pleasure that Iceland welcomes the distinguished delegation of New Zealand to their Trade Policy Review today. We also express appreciation to the WTO Secretariat as well as New Zealand for the reports prepared, as well as to the discussant, H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer, for the excellent framing of the issues for our discussion today.

4.237. Since the last Trade Policy Review, New Zealand, has continued to strengthen its position as one of the most open economies in the world and a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system. We appreciate New Zealand's active engagement in the WTO.

4.238. Our countries have a history of working together to advance and strengthen global trade rules. More than twenty years ago, we were among a group of WTO Members that established the informal group known as "Friends of fish" – advocating for an agreement to prohibit harmful fisheries subsidies. An endeavour that we hope will bear fruit at the upcoming MC12.

4.239. We work closely together under the Ministerial Statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform and the Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions. We are among six WTO Members that are currently engaged in negotiations for an ambitious pathfinder Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability.

4.240. And as one of the co-chairs of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender, Iceland appreciates New Zealand's constructive participation and the good cooperation our countries have on trade and gender.

4.241. This work is particularly pertinent in the current global environment. COVID-19 related challenges continue to be felt and have been recognized to unevenly impact societies and populations. The economic and trade impacts of the pandemic have had a disproportionately adverse impact on women.

4.242. The same applies to the consequences of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which Iceland condemns in the strongest possible terms. Russian Federation's brutal invasion has compounded the economic vulnerabilities of Ukrainian women. And according to Oxfam – women will bear the brunt of the looming food crises which has been exacerbated by the invasion.

4.243. It is therefore important to address women's economic empowerment at the WTO. Doing so will benefit economies in concrete ways by having a positive effect on trade and contributing to increased economic growth.

4.244. This fact is well recognized by New Zealand, and we welcome its new trade strategy, Trade for All Agenda, where New Zealand aims for an inclusive trade policy that will benefit all – including women.

4.245. The sharing of best practices of respective experiences relating to policies and rulemaking on advancing women's economic empowerment is an important element of our work.

4.246. In the spirit of supporting relevant data gathering in this field, Iceland has submitted in advance written questions on the participation of women in the economy of New Zealand. We welcome the replies as the answers will be useful in gathering best practices in the promotion of gender-equality within trade.

4.247. Finally, Iceland once again appreciates New Zealand's firm support to the multilateral trading system and its active engagement in the WTO. We wish the delegations of New Zealand every success for their Trade Policy Review.

## URUGUAY

4.248. Uruguay would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of New Zealand, led by Ambassador Clare Kelly, on the occasion of the sixth review of its trade policies. We thank Ms Kelly



for her presentation. We also express our thanks to the Secretariat for its comprehensive report and to the Ambassador of Canada, Stephen de Boer.

4.249. Our countries have maintained important ties of friendship for several decades. We both have a similar production structure, based on exports of high-quality food to the rest of the world. This is why we cooperate closely on matters related to agriculture, livestock and agro-industry, and have reaffirmed this cooperation through the bilateral agreement that we signed in 2019. Since both our countries are very highly focused on dairy production, we have submitted a question on the new Dairy Industry Restructuring Act, which affects the operations of Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited in particular.

4.250. At the multilateral level, we are members of the Friends of Fish Group and have co-sponsored ambitious proposals to curb harmful subsidies for high seas fishing. These proposals are set out in the Chair's text. In that vein, we are calling for a substantive agreement to curb such measures after more than 20 years of negotiations.

4.251. We are also founding members of the Cairns Group. We share a great deal of ambition in terms of reforming commitments in agriculture in preparation for the Twelfth Ministerial Conference, which will begin in the coming days.

4.252. In these two areas, I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for the hard work of Ambassador Kelly and her team on coordinating positions and for constantly maintaining a constructive approach when responding to our demands in this pillar of the negotiations.

4.253. New Zealand is part of the Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and we see in this sixth Review that New Zealand has incorporated most of the recommendations agreed upon by the Group. This issue is consistently mentioned in every trade policy described in the Government's report. I would like to highlight the support for digital training as part of the post-pandemic recovery, the links between MSMEs and indigenous peoples, trade facilitation measures related to customs procedures and the Inclusive Trade Action Group initiative. In this regard, we have asked a question about how the Trade for All agenda functions, especially in the MSME internationalization process.

4.254. We both agree that the WTO plays a central role in the rules-based multilateral trading system, and we share the need to ensure that it remains relevant in the future and can rise to any occasion. That is why we are working hard to guarantee that the outcome of this Ministerial Conference reflects this vision.

4.255. In closing, we would like to reiterate our appreciation for this new opportunity to discuss New Zealand's trade practices and we look forward to continued cooperation on all fronts – bilaterally and here in the WTO.

4.256. Thank you and best wishes for a successful Review.

## TÜRKİYE

4.257. We welcome the delegation of New Zealand headed by Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO.

4.258. We thank the Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand for their detailed reports as well as discussant Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada for his invaluable remarks.

4.259. Since its previous review, New Zealand continued to be one of the most open economies in the world.

4.260. Economic and monetary policies have supported its economic resilience although the pandemic had a strong impact in the country.

4.261. We believe that newly developed Trade for All Agenda and Trade Recovery Strategy will not only generate a sustainable and inclusive trade environment but also will assist to overcome the economic and social consequences of the pandemic.



4.262. We commend New Zealand's active participation in negotiations, discussions and work of the WTO regular bodies. We are also pleased to see New Zealand's participation in all the joint statement initiatives.

4.263. Türkiye would like to further expand the depth and scope of its ties with the Asia-Pacific countries through its Asia Anew policy.

4.264. We see New Zealand as an important partner to explore possibilities which could enhance our cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

4.265. In order to increase the bilateral trade volume and investments, we believe that we should explore the potential cooperation areas.

4.266. We consider that benefitting from both countries' expertise in relevant areas such as agriculture, animal husbandry, construction and tourism would advance our economic and trade relations.

4.267. We believe that an easier and timely visa facilitation mechanism would encourage businesspeople to develop interest in trade and investment.

4.268. In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Kelly and her able team for the excellent preparation for this review, as well as their constructive contributions to WTO activities.

4.269. We wish New Zealand a successful Trade Policy Review.

## INDIA

4.270. Let me begin my statement by extremely warm welcome the delegation of New Zealand, led by H.E. Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO.

4.271. India is pleased to participate in the sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand, and I would like to commend the WTO Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand for their comprehensive reports. I would also take this opportunity to thank the discussant H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer for his insightful remarks.

4.272. India and New Zealand share warm and cordial relations underpinned by the growing bilateral trade and investment flows and expanding people-to-people linkages. Both India and New Zealand are vibrant and multicultural democracies, and these shared principles lay a sound foundation for further strengthening our bilateral ties. In recent years, the leadership of both countries have shown significant interest in innovating all aspects of the relationship to the next level.

4.273. Prime Minister Arden and Prime Minister Modi in their last bilateral meeting have discussed steps to intensify political, economic, defence, security, and people-to-people relations. Our bilateral trade has maintained a steady growth with trade volume of about USD 1.5 billion in 2021.

4.274. Despite the global economic slowdown due to the pandemic, Indian exports have recorded an increase in 2021 compared to the previous year and this includes sectors such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, pearls, precious stones, metal, textiles, etc.

4.275. Besides bilateral trade, two-way investments, particularly Indian investment in New Zealand have been growing in recent years. Several Indian firms, especially Indian IT companies, have made investments in New Zealand. The cumulative investment inflows into India from New Zealand stands at about USD 8 billion. While our trade and investment ties are maintaining a steady growth, there is a significant potential for expanding and diversifying it. We remain committed to harness the full potential of our trade and economic ties.

4.276. As noted in the Secretariat Report, despite witnessing a contraction by 2.1% in their GDP in 2020, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand's economy has weathered the

pandemic really well. In this regard, I would like to compliment the Government of New Zealand for the creative Trade Recovery Strategy adopted by them in this regard.

4.277. We also note that the adoption of various legislative amendments and updates in key policy measures undertaken by the Government of New Zealand during the review period, notably in the areas in the areas of customs regulation, intellectual property regime, SPS, and also competition framework to name a few. In this regard, we also would like to highlight that New Zealand's stringent SPS and regulatory requirements have posed challenges to our exporters in several areas such as food and pharmaceuticals, to name a few.

4.278. Furthermore, several other non-tariff barriers like administrative and licensing requirements, quantitative restrictions, labelling, etc. remain obstacles to further expanding our bilateral trade. We hope that New Zealand Government will continue to review its policy and the regulatory framework to address these concerns. We have submitted a number of written questions to New Zealand during this TPR in these areas and we wait for the responses which will be reviewed by our capital.

4.279. Finally, we acknowledge the participation of New Zealand in various pillars of work in the WTO, both of our countries share a commitment for a strong and effective multilateral trading system, and we look forward to working closely with New Zealand in assuring balanced outcomes in the ongoing negotiations, particularly in view of the ensuing MC12.

