

TRADE FOR ALL ADVISORY BOARD: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

1. Since the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market in 1973, New Zealand Governments have had to take a more active approach to negotiating access to international markets for our country's exports. For most of that time, public opinion about trade has been broadly supportive of the overall approach and negotiated outcomes achieved.
2. More recently, however, public concern about negative outcomes of globalisation has grown and, with it, reservations about the balance in trade agreements between market access for our exporters, and national sovereignty and policy space for our regulators. Public expectations about the availability of official information and access to decision making have also changed markedly over the same period.
3. These concerns were evident throughout the negotiation of the Trans Pacific Partnership and were reflected in the new Government's determination to secure five key changes in the outcome New Zealand negotiated for what became the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership.
4. With these concerns in mind, the Government has directed officials to develop a progressive and inclusive "trade for all" agenda. Its intention is to generate a forward-looking and wide-ranging conversation among key stake-holders and the general public about the role of trade in New Zealand's economic policy, as well as specific directives for future trade policy and new trade negotiations.

The Trade for All Advisory Board

5. Two important strands for the development of the Progressive and Inclusive Trade for All agenda are already in place:
 - a. Policy work being done by officials, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to develop a new trade agenda.
 - b. Ongoing outreach work being led by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth and MFAT officials on existing trade agreements and negotiations.
6. In addition to these two strands of work, the Government has established the Trade for All Advisory Board (TFAAB) as a more targeted consultation, supported by but independent of MFAT, to examine key issues in more depth than is possible at the regular consultations.
7. David Pine, a former diplomat with extensive trade experience, has been appointed to convene and chair the TFAAB. The Chair is responsible for:
 - a. Consulting with key organisations in the private and public sectors on the work of the TFAAB; and
 - b. Ensuring that the TFAAB produces a report to the Minister for Trade and Export Growth with specific recommendations for the effective implementation of the principles that the Government has outlined.
8. The membership of the TFAAB has been selected to cover many perspectives. There is strong representation from the Crown's Treaty Partner. Its membership covers a wide range of perspectives: urban and regional; labour and business owners; large exporters and small and medium enterprises; environmental groups and groups with other social concerns, including about gender as it relates to economic opportunity. The group has access to a wide range of expertise based on practical experience and academic knowledge.

9. The TFAAB's sole task is to produce, in the second half of 2019, a report with analysis and practical, implementable recommendations to support and give effect to the key principles for trade policy that the Government has published (see below). It will dissolve after the report is produced.
10. The TFAAB will determine which specific topics it wishes to study in depth. It will determine its own processes and be free to constitute informal working groups, reference groups and hear from any experts it sees fit.
11. TFAAB will ensure transparency in its processes and will regularly report publicly on its activities and findings.
12. The TFAAB will be supported by a secretariat of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Timeframe

13. The Chair was appointed in July 2018.
14. The Chair's recommendations for the TFAAB were considered by Cabinet on Monday 12 November.
15. The TFAAB will have its first meeting in December 2018 and will meet approximately once per month from February 2019. The report will be produced in the second half of 2019.
16. These dates may be varied with the consent of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth.

Key Principles

17. The Government has agreed on eight principles for the Progressive and Inclusive Trade for All consultations, including the TFAAB.
 - a. The creation of a genuine and enduring conversation with the public and key stakeholders around the future direction of New Zealand's trade and inward investment policy;
 - b. An on-going process of consultation with Maori, consistent with their role as a Treaty Partner;
 - c. A focus on creating new and more sustainable economic opportunities for New Zealanders of all incomes and backgrounds;
 - d. Support for the international rules-based system;
 - e. Support for multilateral negotiations as a first-best option for New Zealand, followed by open plurilateral negotiations;
 - f. Enhancing New Zealand's economic connections to other regions, including through regional and bilateral FTAs;
 - g. Support for trade policy to contribute to maximising the opportunities and minimising the risks associated with global issues including:
 - i. Environmental issues including climate change;
 - ii. Labour rights;
 - iii. Gender equity;
 - iv. The rights of indigenous peoples;

- v. SME participation in international markets;
 - vi. Inclusive regional growth, poverty reduction and sustainable job creation;
 - vii. Protecting traditional knowledge;
 - viii. Preserving the right of Governments to regulate in the public interest, including for national land markets, taxation of multinational businesses and public services.
- h. The development of specific directives for future trade policies and negotiations to operationalise the Progressive and Inclusive Trade for All Agenda.

