

Annex I

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

30 August 2019

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Fifty-sixth session

29-30 October 2019
UNCC, Bangkok

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

The secretariat delivers an opening statement.

2. Election of officers

The Committee is invited to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson for the 56th session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee is invited to adopt the agenda.

4. Report on Working Group meetings by the Chairs

The Chairs of each Working Group are invited to brief the Committee on the status of negotiations following the meetings of Working Groups held on 28-29 October 2019 or previously.

- 1) Working Group on Trade Facilitation
- 2) Working Group on Services
- 3) Working Group on Investment
- 4) Working Group on Rules of Origin

5. Discussion on terms of reference of the fifth round of negotiations on trade in goods

During the 55th session, the Committee made progress on negotiating the terms of reference of the fifth round of negotiations on trade in goods and decided to continue the negotiations intersessionally and at future meeting. On 2 August 2019, the secretariat provided two secretariat notes as requested by one Participating State on: (a) environmental goods, and (b) difference between non-tariff barriers (NTB) and non-tariff measures (NTM). The Committee is invited to continue the negotiations on the terms of reference of the fifth round of negotiations on trade in goods with a view to finalize and adopt them.

6. Progress on notification to the WTO

After the 55th session of the Committee, India, on behalf of the Participating States, had sent two notifications to the secretariat of World Trade Organization (WTO) on 13 June 2019: (a) a notification on Goods and Trade Facilitation Agreement, namely the Second Amendment of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, and (b) a notification on Services and Investment Agreement, namely Framework Agreement on the Promotion and Liberalization of Trade in Services and Framework Agreement on the Promotion, Protection and Liberalization of Investment. The Committee may invite India and the secretariat to report on progress made with these notifications.

7. Membership expansion

The secretariat, with the support of the Participating States, organized an APTA promotion session on 19 September 2019 in New Delhi, India as one of side events of the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (APTFF) 2019. The Committee may invite the secretariat to report the outcome of this session and discuss measures for further outreach to potential members in the Asia and Pacific region.

8. Discussion on Implementation of the 4th round

In the Ministerial Declaration of the 4th Session of the APTA Ministerial Council, the ministers direct the Standing Committee to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of the 4th round's concessions. Commemorating the first anniversary of implementation, the Committee may discuss any issue experienced by the Participating States in implementing the 4th round concessions and impacts of implementation on trade flows among them.

9. Fifth session of the APTA Ministerial Council

The Committee may discuss dates for organizing the fifth session of the Ministerial Council, with due consideration to progress made in finalizing the draft terms of reference for the fifth round of negotiations on trade in good.

10. Dates and venue of the next session of the Committee

The Standing Committee is invited to confirm the date and venue of its 57th session.

11. Other matters

The Committee may discuss any other issues not covered in the above specified agenda items. The secretariat intends to give a short introduction to the Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser (TINA) to the Committee under this agenda item.

12. Adoption of the Report

The Committee is invited to adopt the report of the 56th session on 30 October 2019.