4.280. I wish the delegation of New Zealand a productive and successful Trade Policy Review.

#### MAURITIUS

4.281. We warmly welcome the New Zealand delegation led by H.E. Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, for their sixth Trade Policy Review.

4.282. We thank both New Zealand and the Secretariat for their respective reports that provide updated information on the trade and trade related measures implemented by New Zealand during the period under review.

4.283. We also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador de Boer, Permanent Representative of Canada, for his insightful remarks and comments as discussant, that provide added value to the review.

4.284. We commend the New Zealand authorities for the various measures adopted and implemented to recover from the effects of the pandemic and to stay on a path of sustainable growth. The wide consultations carried by the Government of New Zealand in view of supporting exporters, reforming the WTO and refreshing trade agreements are testimony to the country's inclusive approach to policy development as well as its commitment to a rule-based and open trading system.

4.285. Mauritius supports New Zealand's approach and congratulates the latter for also taking meaningful steps towards greening its economy. Their goal to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 is highly commendable. Indeed, trade and sustainable development are inextricably linked and must be addressed in a coherent manner. As a small island developing state, we wish to emphasize our reliance on a clean environment and our fight against global warming and take this opportunity to thank New Zealand for its consistent support in pursuing the SIDS agenda in multilateral fora.

4.286. Mauritius and New Zealand share excellent relations and a number of similar characteristics. We are both relatively small countries, surrounded by the ocean, rely on our human capital as our main asset, and we both are strong supporters of open trade and investment. We wish to further build on such similarities that provide excellent opportunities to upscale our cooperation on trade and investment through the establishment of new trade and economic cooperation agreements. This will no doubt add new dimensions to our resilient relations, as reflected by the fact that trade exchange between our two countries remains unaffected by the pandemic.

4.287. We believe that Mauritius and New Zealand could significantly increase bilateral trade and improve the trade balance which is largely in favour of New Zealand. Furthermore, given our exposure to ocean resources, Mauritius and New Zealand may cooperate in areas such as fisheries,

aquaculture, and blue economy. It is in this respect that the Mauritius authorities have proposed a cooperation instrument on fisheries.

4.288. Services is an increasingly important sector of the global economy and Mauritius as a service-oriented economy looks ahead to collaborate with New Zealand on a number of services products, particularly for tourism and financial services which are important sectors of both our economies. For instance, Mauritius being an internationally recognized financial centre can be a platform for New Zealand companies looking to structure their investments on Africa and through the region.

4.289. We are also glad to note that New Zealand is rapidly progressing in the area of intellectual property both through accession to new WIPO treaties and by taking new IP commitments in its FTAs. Mauritius has recently taken the path of modernizing its IP environment and we would welcome further collaboration on IP projects and initiatives between our two countries.

4.290. We commend the role of New Zealand in the multilateral trade system, including at the WTO. As we move closer to MC12, we look forward to working closely with the New Zealand delegation for a balanced and effective outcome on the various issues under discussions as well as in the promotion and consolidation of a balanced and equitable rule-based multilateral trading system.

4.291. Let me conclude by wishing New Zealand a successful Review.

#### JAMAICA

4.292. Jamaica is delighted to participate in the sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand, which provides an opportunity to exchange with the delegation headed by H.E. Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative to the WTO. We thank you Chair for the arrangements for the meeting, and commend our discussant, Ambassador Stephen de Boer, for setting the stage for today's review exercise. We also appreciate the comprehensive reports prepared by the Government of New Zealand and the Secretariat.

4.293. Jamaica and New Zealand continue to enjoy mutually fruitful relations, including an active trading relationship. Although Jamaica has consistently recorded a trade deficit with New Zealand, over the last three years, there has been a gradual decline in the trade deficit. This may be attributed to both the reduction in the level of imports from New Zealand as well as a gradual increase in Jamaica's exports of rum and other spirits to the country. Jamaica notes that scotch bonnet pepper has been included as a hyper-regional food trend on New Zealand's Par Avion "Top 25 Food Trends for 2020" and welcomes the opportunity to increase its exports of sauces and condiments to the country.

4.294. Jamaica appreciates the support provided by the Government of New Zealand through technical assistance for the anti-dumping investigation procedures; training in rules of origin; advice on the implementation of Jamaica's revised foreign trade policy, and conducting trade negotiations. We believe there is tremendous scope for revived cooperation in several areas, such as climate change, disaster risk management, environmental management and the management of land as a resource.

4.295. We note positively that during the review period, New Zealand recorded robust economic growth, with exports and imports accounting for 55% of GDP. Although impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of sound policy measures by the Government is facilitating the country's rapid and strong recovery from the crisis. We commend the government's health-led approach to the pandemic, as well as fiscal support to businesses and households through its COVID-19 Response and Recover Fund. These measures aimed at safeguarding lives and livelihoods of its people.

4.296. We, however, note that there remain challenges to the services sector, particularly international education and tourism, as well as the impact of cumulative stresses on smaller businesses. The ongoing efforts by the Government to alleviate these sector-specific difficulties should be supported. The Government has also pledged its commitment to responsible, transparent and prudent fiscal management, so as to ensure stable prices and maximum sustainable

employment. To this end, we are encouraged by the authorities' positive outlook on future economic growth and note positively that annual average real GDP projected to be 4.9% in 2023.

4.297. Jamaica welcomes the high importance accorded by New Zealand to its participation in the rules-based multilateral trading system. The Government's report indicates that one in every four New Zealander is involved in export-related work and that trade is an important driver of productivity, employment and incomes. As such, respect for trade rules remain crucial for trade to flow smoothly, predictably and freely. We view favourably the indications that New Zealand's free trade agreements are also underpinned by WTO rules. Jamaica further applauds the entry into force of the WTO's Trade Facilitation and provision of financial resources to support the participation of developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in various technical negotiations, as well as Aid for Trade (AFT). We also commend the Government's advocacy for the participation of small island developing states and LDCs in international and intra-regional trade.

4.298. We appreciate the Government's focus on ensuring that trade is inclusive and sustainable. We note New Zealand's ongoing effort to transition to a low-carbon economy through the implementation of the 2019 Climate Change Response Amendment Act, and other legislation which will allow businesses and public institutions to become more energy efficient.

4.299. These and other activities augur well for the strengthening of the multilateral trading system, and ensuring that the benefits of trade redounds to all WTO Members.

4.300. The Government, in its report, highlighted its successful hosting of the APEC meeting in 2021, which agreed to support a reinvigorated WTO, and the need to secure meaningful outcomes at the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. Jamaica, therefore, commends New Zealand for its active participation in the work of the WTO in several areas, notably those related to the dispute settlement, the COVID-19 response, fisheries, agriculture and reform of the Organization.

4.301. We thank New Zealand for the significant contributions made by its Ambassadors, who have served as Chairs to the WTO's Committee on Agriculture in Special Session and its Sub-Committee on Cotton, the Dispute Settlement Body, and General Council. We further note the work undertaken by New Zealand's former Ambassador David Walker as facilitator of the discussions on the WTO's response to the pandemic. Jamaica, therefore, looks forward to continued active, and constructive engagement with the delegation under the leadership of Ambassador Kelly as we move closer towards the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

4.302. To conclude, Jamaica extends its best wishes to New Zealand for a successful Trade Policy Review.

#### SRI LANKA

4.303. My delegation welcomes delegation of New Zealand led by H.E. Ms Clare Kelly, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO. We thank the WTO Secretariat and the Government of New Zealand for their comprehensive Reports made available to the delegations and appreciate Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada on his insightful information and analysis as the discussant.

4.304. My delegation acknowledges that New Zealand continues to strengthen its position as one of the most open economies in the world, and very well integrated into international trade, investment, and enjoy favourable economic conditions with an increased emphasis on sustainable development.

4.305. However, the largest fall in New Zealand's real GDP was recorded in the second quarter of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the economy has rebounded strongly due to a substantial fiscal policy response focused on strengthening the pandemic's negative effects on households and businesses.

4.306. We have also noted that during the review period, New Zealand developed its new trade strategy: "Trade for All Agenda" in 2018 targeted to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development, adopted the Trade Recovery Strategy, modernized its customs legislation and launched a broad reform to simplify its foreign investment regime. In addition, SPS-related boarder

procedures have been streamlined through several reforms, including several IP laws being amended/adopted.

4.307. It is also significant to note that New Zealand remains committed to the rules-based multilateral trading system and actively participates in WTO activities. It took leadership roles as chairs of various WTO bodies, including the General Council in 2020, and participated in discussions on JSIs. New Zealand also supports a TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines on its own terms and accords, and reforms to strengthen the WTO. New Zealand ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and also joined the Agreement on Government Procurement.

