

8 May 2013

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement

Forty-first session
3-4 June 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

The Secretariat delivers opening remarks.

2. Election of officers

The Standing Committee is invited to elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson for the 41st Session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Standing Committee is invited to adopt the agenda.

4. (a) Conclusion of the Fourth Round of Tariff Concession Negotiations

The Standing Committee is invited to review the note by the Secretariat on the status of the fourth round of tariff negotiations and conduct deliberations with the aim to conclude the fourth round of tariff concession negotiations.

(b) Product-Specific Rule and De Minimis Rule under APTA

The Standing Committee is invited to continue negotiations on Product-Specific rule and De Minimis rule, under the APTA rules of origin.

(c) Ratification of Framework Agreements on Trade Facilitation, Investment and Services: The Way Forward

The Standing Committee is invited to discuss the next steps for launching negotiations under the Framework Agreements on Trade facilitation, Investment and Services.

5. Mongolia's accession to APTA

The Standing Committee is invited to discuss progress made on Mongolia's accession to APTA.

6. Date and venue for the 42nd session of the Standing Committee and the 4th Ministerial Council session

The Standing Committee is invited to decide on the date and venue for the 42nd session of the Standing Committee and the date for the 4th Ministerial Council session in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

7. Discussions on the "Future Road Map of APTA"

Attention of the Standing Committee is invited to the decision of the Second Ministerial Council meeting wherein the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment on a priority basis to expand the membership of the Agreement to evolve it into a truly pan-Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. APTA membership is open only to the developing countries of the Asia Pacific region. Given the fact that there are several comprehensive/free trade agreements are being negotiated in this region wherein the developed countries are also participating, the Standing Committee may like to discuss how APTA can become truly pan-Asia-Pacific agreement. The Standing Committee may also like to discuss exchange of issuance of Certificate of Origin through electronic means.

8. Other matters

The Standing Committee is invited to raise any other matters, including the exchange of trade data under APTA.

9. Adoption of the report

.....