

Minister John Deng's intervention at 2023 APEC MRT

Session I: Supporting the Multilateral Trading System

- In the spirit of APEC being an incubator for new ideas, what is your economy's top priority for making the WTO more effective to respond to the challenges we face today?

- Is there a specific example of where the WTO is particularly effective or where you would like to see improvements?

- We have always supported the multilateral trading system, and recognized that the issues of the multilateral trading system should be relevant to the civil society. The total trade volume of APEC economies accounts for half of global trade. The proportion of intra-regional trade among APEC economies reached 70%. The APEC has long played an important role as an "incubator" for the WTO. In the past, it has also successfully concluded negotiations on the Information Technology Agreement and the Trade Facilitation Agreement.
- In the face of post-COVID recovery and the crisis of global warming and climate change, many emerging issues require Members to work together, including digital trade and environmental issues. Therefore, we actively participate in the discussions of the APEC Digital Economy Steering Group (DESG). In addition, on environmental issues, we have also actively participated in the discussions on the environmental services and the list of environmental goods at APEC. We hope that the work of the APEC will facilitate relevant discussions and reforms at the WTO.
- The WTO is currently facing challenges, and Members are seeking reforms to respond to the calls from the industry for

a new trade order. Therefore, the WTO should actively promote new issues, such as labor, environment, anticorruption, good regulatory practices, state-owned enterprises, and non-market policies and practices, etc.

- The WTO is promoting Joint Statement Initiatives to advance plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce, services domestic regulation, investment facilitation and development, MSMEs, trade and environment, trade and gender, as well as trade and health. This is one of the most effective approaches that the TWO can utilize to formulate new rules. We have actively participated in these initiatives and hope that the participants will continue to move forward in this direction.
- We have contributed significantly to the WTO through domestic trade policy. For example, right after the MC 12, we have initiated domestic legislative procedures for the acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. On Services Domestic Regulation, we have completed the domestic procedures based on the negotiation outcomes and incorporated the Reference Paper on Services Domestic Regulation to our GATS Schedules. Recently, further bilateral discussions have been carried out to implement higher-standard regulations in this area. We hope to commence similar discussions with other interested countries.
- Finally, on behalf of Chinese Taipei, I reiterate that we will continue to cooperate with APEC economies to keep the WTO rules-based multilateral trading system relevant, and uphold the global trade rules and disciplines. In doing so, we hope to play a critical and meaningful role in contributing to global economic growth.
- Thank you all.

Session II: Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive Trade in the Region, and other issues

- What practices has your economy followed to advance sustainability and inclusion principles in the trade policy development process?

- What other trade and investment issues must APEC continue to prioritize to help ensure that the Asia-Pacific remains the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy?

- We attach great importance to the rights and interests of workers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women, and Indigenous Peoples, and prioritizes protecting these rights and interests and enhancing their quality of life in implementing various policies, including our trade policy.
- In 2005, we enacted the Indigenous Peoples Basic Law to enhance the rights of Indigenous people. This legislation protects their cultural heritage and traditional territories, also ensures access to essential healthcare, education, and social welfare resources. Government agencies are mandated to prioritize indigenous matters and include them in policy-making. In parallel with this domestic practice, we also ensure trade benefits indigenous groups, for example, we incorporated a chapter on indigenous groups in the free trade agreement with New Zealand.
- We place a top priority on ensuring a favorable environment for our 11 million-strong labor force, which contributes to our vibrant economy and competitiveness. This commitment is reflected in the establishment of a robust labor law system, rigorous inspection and enforcement measures as well as an active civil society that

strongly advocates for labor rights. These combined efforts contribute to the strong protection of labor rights in our society.

- We have provided SMEs with various assistance in improving its human resources, access to financing and establishment of marketing networks. These measures help build up a strong economy with SMEs constituting 98% of all enterprises and make our economy more resilient and competitive.
- In 2011, we published the Gender Equality Policy Guidelines, which incorporate the spirits of international conventions or declarations on elimination of discrimination against women, sustainable development, rights of persons with disabilities, and pay additional attention to protecting the rights of disadvantaged groups.
- In 2022, we announced the “Pathway to Net-Zero Emissions in 2050” and enacted the *Climate Change Response Act*. In order to achieve sustainable development goals, we have also endorsed APEC’s Reference List of Environmental and Environmentally Related Services as well as its proposal to establish a voluntary, non-binding reference list of environmental goods.
- Climate change and digital technology have greatly impacted our lives and economic activities, we encourage APEC to prioritize issues that contribute to the development of green economy and digital economy. For example, APEC should promote works that help (1) build consumer trust in the digital economy, (2) promote access to information, (3) facilitate the use of digital technologies, (4) promote resilient and secure digital infrastructure. For green economy, APEC should (1) promote green businesses,

green jobs and decarbonization, (2) strengthen and promote environmental protections, including natural resource conservation, and combatting IUU fishing.

- Finally, we have continued to actively participate in the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region by, for example, applying to join the CPTPP. We are prepared to satisfy high-standard trade and investment rules, and will continue to do our part to contribute to the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.