4.308. We have also noted that New Zealand is also pursuing its trade objectives through several regional and bilateral initiatives together with number of economies across the globe.

4.309. We noted that New Zealand has a strong agricultural, manufacturing and services base, and it has taken several regulatory and policy measures to expand the contribution of these sectors to the economy, while promoting innovations and limiting the sectors' environmental footprint.

4.310. New Zealand has stated in the WTO committees that its dairy sector is not subsidized and due to their farmers' efficiency, their products can compete in the international markets. It is, however, observed in the Reports and from the responses provided that the New Zealand's dairy sector is benefitting from Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFFF) programme. It is stated that the sector under "Resilient Dairy programme" seeks to drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of the national dairy herd and a step-change in sustainable milk production. It is very interesting to gather more information on this programme, particularly on the amount of outlay being given to the dairy sector and how far such funding had help dairy farmers in increasing their production and incomes, which gives the dairy industry an added comparative advantage enabling them to compete in the international markets, including in Sri Lanka, which maintains very low applied tariffs.

4.311. The trade relations between Sri Lanka and New Zealand stand at a moderate level. Total trade between the two countries was USD 309 million in 2021. Sri Lanka's exports to New Zealand has increased to its highest value in 2021 recording USD 33 million, in which Ceylon tea has become the major exporting item, while apparel, pneumatic tyres, coconut-based products are the other main exports to New Zealand. Sri Lanka's imports from New Zealand was USD 276 million in 2021, and milk powder has become the major importing item from New Zealand.

4.312. Sri Lanka is a beneficiary country under the New Zealand-GSP scheme, which is in operation since 1972 and provides duty-free and preferential market access for specified manufactured and semi-manufactured goods. Sri Lanka has exported USD 14 million worth goods to New Zealand in 2021 under the New Zealand GSP scheme.

4.313. Sri Lanka has received FDI, total worth of USD 13 million from New Zealand during 2005 to 2020 period and hosted a substantial number of tourists from New Zealand in the past few years.

4.314. The first Session of the Foreign Office consultation between Sri Lanka and New Zealand was held in April 2021, aiming to further strengthening bilateral relations in terms of people-to-people links, defence cooperation, bilateral trade, investments, and development cooperation, and Sri Lanka proposed to create a favourable environment for high potential export products, while inviting New Zealand to invest or relocate technology and research based- industries in the areas of dairy products and food processing sector, ITC-BPO, agriculture, fisheries etc. in Sri Lanka.

4.315. The Agreement on the establishment of a dialogue on Trade and Economic Cooperation between New Zealand and Sri Lanka has been drafted, and both parties are currently in the process of exchanging observations to finalise the said agreement, with the objectives of (i) improving the basis for trade, investment and cooperation in a number of sectors, including agriculture, education, tourism, energy, health, financial services, etc.; (ii) exploring policy and structural issues in the development and diversification of two-way trade; (iii) enhancing policy cooperation; and (iv) providing a framework to address and resolve trade and economic related issues between the two countries.

4.316. It is significant to mention that New Zealand has been a long-standing trading and development partner to Sri Lanka. Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited New Zealand along with a high level ministerial and business delegation in 2016. New Zealand opened its High Commission Office in Colombo in 2021. New Zealand and Sri Lanka also share a strong people-to-people links and many commonalities as island nations and Commonwealth members.

4.317. Furthermore, Sri Lanka believes that there are many areas to be discovered to strengthen the bilateral relations between New Zealand and Sri Lanka, and we look forward to exploring those opportunities.

4.318. In concluding, Sri Lanka wishes the delegation of New Zealand a successful deliberation and productive outcomes on its sixth Trade Policy Review.

## FIJI

4.319. Fiji welcomes the delegation of New Zealand headed by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, and her distinguished delegation we commend with appreciation the Government of New Zealand's dedication and efforts which led to the successful compilation and reporting of its sixth Trade Policy Review, we also recognize and thank the Secretariat for its accompanying comprehensive review Report.

4.320. Fiji wishes to recognize and commend New Zealand in this forum for all it has done for Fiji's socio-economic development in many ways. Traditionally, Fiji is connected to New Zealand and value our neighbour in many ways and we want to thank them for all they have done and will continue to do for Fiji and our Pacific neighbours. Fiji and New Zealand in fact share strong historical ties that has endured beyond 50 years.

4.321. New Zealand is not only our neighbour but an important development partner for Fiji in countless ways. Not only that we are connected culturally, there are countless cooperation through socio-economic, political, sports, health care, seasonal employer scheme, remittances and more. When it comes to sports particularly in the game of rugby, whether it's the 7's code or 15's code the traditional spirit of rivalry is beyond measure demonstrating how closely we could be competitors but affirmed in our family unity. This has resulted in the enhanced sports diplomacy in our region with an inclusion of two Pacific teams joining the well-known Super Rugby code increasing returns and employment to our people.

4.322. We learned from New Zealand in the region in a number of ways, one of which is New Zealand's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which the world also recognizes. Fiji's response to the pandemic in our view would not have been successful without the Government of New Zealand's support, In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand has been instrumental in Fiji's response through the COVID-19 vaccines sharing program and PPE's. During the lockdown in Fiji when many Fijians lost their jobs and the tourism industry came to a standstill, remittance flow from New Zealand for instance continues which helped sustain our economy and where remittance flow became one of our key contributors to our GDP.

4.323. On the issue of Climate Change, New Zealand not only has taken the lead in monitoring carbon footprints domestically it has also stretched its hands beyond its international borders to help those at the frontline battling the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as in Fiji likewise Pacific during their hours of need. This includes rebuilding of schools and hospitals shattered by tropical cyclones which has been decimating homes, infrastructure, livelihoods on a more frequent and more intense basis.

4.324. New Zealand knows best our trade and socio-economic needs and our limited capacities to effectively trade and contribute to the global value chain process as a trade champion economy in our region. As in the case of Fiji, this has culminated in the recent partnership agreement signed in March 2022 by Fiji's Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and New Zealand's Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Bainimarama and Hon. Mahuta respectively titled the "Duavata Partnership: Aotearoa Whenua Manapori o Whiti Tauaki Mahitahi". The partnership agreement would enhance Fiji's efforts in building resilience in the areas of climate change, security and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. With opening of New Zealand borders recently, tourism and



trade has slowly been normalised between our two countries which brings both our two countries to the road of economic recovery.

4.325. New Zealand is also a traditional supplier of tourism and is also a key trading partner for Fiji having signed a number of regional and bilateral trade agreements.

4.326. At the multilateral forum, Fiji works closely with New Zealand in a number of areas such as fossil fuel subsidies amongst others. As we head to the MC12 in the coming weeks, we look forward to continue to work together on the remaining elements of our work for a successful MC12 that would best serve the interest of our region.

4.327. Finally, we wish to underscore that Fiji works closely with the New Zealand delegation in Geneva headed by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, also recognize former Permanent Representative, Ambassador Walker, and the New Zealand staff within the WTO but all other United Nations and other Organizations in Geneva and we thank them for their support, professionalism and dedication.

4.328. To H.E. Stephen de Boer, Thank you very much for standing in to be the discussant for this important TPR and for your comprehensive Report.

#### COSTA RICA

4.329. On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of New Zealand, led by H.E. Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO, and her team here in Geneva, and to thank them for their Report and excellent presentation this morning. I would also like to extend my thanks to Ambassador de Boer for his insightful comments and to the WTO Secretariat for the Report that it has prepared.

4.330. Costa Rica is pleased to participate in New Zealand's Trade Policy Review.

4.331. Costa Rica would like to emphasize the great importance that New Zealand attaches to the WTO in its economic integration strategy, as well as its strong support for the multilateral trading system. Like New Zealand, Costa Rica participates in joint initiatives in areas such as plastics pollution and environmentally sustainable plastics trade; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); investment facilitation; electronic commerce; services domestic regulation; and trade and environmental sustainability.

4.332. In connection with this review specifically, we note the economic stability and resilience shown in the face of the health crisis caused by COVID-19. While it is true that the pandemic had a major impact on the economy in 2020, the timely implementation of appropriate public policies, coupled with the competitiveness of New Zealand's export sector, prevented the adverse effects from being prolonged. This shows that international trade plays a leading role in economic recovery in the post-pandemic period.

4.333. We have noted with interest that implementation of the Trade for All agenda has been at the centre of New Zealand's trade policy during the period under review. One of the most striking aspects of this programme is its inclusiveness and sustainability, which was the result of the broad public consultation process and Government's commitment to apply the recommendations arising from that process. Could New Zealand cite some examples of recommendations that have arisen from the agenda and that are already being incorporated into its trade policy? Were these recommendations taken into account when preparing the Trade Recovery Strategy?

