

Minister Jen-Ni Yang's intervention at 2024 APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM)

Session 3: Trade and Investment for an inclusive and interconnected growth.

- 1. What should be the role of the WTO today? How the WTO's work could contribute to inclusive, interconnected and sustainable growth in the current global context?*
- 2. How could the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda take into account inclusive, interconnected and sustainable trade? Which current and emerging trade-related issues should be prioritized in the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda?*

Talking Points:

Thank you, Chair.

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to Peru for hosting this important meeting.

- Over the past three decades, the WTO's contributions to economic growth have been undeniable. It has increased trade in goods and services, as well as investment flows, by more than four times.
- In recent years, however, the WTO has struggled to adapt to contemporary challenges. These include geopolitical tensions, the pandemic, climate change, and digitization. Countries have increasingly turned to bilateral and regional trade agreements to address these challenges, fragmenting global trading rules. Liberal trade has also shifted towards managed trade, and the WTO has slid towards greater irrelevance in the eyes of the public.
- If the WTO is to overcome these challenges and achieve its original goals of raising living standards, ensuring full employment, and expanding trade, we must work to revitalize the WTO. This must first begin by having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024, including resolving the issues

regarding appeal/review.

- Second, to realize inclusive, interconnected, and sustainable growth, all WTO Members must work together to bring new norms into the multilateral system. This includes cooperation on contemporary issues such as climate change, gender, digitization, and SMEs.
- Third, the WTO must listen to feedback from all stakeholders. This can include increasing engagement through the WTO Public Forum and gathering feedback for negotiation references.
- With regard to an FTAAP, our shared purpose is to promote trade liberalization and economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region.
- However, the international economic landscape has changed significantly in the past 20 years. Therefore, our FTAAP agenda must move beyond focusing solely on traditional trade issues.
- We support Peru's hard work in developing the "Ichima Statement" this year, where we must address contemporary issues, such as state-owned enterprises, labor standards, and environmental issues, in order to combat unfair trading practices and work towards improving economic security.
- APEC has long been a pioneer on international economic issues and can now help drive new discussions on contemporary trade rules at the WTO. We urge APEC to continue this role and host meaningful dialogues on these emerging issues.
- Finally, as an open market economy that abides by high trade and investment standards, we are well-prepared to join regional trade pacts such as the CPTPP. Moreover, we look forward to deepening bilateral cooperation with our trading partners and putting the principles of inclusiveness, interconnectedness, and sustainability into practice.
Thank you!

APEC Ministerial Meeting - Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples

“Indigenous Perspectives on Inclusive Growth and Economic Empowerment”

Talking points:

- Our Indigenous Peoples Basic Law establishes a robust legal framework which underscores our commitment to safeguarding their rights and preserving their rich cultural heritage.
- The Basic Law also mandates that the government assist Indigenous peoples in operating commercial enterprises, promoting economic development, and enhancing their standard of living. As a result, significant resources have been dedicated to these efforts.
- We recognize that Indigenous peoples often lack opportunities to promote their cultural products in international markets. Accordingly, we provide supports to upgrade tribal industry through building “smart” tribal communities, improve their digital skills to enable them to take advantage of e-commerce, and help them participate in trade shows abroad via financial assistance.
- The Taiwan-New Zealand FTA is the first agreement concluded by Taiwan that contains cooperation on Indigenous peoples. Over the past ten years since its conclusion, we have aimed to facilitate the exchange of experience between Indigenous peoples including in business development, social policy, and natural resource development.
- Following this FTA, when we have negotiated with other parties such as the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, we have consistently aimed to guard against impairments of Indigenous rights.
- Finally, along with Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, Chinese Taipei is proud to participate in the Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (IPETCA). This serves as a platform

to exchange best practices, enhance cultural and people-to-people contacts and expand and facilitate trade and economic relations between Indigenous peoples.