



APEC Business Advisory Council

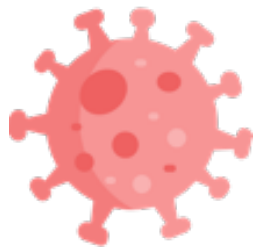
ABAC 2022

WTO Update

**Presentation by ABAC New Zealand
ABAC III, 27 July 2022**

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MC12 outcomes



Pandemic
Response



TRIPS Waiver



Fish Subsidies
Agreement



E-commerce
plurilateral



Food security
WFP purchases



Moratorium on Customs
Duties on Electronic
Transmissions

Other outcomes



Environment plurilaterals

- Sustainability/climate change (TESSD)
- Plastic pollution
- Fossil fuels

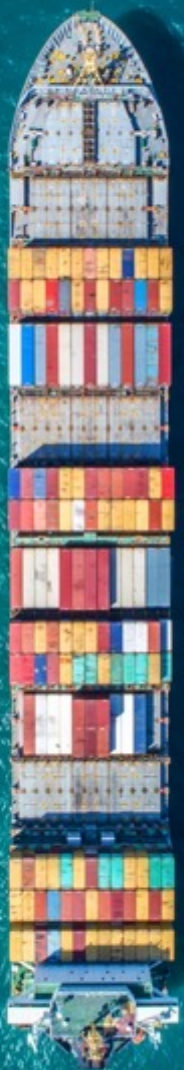
Other areas

- Work programme on Small Economies
- SPS Declaration

Ongoing frictions

- MC12 delivered a “credible” outcome (including a new agreement), and the institution and process survived, but ongoing frictions are likely for MC13, including on:
 - “WTO reform”: Appellate Body reappointment, reforms to dispute settlement system; treatment of developing countries; transparency
 - Industrial subsidy reform
 - Agriculture: domestic support, public food stockholding, market access

ABAC scorecard



ABAC Statement	WTO Outcome
An effective response to the pandemic (Trade & Health, export restrictions, essential medical supplies and vaccines)	Ministerial Declaration on pandemics and Decision on TRIPS waiver (but fell short of our full goals)
Fish Subsidies – elimination	Agreement on Fish Subsidies
Meaningful reductions in agriculture domestic support, and a work programme on agriculture	No... but Declarations on Food Insecurity and WFP purchases
Permanent Moratorium on Customs Duties on electronic transmissions	Rollover of Moratorium to MC13
Ambitious outcomes on e-commerce	Good progress on the JI
A range of ongoing work on environment including environmental goods and services, FFS	Plurilaterals continue
Full operation of the WTO including the AB	Nothing on AB; process on reform of dispute settlement and WTO overall
Transparency	No
A fresh look at subsidies	No
Support for inclusion – MSMEs and Gender	Very modest (despite draft declaration)
Support for plurilateral format	Survived
Greater role for business	No



Recommendation

- Continue to advocate for our core messages:
 - The WTO is critical for sustained prosperity for all
 - All Members need to step up – and APEC economies should lead
 - MC13 will need to deliver tangible progress in key areas including Appellate Body, agriculture, e-commerce (and the Moratorium)
 - Business (including ABAC) should be closely engaged and have a more formalized role