4.334. For its part, the agricultural sector continues to play a decisive role in New Zealand's economy and foreign trade, accounting for more than half of all goods exports. The average applied MFN tariff on agricultural products remains low, as does its level of domestic support, which is used to finance activities falling under the "green box" classification, particularly those relating to research and development and biosecurity controls. However, around half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the agricultural sector. Could New Zealand elaborate on the principal measures it has taken to address this issue?

4.335. Another issue that we wish to highlight are amendments to anti-dumping and countervailing duties legislation, especially the introduction of a public interest clause in the application of this type

of trade measure. Since its introduction in 2017, has this provision been applied and, if so, has its application resulted in a reduction or elimination of anti-dumping or countervailing duties?

4.336. With respect to the issues of trade and sustainability, Costa Rica would like to acknowledge New Zealand's leadership. It is the founder of the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, which comprises 10 countries (including Costa Rica) that promote meaningful fossil fuel subsidy reform measures in various international forums. At the WTO, New Zealand led the 2021 Joint Ministerial Statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, signed by 45 Members.

4.337. In addition, New Zealand is leading negotiations on the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), one of the objectives of which is to combat climate change through international trade disciplines, thus bringing about a worldwide economic transformation that enhances global sustainability. Costa Rica is proud to be an active participant in this process alongside four other WTO Members.

4.338. Lastly, Costa Rica wishes New Zealand every success in this Trade Policy Review.

#### CAMBODIA ON BEHALF OF ASEAN

4.339. Cambodia is making this statement on behalf of ASEAN. ASEAN warmly welcomes the delegation from New Zealand led by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, to their sixth Trade Policy Review. We commend the Government of the New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for preparing such comprehensive reports. We also appreciate the overview by the discussant, H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada, which provides a useful summary of the matters under review.

4.340. Since New Zealand became ASEAN's Dialogue Partner in 1975, ASEAN-New Zealand relations have grown from strength to strength. In 2015, ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue relations were elevated to a strategic level through the Joint ASEAN-New Zealand Leaders' Statement on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations: Advancing our Strategic Partnership towards greater mutual benefit and prosperity. Since then, we commend the significant progress made in enhancing the partnership cooperation across the three ASEAN Community pillars such as political-security, economic, and socio-cultural.

4.341. In particular, until late 2019 before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the total two-way trade between ASEAN and New Zealand had seen a substantial increase over the years, standing at USD 7.8 billion in 2016 and reaching USD 10.3 billion in 2019. In 2020, at the height of COVID-19, the disruptions of regional and global supply chains and other associated issues only resulted in a slight decrease in the total trade volume only to roughly USD 9 billion. Thus, this demonstrates that ASEAN-New Zealand trade relations remain vigorous, robust, and resilient even against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, based on New Zealand's data, New Zealand's FDI outflow to ASEAN for the same year was valued at USD 371.8 million in 2020. We, therefore, applaud our concerted efforts in maintaining such strong economic linkages.

4.342. On the upgrade negotiations for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), ASEAN welcomed the progress achieved by the AANZFTA Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies. As Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022 targets substantial conclusion of AANZFTA upgrade negotiations by the 27<sup>th</sup> AEM-CER consultations by September 2022, ASEAN will continue to work closely with New Zealand and Australia, so as to intensify the negotiations to meet the targeted timeframe.

4.343. We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that the Agreement remains a high standard, fit for purpose, time-honoured, relevant for businesses and people, and responsive to the COVID-19 recovery.

4.344. One of our most recent achievements together is the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) on 15 November 2020, the largest free trade agreement in the world covering a market of 2.2 billion people (almost one third of the world's population), and with a combined size of USD 26.2 trillion or 30% of the world's GDP. RCEP entered into force on 1 January 2022.



4.345. ASEAN commends New Zealand's deposition of its instrument of ratification on 2 November 2021 and welcome New Zealand's efforts towards the full implementation of this Agreement with participating Members.

4.346. ASEAN further recognizes the important contributions of New Zealand to the international community, and its active engagement in the multilateral trading system, particularly in the WTO negotiations and the works of the various committees. ASEAN also acknowledges New Zealand's outstanding efforts in effectively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the role it has played in international cooperation in this domain, especially for the assistance New Zealand has provided to developing countries.

4.347. ASEAN-New Zealand relations have been solidified by building upon areas of mutual interest and comparative advantages on both sides. The partnership between the two parties continues to strengthen mutual trust and respect, foster good neighbourliness and deepen interdependence for mutual benefits.

4.348. Lastly, we congratulate New Zealand on their many achievements and look forward to deepening cooperation with H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team at the Geneva Mission.

4.349. Allow me to deliver Cambodia's national statement. Firstly, Cambodia associates ourselves with the ASEAN statement.

4.350. I would like congratulates New Zealand on maintaining its position as one of the most open economies in the world which has enabled the people of New Zealand to enjoy some of the highest living standards in the world as well as for New Zealand to be among the highest per capita income countries.

4.351. I would like to also commend New Zealand's sound and resilient economy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which could be attributed to New Zealand's strong trade competitiveness.

4.352. Cambodia and New Zealand enjoy a strong and highly complementary economic relationship through evolving bilateral and regional integration initiatives such as the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. We hope that these high-quality agreements will contribute to a deeper trade and economic relations between the two countries.

4.353. However, we noted that bilateral Cambodia-New Zealand trade in 2021 has increased by 7.4% to reach USD 30.58 million compared to USD 28.48 million in 2020. This is despite New Zealand's generous 100% duty-free, quota-free GSP scheme provided to Cambodia. Meanwhile, bilateral investment flows from New Zealand to Cambodia remains minimal.

4.354. On a separate topic, I would like to acknowledge New Zealand Aid Scholarships as one of the outstanding aid and scholarship programs in Cambodia, especially to support developing agriculture, trade capacity, and developing human resources. I am pleased to note that New Zealand has been providing 35 post-graduate and 23 short-term training scholarships each year to Cambodian students as well as English language training to 33 Cambodian officials in New Zealand and 25 participants in Cambodia each year.

4.355. We also appreciate the active engagement of New Zealand within the multilateral trading systems particularly activities under the WTO's councils, committees, and the negotiations.

4.356. Finally, we commit to working closely with the New Zealand in both bilateral and multilateral levels to strengthen our good cooperation for economic growth and development.

4.357. We wish the New Zealand a successful conclusion of its sixth Trade Policy Review.

#### REPUBLIC OF KOREA

4.358. I would like to join others in extending a warm welcome to the delegates of New Zealand for their sixth Trade Policy Review. I would like to thank the WTO Secretariat and the Government of

New Zealand for their informative reports. My appreciation also goes to the discussant, Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada for his insightful comments.

4.359. Korea appreciates this opportunity to take a closer look at the trade policies and practices New Zealand has undertaken since the last Trade Policy Review in 2015.

4.360. The economic relations between Korea and New Zealand have continued to deepen since the entry into force of the Korea-New Zealand FTA in 2015. Despite the unprecedented health and ensuing economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of bilateral trade in goods reached the record high in 2021, amounting to approximately USD 3.5 billion. Both countries enjoy mutually complementary economic relations, with Korea importing agricultural products, timber, and industrial materials from New Zealand, and New Zealand mainly purchasing refined oil, vehicles and electronic equipment from Korea. Korea is now New Zealand's sixth largest trading partner and fifth largest export market for goods.

4.361. Based on the robust two-way trade, Korea and New Zealand are reinforcing collaboration in areas of mutual interests, such as agriculture, forestry, digital economy including ICT, education and sustainability. Going forward, Korea has high hopes that both countries will further strengthen their economic ties.

4.362. Turning to New Zealand's overall economic performance, it is commendable that New Zealand Government's health-led approach to COVID-19 coupled with economic and fiscal support have shielded the economy from the worst impacts. New Zealand economy has performed better than prediction on almost every indicator, including real GDP growth and net debt forecast.

4.363. Regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea commends New Zealand's pioneering efforts to resist moves towards protectionism, and to ensure supply chain connectivity and free flow of essential goods even at the peak of the COVID-19 situation in 2020. All these efforts served as best examples for the APEC Trade Ministers' Joint Statement under New Zealand's APEC leadership in 2021. It is encouraging to note that, in line with these efforts, New Zealand enacted a tariff concession on COVID-19 vaccine-related products and is in the process of eliminating tariffs on these products on a permanent basis.

4.364. Korea welcomes New Zealand's new trade strategy, the Trade for All Agenda, which has been developed during the review period. The Agenda aims to ensure that New Zealand's trade policy benefit all New Zealanders and is supportive of other government policies for sustainable and inclusive economic development.

4.365. On the multilateral front, Korea commends New Zealand's commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and its active participation in WTO negotiations, including JSIs on e-commerce, investment facilitation, MSMEs, trade and gender, and trade and environment. New Zealand should also be praised for its constructive role in many different areas of the WTO, such as Ambassador-level chairmanship of the GC, DSB and CoASS. Furthermore, my delegation highly appreciates the unique contribution made by New Zealand's former WTO Ambassador, David Walker, as the independent facilitator of the WTO Appellate Body process and the WTO response to pandemic.

4.366. In advance of this review, Korea provided New Zealand with a short list of questions regarding foreign investment regime, ISDS provisions in trade agreements, and agricultural measures and practices. We thank New Zealand for its responses and will study them carefully. During the discussion today, we are interested in learning more about New Zealand's new initiatives on digital economy trade talks, namely, DEPA.

4.367. In closing, Korea values New Zealand as a vital partner on a broad range of important trade initiatives. My Government looks forward to continuing to work closely with New Zealand in our collective efforts to strengthen the multilateral trade system, in particular, for the success of MC12 and beyond.

4.368. That said, I would like to express, once again, my deep appreciation to Ambassador Clare Kelly and the delegation of New Zealand for their hard work and wish them every success in the sixth TPR.

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## MALAYSIA

4.369. Malaysia welcomes the opportunity to participate in New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review and would like to wish Ambassador Clare Kelly success in leading her delegation in this Review.

4.370. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both New Zealand's Government and the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive Trade Policy Review Reports and the discussant Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada, for his insightful comments and assessment of the New Zealand's trade policy development since its last Review.

4.371. Malaysia and New Zealand enjoy close and substantive economic relations not just on the bilateral front, but also within the context of regional economic integration through various collaborations under the ASEAN and APEC fora. New Zealand who took over the APEC chairmanship from Malaysia has convened a highly successful APEC 2021 and set the tone for an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery of the Asia-Pacific region.

4.372. On the multilateral front, Malaysia commends New Zealand's active and constructive role in many WTO initiatives that Malaysia has taken part in, such as the Joint Statement Initiatives and the Informal Working Group on MSMEs. Malaysia and New Zealand are also part of the Cairns Group members, and both are committed to improving the agricultural market condition.

4.373. In 2021, New Zealand was Malaysia's second most important trading partner, export destination, and import source in Oceania after Australia. Total trade in 2021 increased by 9.5% to USD 1.82 billion, from USD 1.64 billion in 2020. In the same period, Malaysia's exports to New Zealand increased by 15.7% to USD 1.06 billion compared to USD 0.91 billion in 2020, while imports increased by 1.6% to USD 3.12 billion compared to USD 3.07 billion in 2020.

4.374. On the investment front, as of December 2021, 41 manufacturing projects worth USD 79.9 million with participation from New Zealand had been approved and these projects are expected to generate 3,370 new employment opportunities.

4.375. For this current review, Malaysia had submitted written questions on areas such as government procurement, investment, sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, and agriculture.

4.376. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegation of New Zealand for responding to our questions and we shall examine the responses with great interest.

4.377. We wish the delegation of New Zealand a productive and successful sixth Trade Policy Review.

## PARAGUAY

4.378. The Republic of Paraguay would like to extend warm greetings to the delegation of New Zealand participating in this sixth Trade Policy Review. We would also like to thank you for conducting this review, as well as the Secretariat for its comprehensive Report.

4.379. The period covered by New Zealand's review was marked by the pandemic. This is reflected in the country's GDP which, after a period of sustained growth, albeit with minor slowdowns, shrank by 2.1% in 2020. This notwithstanding, we are pleased to note that New Zealand has weathered the pandemic relatively well and its real GDP is expected to grow by 5.1% in 2021, thanks to a solid and focused fiscal policy response and its private sector's ability to adapt, without resorting to protectionism.

4.380. With this, my delegation wants to highlight how, through concrete measures, but while remaining open to trade, New Zealand is showing good signs of an early post-pandemic recovery.

4.381. Even in the midst of the pandemic, it updated regional trade agreements already in force, and signed and put in place other highly ambitious agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This is in addition to the outward orientation of the country's markets, as reflected by its applied tariffs which averaged only 2.2% in 2021.

4.382. Like my own country, New Zealand is a net exporter of agri-food products and produces with few or no subsidies, despite having aggregate measurement of support (AMS) entitlements, and with no export subsidies. Not only does New Zealand refrain from using its AMS entitlements, but it has no plan to use them either.

4.383. As for the social and environmental dimensions, New Zealand is implementing programmes to ensure that its trade policy delivers benefits for all, such as the Trade for All agenda, and to lower agricultural greenhouse gas emissions with significant reduction commitments. It is doing so in a way that does not distort trade and meets its economic needs, thus fulfilling the three pillars of sustainability.

4.384. We congratulate New Zealand on its approach to these measures. My country believes that it is an example of the WTO's objectives in practice and is evidence of the benefits of free and predictable trade.

4.385. Within the WTO, we appreciate the support provided by the multilateral trading system and highlight the joint work that we are carrying out in the regular committees, joint initiatives and negotiations, as well as the Cairns Group.

4.386. Despite the geographical distance between our countries, Paraguay and New Zealand are brought together by a firm conviction that more trade and less protectionism is the ideal goal, and that a multilateral trading system with clear rules is the way to achieve it.

4.387. On behalf of my country, I offer renewed congratulations to those conducting this review and to the delegates from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand in Geneva on their invariably active involvement and contribution to this Organization's work.

## INDONESIA

4.388. We would like to join other Members in welcoming the New Zealand delegation, led by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative to the WTO, and her team from New Zealand Mission in Geneva, for their efforts and contributions to this important exercise.

4.389. I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the New Zealand Government and the WTO Secretariat for their reports, as well as to the discussant, H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer (Canada), for his insightful observations, and you, Chair, for your opening comments.

4.390. Indonesia would also like to associate itself with ASEAN's statement delivered by Cambodia.

4.391. I would like to start by highlighting New Zealand's recent economic results. Indonesia congratulates New Zealand on its economic growth since its 2015 Trade Policy Review, with real GDP grew 3.4% annually on average between 2015 and 2019. Despite the biggest decline on record in the second quarter of 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand's economy rebounded significantly in the second half of 2020 thanks to a substantial fiscal policy response focused on mitigating the pandemic's negative impact on households and businesses.

4.392. I would also like to mention New Zealand's support for and participation in the multilateral trading system. New Zealand actively promoted and participated in discussions on joint initiatives (including micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, e-commerce, services domestic regulation, investment facilitation, trade and gender, and trade and climate), as well as reforms to strengthen the WTO. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Zealand supports a TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccinations.

4.393. Indonesia and New Zealand established diplomatic relations in 1958 and have maintained strong and profitable ties ever since. Since the 2015 policy review, Indonesian exports to New Zealand have increased by about 8% since the 2015 policy review. In 2021, total two-way trade in goods and services between Indonesia and New Zealand was valued at USD 1.67 billion, ranking New Zealand among Indonesia's top 50 trading partners. Oilcake and other solid residues, coal, wood, toilet or facial tissue stock, and new pneumatic tyres are the most important Indonesian exports. While the key Indonesian goods imports are milk and cream, butter, flours, cheese and curd, and malt extract.

4.394. Indonesia is aware that New Zealand has successfully handled the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in terms of trade in services. With that in mind, Indonesia hopes that New Zealand could share the Government's policy and effort on local and foreign employees during normal and pandemic conditions.

4.395. Indonesia also recognizes that New Zealand is now establishing Aotearoa's Digital Strategy, which is organized around three themes: trust, inclusiveness, and growth. Indonesia is interested to know more about the strategy, particularly the scope of each pillar, including their implementation and current roles in New Zealand related regulations.

4.396. Furthermore, as an active member in numerous WTO fora, including JSIs, Investment Facilitation for Development, the Informal Work Programme for MSMEs, Trade and Gender, Indonesia also interested on New Zealand's future views on its involvement in these fora.

4.397. Indonesia would like to once again highlight New Zealand's efforts to contribute to a more open, transparent, and efficient overall trading environment. Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation once again to the delegation of New Zealand for its hard work and wishing the delegation a successful TPR.

#### SAMOA

4.398. At the outset, congratulations to New Zealand for this your sixth Trade Policy Review. Having only done one Trade Policy Review in 2019, Samoa found the process useful, including the opportunity to review trade policy framework, processes and mode of operations.

4.399. This year, New Zealand and Samoa celebrate 60 years of friendship. In fact, today 1 June, we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Samoa's independence. New Zealand is an important trade partner for Samoa and one of our key development partners. New Zealand is Samoa's main direct export market, and an important source for imports. As well, the New Zealand seasonal employment scheme has provided employment opportunities for thousands Samoan workers including through the challenges of the COVID-19 restrictions on international travel and mobility.

4.400. Most part of COVID-19 lockdown the only international flights that operated out of Samoa was the weekly flight between Apia and Auckland. We look forward to opening up our borders and welcoming the world back to our shores on 1 August, largely due to the high levels of vaccination in Samoa, which New Zealand and other partners had supported.

4.401. At the regional level, and as referred to in the New Zealand Report, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus is a unique trade and development agreement in the region. PACER Plus has the potential to address trade-related capacity constraints faced by Samoa and other Pacific Island countries. We are pleased to host the PACER Plus Implementations Unit in Samoa which we hope that the Unit be able to provide the support needed by Forum Island Countries including developing further opportunities in labour mobility, agriculture, services, e-commerce, tourism, as well as highlighting the important role of multilateralism and the development of SIDS.

4.402. We wish New Zealand a successful Trade Policy Review.

#### BANGLADESH

4.403. At the outset, the Bangladesh delegation welcomes H.E. Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand and thank for her introductory presentation at the sixth TPR. We also thank Ambassador H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer of Canada for his insightful discussions. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Government of New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for the comprehensive reports.

4.404. Trade has long been an important part of New Zealand's economy and also an important connector. This has been reinforced during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, in early 2020, exports and imports accounted for around 55% of New Zealand's GDP. This has dropped to 44% by June 2021 as two of New Zealand's biggest export earners, tourism and international education, were severely hit by pandemic-related border closures and the sharp drop in international travel. Trade is now leading New Zealand's COVID-19 economic recovery, and remains key to

achieving the Government's goals of inclusive economic growth, increased productivity and the zero-carbon economy transition. During the review period of 2015-21, New Zealand continued to strengthen its position as one of the most open economies in the world and updated some elements of its trade and investment regime.

4.405. It is encouraging to see that prudent macro-economic measures adopted by the country have resulted in impressive economic growth and remarkable improvement in almost all indices. Since the last TPR, relatively strong economic fundamentals and solid buffers to external shocks, have helped the country maintain macroeconomic stability. The strong outward orientation of the New Zealand economy has been one of the pillars of growth for many years.

4.406. New Zealand is a firm supporter of the multilateral trading system and remains actively engaged at the WTO. It took leadership roles as chairs of various WTO bodies, including the General Council in 2020. It also supports a TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines, as well as reforms to strengthen the WTO.

4.407. New Zealand's trade policy priority on multilateral, non-discriminatory rules is complemented by a goal of continuous expansion and deepening of trade relations through regional and bilateral approaches. It attaches high importance to reducing gaps in the level of development between nations, to promoting the further integration of developing and least developed countries into the global economy, and to the need to make economic development more sustainable.

4.408. New Zealand remains more susceptible than other larger economies to changing circumstances in the external environment. An important determinant for the New Zealand economy generally is the economic performance of the Asia Pacific Region making it by far New Zealand's most important trading partner.

4.409. Bangladesh and New Zealand enjoy excellent bilateral trade and economic relations, though bilateral trade is largely tilted towards New Zealand. Broad-based institutional mechanisms of dialogue have contributed to the deepening of our relations. Bangladesh enjoys duty-free market access to New Zealand's market since 2001. Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and New Zealand has been growing steadily. Though Bangladesh is the 34<sup>th</sup> import and 25<sup>th</sup> export trading partner of New Zealand, the trend of bilateral trade is upward. The current bilateral trade volume USD 350 million of which USD 250 million is import from New Zealand. Bangladesh export items are ready made garment; home apparels; articles of leather and footwear; jute and jute goods; ceramics tableware; fertilisers; tea; etc. Import from New Zealand are milk and milk products; iron and steel; sugar; edible fruit and nuts; animal products; animal fats; butter; gas compressors; sawn timber; etc. There is a scope to further strengthen the trade relation between our two countries. Both sides are seriously working through existing framework of bilateral cooperation as well as through non-traditional means.

4.410. Bangladesh appreciates New Zealand's constructive engagement with the WTO, and its commitment to multilateral trading system. To conclude, we wish the delegation of New Zealand a productive and successful TPR. My delegation will continue to work closely with the New Zealand delegations, led by Ambassador H.E. Clare Kelly, to strengthen the multilateral trading system while we strive to enhance our bilateral trade.

#### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

4.411. Brunei Darussalam associates itself with the ASEAN statement delivered by Cambodia and joins in warmly welcoming the delegation from New Zealand led by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative to the WTO.

4.412. We commend the Government of New Zealand for their efforts in preparing for this their sixth Trade Policy Review, and also thank the WTO Secretariat for their clear and comprehensive report. We would also like to express our appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada for the insightful overview of both reports under consideration.

4.413. Brunei Darussalam and New Zealand established diplomatic relations on 5 May 1984, and we have a strong, long-standing, bilateral relationship with New Zealand that covers many areas of cooperation, from education, defence, trade and investment, and health.

4.414. Two-way trade has remained steady, although it showed a decrease during COVID, reaching close to BND 7 million in goods alone last year, with most of our trade in the import of live animals and vegetables and the export of machineries. We also have a high amount of trade in services, particularly in the education and tourism sectors, which as New Zealand noted in their report were two areas that were "severely hit" during the pandemic. Nonetheless, we are continually exploring new ways to enhance cooperation into other mutually beneficial areas such as the Ease of Doing Business, the halal industry, agriculture, and human resource development.

4.415. The solid bilateral relationship between our two countries has only been further strengthened with the signing of numerous agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (P4), the first free trade agreement linking the Asia, Pacific and the Americas, and subsequently the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) which accounts for over 13% of global trade.

4.416. We are also closely linked through ASEAN, as New Zealand is one of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, through which we have maintained robust economic integration efforts including the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area and most recently the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement which accounts for 30% of global trade.

4.417. New Zealand have also stated their open plurilateral instruments are designed as pathfinders to multilateral outcomes, and we commend them on this, and on being one of the most open economies in the world, and for their strong international presence, as illustrated, among others, by their successful hosting of APEC in 2021.

4.418. Both New Zealand and Brunei Darussalam are small countries, and so we recognize and face many similar challenges. Nonetheless, both of us are firm supporters of the multilateral trading system and of the WTO. In this regard, New Zealand has been very active in this Organization, leading in many negotiations and areas, such as the JSIs and Informal Working Group on MSMEs and chairing the General Council in 2020.

4.419. We would thus like to take this opportunity to commend Ambassador Clare Kelly and her team in the Permanent Mission on their work. In this regard, we would also like to express our support for New Zealand's efforts, and wish them a successful sixth Trade Policy Review.



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## 5 REPLIES BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

5.1. Thank you Chair, Ambassador Villalobos. We have greatly appreciated your insights and constructive engagement over the last three days.

5.2. Let me begin by also warmly thanking Ambassador de Boer for your thoughtful and valuable engagement as discussant. A sincere thank you to all Members who have participated in New Zealand's Trade Policy Review. We know it is a very busy time for this Organization – you would have seen my own team having to duck in and out of the room – so we greatly appreciate the constructive engagement in this important exercise. In particular, we would like to share our appreciation with the 39 Members who spoke on Wednesday and all those who have submitted questions of New Zealand. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the Secretariat team for all the work they have put into this Trade Policy Review. Your thoroughness and positive engagement with our team here in Geneva and in Wellington have ensured this was a smooth process.

5.3. New Zealand believes Trade Policy Reviews are vital to the functioning of the WTO. This Trade Policy Review has allowed others to consider New Zealand's economy, trade policy settings and engagement in the World Trade Organization. The process of responding to Member's questions allowed us to engage across New Zealand's government agencies and, as is the purpose of TPRs, allowing us to take stock of where we are at. We will respond to all remaining questions shortly and look forward to sharing these responses with Members.

5.4. We also note Trade Policy Reviews provide an opportunity to facilitate the smooth functioning of the multilateral trading system. The impacts of the Russian Federation's actions on the regional and global economy and its disregard for international rules and norms are irrefutable, unacceptable and should be of deep concern to all WTO Members.

5.5. The generous and insightful remarks made about New Zealand and our trade agenda by all Members are warmly received. Ambassador de Boer's comments were reflected by many Members; New Zealand puts great emphasis on being a robust and open economy. As the Ambassador so constructively put it, we support "strong, open, transparent, inclusive, and ruled-based trading systems" with open economies – now more than ever. We stand by the principles of our Trade for All Agenda and the need to make progress in furthering inclusive trade – in particular for indigenous peoples and women. We noted comments on the strength of our economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been incredibly challenging times for us all, and it is by working together, including in this Organization, that we can best bounce back as we slowly emerge out of this pandemic, find a resolution to the Ukraine invasion, and work to address the existential crisis that climate change presents.

5.6. Some WTO Members asked us earlier this week to explain how we have gone about developing and putting into practice our Trade for All policy, as well as to give some examples of what this has meant for New Zealand's trade policy and for Māori, women and SMEs in New Zealand. We have provided some examples in our written responses to questions.

5.7. At the same time, we are very conscious that this is a journey New Zealand has embarked on – not a completed task. It is a journey that involves an on-going conversation with civil society and, in our case, with Māori as Treaty partners.

5.8. We also see this conversation as an important one in the broader international context, as referenced by our distinguished discussant, Ambassador de Boer, earlier this week. Our most recent efforts in this regard can be seen in the chapter on Māori Trade and Economic Cooperation agreed as part of New Zealand's FTA with the UK and in the Indigenous People's Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPECTA) that was concluded as part of our hosting of APEC 2021 and has now come into effect.

5.9. The Trade for All work has also focused heavily on how we ensure the benefits of trade reach all New Zealanders, whatever their gender. As highlighted by some, New Zealand has actively pursued trade and gender provision in our FTAs, but we have also helped initiate stand-alone initiatives on gender and broader inclusive trade issues. We launched the Inclusive Trade Action Group with Chile, Canada and welcomed Mexico. That work led to the signing of the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement in August 2020. GTAGA aims to be a force for positive economic and

societal change by enhancing opportunities for women in international trade and promoting gender considerations internationally. GTAGA is open to any interested economy to join, and we would be very happy to discuss this initiative with any WTO Member.

5.10. These pursuits highlight the concerted effort New Zealand is making towards enhanced trade liberalisation. Members note that New Zealand has made good progress with strengthening our trading position through our Free Trade Agreements. We are noted as being strong and constructive partners through in our support of plurilateral endeavours, and our hope remains that these are useful building blocks for future multilateral outcomes. As highlighted by our discussant we made strong progress last year in our role in chairing of APEC towards an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful for the region by 2040.

5.11. We also heard Members interests in how New Zealand's trade and economic policies interact with our climate change ambitions. New Zealand has committed to an international target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and a domestic target of net zero for long-lived gases by 2050, including reductions in biogenic methane emissions. Under the 2020 Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act, emissions from agriculture will be priced by 2025. The Act requires responsible Ministers to report publicly on a system for pricing the emissions from agricultural production by the end of 2022. We will accelerate the delivery of agricultural emissions reduction tools and technologies for farmers and farming businesses through the establishment of a new Centre for Climate Action on Agricultural Emissions. We have also ceased providing offshore oil and gas exploration permits.

5.12. New Zealand's role in negotiating the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability with six likeminded countries demonstrates our commitment the mutually supportive trade and environment agenda. ACCTS will be an open plurilateral agreement that brings together interrelated elements of the climate change, trade, and sustainable development agendas for the first time.

5.13. New Zealand's approach to digital trade - another 21<sup>st</sup> century trade issue - has also developed markedly in recent years as we try to keep pace with the development of the digital economy. Many Members in their statements sought information about New Zealand's approach in this sector. We are in the process of developing a new Digital Strategy for Aotearoa which is based around the three pillars of Inclusion Growth and Trust. Following public consultation, the Strategy is currently being finalised. The plan is expected to be released in the third quarter of 2022. We would be happy to discuss the plan further with Members as it is finalised.

5.14. The New Zealand delegation was particularly pleased to hear Members express appreciation for the role that New Zealand plays in the World Trade Organization. The functioning of this institution continues to be at the heart of New Zealand's trade policy. With the Twelfth Ministerial Conference now less than two weeks away, New Zealand reiterates our commitment to the WTO and will do everything in our power to contribute to its ongoing success at the heart of the rules-based system. We look forward to celebrating a meaningful Ministerial outcome with Members and continuing to engage meaningfully within these walls in the years ahead.

5.15. Members, Ambassador Villalobos, Ambassador de Boer and the team in the Secretariat, thank you once again for your engagement in the Trade Policy Review of New Zealand.

## DISCUSSANT

5.16. I would like to thank the New Zealand delegation for their constructive participation in their sixth Trade Policy Review.

5.17. Unsurprisingly, Members have shown keen interest, which was clearly demonstrated by the number of questions submitted and opening statements delivered on the first day of this Trade Policy Review. I trust the exchanges have been fruitful and that New Zealand will provide answers to the subsequent written questions received by the prescribed deadline.

5.18. As Ambassador Kelly said, "New Zealand is a trading nation, and with one in four of our jobs tied to exports we have in turn created an open market domestically for trade". This was further confirmed by Members who took the floor. In addition to highlight their respective bilateral trade and economic relations, Members also rightly commended New Zealand for its level of openness

through addressing trade barriers and expanding its network of bilateral and regional trade agreements. New Zealand was also commended for its commitment to inclusive and sustainable trade, and its active contribution to both WTO multilateral and plurilateral negotiations, initiatives, and agreements.

5.19. Its commitment to the three pillars of the Organization, and its reform agenda is even more remarkable given its size and its location in the South Pacific Ocean. I think one of the key findings of this sixth Review is that New Zealand's approach to an open, transparent trade in the context of an international rules-based regime is the key to economic success.

5.20. We also learned that to help New Zealand pull through the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic - where trade dropped from 55% to 44% of GDP - the Government launched its Trade Recovery Strategy, placing trade at the centre of its inclusive recovery. Through its Trade for All Agenda, New Zealand has served as a good example of how governments can mainstream the interests of under-represented groups into policies that help ensure inclusiveness for all. Who best to translate these commitments into action than Ambassador Kelly, the first female New Zealand Permanent Representative to the WTO.

5.21. These Reviews also offer a meaningful mechanism to raise issues of concern or request further clarifications with the aim of increasing transparency and informing policy decisions. As such, key recent developments in New Zealand's trade and investment regimes were raised, including related to its intellectual property system, its foreign investment framework, and its climate change response. Unsurprisingly, New Zealand's approach to kiwifruit and certain dairy products in specific markets, was further questioned. I believe this Trade Policy Review will have been useful not only for New Zealand but for all Members.

5.22. As New Zealand continues to explore novel ways to advance its trade-related interests on emerging issues, Members will clearly continue to be interested in the implications of new instruments such as the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement and the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability. Maintaining transparency on these initiatives will be key.

5.23. As we examined the recent developments of New Zealand's regulatory and trade policy regimes, we were also reminded of the appalling humanitarian consequences of the Russian Federation's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which is also hindering the global economic recovery from COVID-19 and negatively impacting global food security.

5.24. The WTO exists as a rules-based Organization, and Russia's continuing war against Ukraine and its people demonstrate a complete disregard for the most fundamental tenets of international law. Putting at risk not only this Organization but also global peace and security.

5.25. In concluding, I truly believe that this Trade Policy Review has demonstrated that New Zealand remains one of the most open, transparent and robust economies in the world, and an important Member and defender of a strong multilateral trading system.

#### VIET NAM

5.26. Viet Nam would like to join other Members in warmly welcoming the distinguished delegation from New Zealand led by H.E. Ms Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO, to its sixth Trade Policy Review. We also would like to congratulate the efforts of the Government of New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for the detailed reports prepared for this Review. Our appreciation is also extended to the Chairperson, H.E. Ángel Villalobos Rodríguez for his introductory remarks and the discussant, H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer of Canada for insightful observations.

5.27. Viet Nam is delighted to note that New Zealand's economy is recovering strongly and more quickly than expected from the COVID-19 pandemic. We commend the New Zealand's economic, fiscal and health-led measures which have helped to shield the economy from the worst impacts.

5.28. Viet Nam acknowledges the support of New Zealand, as a founding Member of the WTO, to the multilateral trading system, with its active contribution to the work of WTO by chairing various committees, its implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, its commitment to find a

solution for the revitalization of the WTO dispute settlement system as well as its active participation in the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSI) on e-commerce, investment facilitation for development and the informal work program for MSMEs, and trade and gender.

5.29. With regards to our bilateral relationship, I would like to provide some impressive highlights in trade and investment as follows:

- Regarding the bilateral trade, we are pleased that New Zealand has been a long-standing economic partner of Viet Nam. Currently, New Zealand is one of Viet Nam's largest trading partners in the Asia Pacific region. In 2021, the trade volume between Viet Nam and New Zealand has increased 2.5 times from what it was in 2011.
- In terms of the investment, New Zealand has invested a total of over USD 209 million in Viet Nam, as accumulated until 2022. These numbers clearly demonstrate our strengthening economic cooperation in the last decade and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.30. It can be said that the bilateral trade and investment relationship between New Zealand and Viet Nam is currently in the period of healthy and comprehensive development. We strongly believe that the two countries have many potential opportunities to advance, especially when we are both members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. Therefore, to further enhance bilateral trade, it is advisable to continue promoting and facilitating the connection of the two economies to make economic cooperation more effective and commensurate with the potentials.

5.31. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Clare Kelly and her team at the Mission for their active engagement and contribution to the work of the WTO and I wish them a successful Trade Policy Review.

## NEPAL

5.32. My delegation welcomes the delegation of New Zealand led by H.E. Ms Clare Kelly, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO. Nepal commends her for the insightful highlights of New Zealand's sixth Trade Policy Review at the beginning of the meeting.

5.33. I appreciate H.E. Mr Stephen de Boer, Ambassador of Canada for his comprehensive deliberation as discussant of this Review meeting.

5.34. My delegation commends the Government of New Zealand and the WTO Secretariat for valuable Reports. These reports have shed light on understanding the major initiatives and progress in trade and investment regimes in New Zealand.

5.35. My delegation commends New Zealand's continued efforts in strengthening its position as one of the most open economies in the world through continuous improvement in its elements of its trade and investment regime.

5.36. I take good note of its real GDP growth of 3.4% annual on average for its review period despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.37. Trade for all agenda of the Government of New Zealand remained praiseworthy initiative which ensures trade policy supports sustainable and inclusive economic development.

5.38. New Zealand's effort in harnessing potential benefits from the multilateral trading system by respecting the provisions and spirits of the WTO laws and system is highly commendable.

5.39. New Zealand's contribution to smooth functioning of the WTO and safeguard rules-based, predictable, transparent, fair and inclusive multilateral trading system by discharging the responsibilities of Chair of various WTO bodies as well as actively engaging with Membership has been highly valued among the entire Membership.

5.40. I take good note of New Zealand's economy being recovered strongly and more quickly than expected from the COVID-19 pandemic. The priorities especially in keeping New Zealanders safe from COVID-19, accelerating the recovery and rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19, among others seem highly relevant for the people of New Zealand.

5.41. Its priority of investment in infrastructure with a view to improving productivity, supporting digitalization, and accelerating the low carbon economy transition is also commendable.

5.42. Similarly, responsible and transparent fiscal management, a stable and resilient financial system, and an independent central bank contributed to delivering stable prices and maximum sustainable employment.

5.43. Trade Recovery Strategy 2020 for recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and to seize new opportunities for exports and investment has becoming helpful.

5.44. Let me turn to the bilateral front. Nepal enjoys excellent bilateral relation with New Zealand since long back and it has been further strengthened after the establishment of diplomatic relation in 1961 and other regular bilateral activities since then.

5.45. My delegation thanks New Zealand for its continued support being extended in Nepal's development process. Relationship between the countries needs to deepen at people-to-people level to enjoy full-fledged friendship.

5.46. I am pleased to recall the historic day of success, 29 May 1953, of two great persons, one from Nepal Mr Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and one from New Zealand Sir Edmund Hillary, who are still remembered by the world as they conquered the Mount Everest as the first climbers of the highest peak of the world.

5.47. This indicates how people to people relation contributes to connecting the world together. We celebrated the Mount Everest day by remembering those two heroes last week on 29 May and we will remember them forever.

5.48. Trade, investment, tourism, energy, education, telecom, and ICT among others are some of the major areas where we have potential of mutual benefits.

5.49. Based on the primary data Nepal imported goods worth of USD 8.8 million in the year 2020 from New Zealand while it exported to New Zealand worth of just USD 961,000 in the same year.

5.50. The trade data reveals huge trade imbalance for Nepal. This demands additional collaboration and cooperation focusing on reducing this trade gap by further exploring and exploiting the potential of mutual benefits.

5.51. Nepal looks forward to strengthening its relationship with New Zealand in the days ahead.

5.52. My delegation wishes for a successful Trade Policy Review of New Zealand.

## EUROPEAN UNION

5.53. Let me first thank the delegation of New Zealand for the comprehensive overview presented on Wednesday and this morning of the main developments occurred in its trade and economic policy in the review period.

5.54. The EU is pleased to note that this review has been very useful for better understanding the trade policy in New Zealand and we hope that New Zealand will duly take into account some of the very few challenges highlighted by Members.

5.55. The discussion on the first day of the review has shown that many Members share the EU's positive views about the constructive role that New Zealand plays within the WTO and international trade. We share the universal appreciation by WTO Members of New Zealand's unwavering commitment to openness and support to the rules Based multilateral trading system. We would also

like to thank New Zealand for having timely replies to the advance questions raised by the EU. The answers gave us some useful clarifications on the issues we had raised.

5.56. We have posted few follow-up questions, notably on the operation of Zespri, which have been transmitted to the WTO and we look forward to the replies by New Zealand in due time.

5.57. In closing, the EU looks forward to continuing our close cooperation with New Zealand in all the relevant multilateral and bilateral fora, as mentioned on Wednesday we have entered into partnership agreement containing a number of economic and trade cooperation rules, and open negotiations for high-quality modern free trade agreement as we strengthen and deepen our relationship even further. On behalf of the EU I would like to congratulate New Zealand for the productive and successful sixth Review.

#### UNITED STATES

5.58. The United States would like to thank Ambassador Kelly for your government's dedication and effort in carrying out this successful Trade Policy Review.

5.59. The United States also values the guidance of the Chair and the discussant, and the hard work of the Secretariat in preparing the Reports, which made this Review possible.

5.60. The United States enjoys a close and constructive relationship with New Zealand, with cooperation spanning a range of issues at the WTO and a shared commitment to market-oriented and democratic principles.

5.61. We thank New Zealand and look forward to continuing to work closely together in our collective efforts to create a more viable and durable multilateral trading system.

5.62. We wish to congratulate New Zealand on a successful Trade Policy Review.



## 6 CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

6.1. The sixth Trade Policy Review of New Zealand has offered us a good opportunity to deepen our understanding of recent developments in, and challenges to, its trade, economic, and investment policies since its fifth TPR in 2015. I would like to thank the New Zealand delegation, led by H.E. Ambassador Clare Kelly, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the WTO, for the active participation in this exercise. My gratitude also goes to our discussant H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer, Permanent Representative of Canada, for his insightful comments and to the 41 delegations that took the floor during this meeting. The strong interest in New Zealand's trade policies is also evident from the 442 advance written questions, 268 sent before the meeting.

6.2. Members commended the resilience and growth performance of the New Zealand economy despite the global economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They praised the timely adoption of support measures that allowed the economy to rebound quickly, but also indicated that lower migration flows, weak capital accumulation and slowing productivity growth are expected to adversely affect potential output. In this regard, Members applauded New Zealand for implementing both its Trade for All Agenda that aims to ensure that trade benefits all New Zealanders, and its Trade Recovery Strategy which focuses on broadening support for exporters but also acknowledges that further reforms and trade diversification are needed.

6.3. New Zealand was praised for its long-standing commitment to trade openness and to the multilateral trade system. Members appreciated New Zealand's active participation and constructive role in all WTO areas, in particular its strong notifications record, and its involvement in the Joint Statement Initiatives, such as on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; e-commerce; services domestic regulation; investment facilitation; trade and gender; and trade and environment. Members also welcomed New Zealand's active engagement in the preparation of MC12, its support for a TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines, and for reforms to strengthen the WTO. Members commended New Zealand for having ratified the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, for endorsing the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement, and for joining the plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement. They also mentioned that during the review period New Zealand added four new regional trading agreements to its RTA network, involving now 29 economies.

6.4. Members acknowledged that since its last Review, New Zealand updated and modernized its trade and investment frameworks to further simplify and streamline administrative procedures. In the area of investment, Members commended New Zealand for removing screening requirements for low-risk transactions while noting that it enhanced the screening for high-risk transactions. They also congratulated New Zealand for its open trade regime, having further reduced its average applied MFN tariff rate to 2.2%. Nonetheless, they encouraged New Zealand to consider reducing the gap between bound and applied tariff rates to further increase tariff predictability. Reforms and new initiatives in the areas of customs and the digital economy were also welcomed. New Zealand was encouraged to remove its remaining foreign investment restrictions in sensitive sectors, and to further promote competition in the economy so as to increase productivity and reduce costs.

6.5. At the sectoral level, Members congratulated New Zealand for maintaining a liberal agricultural regime and recognized the importance of the sector for New Zealand's economy and trade. Nevertheless, questions were asked about New Zealand's regulations in place in the dairy and kiwifruit markets, including the perceived advantaged position of the kiwifruit's state trading company. On services, some questions were raised regarding New Zealand's financial, telecoms, and transport services.

6.6. Other areas of interest to Members included the public interest assessment for the application of trade remedies; SPS and TBT regimes; recent amendments to the government procurement framework; the role of state-owned enterprises and government-related entities in the economy; New Zealand's newly signed Digital Economy Partnership Agreement; climate-related policies and targets, notably its emissions trading scheme and its zero-carbon-emissions goal; gender issues; and various aspects of the intellectual property rights regime, such as its copyright and Geographical Indications regimes, and the protection of Māori traditional knowledge.

6.7. The above points are some of the key issues that had emerged in our discussion. I hope that the New Zealand delegation will consider and further reflect on these issues and on the many constructive comments, both broad and detailed, that it has received during this Review. Members



look forward to receiving the answers from New Zealand to any outstanding and follow up questions within one month, at which point the Review will be successfully concluded.

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