

**Third Roundtable for the Track 1.5 Process to Review and Update the
CPTPP Chapter 14 on Electronic Commerce
Readout, ABAC Update & Next Steps
May 7th, 2025**

Third Roundtable Read Out

Objective: The Third Roundtable convened key experts and participants on April 9th to discuss the draft recommendations and feedback received during the second roundtable held in February 2025. The objective was to reach a consensus on the proposed updates to Chapter 14 on E-Commerce and to outline the next steps for the Track 1.5 process.

Background: Participating experts were provided with a revised non-paper outlining 13 recommendations for CPTPP officials on *Updating the CPTPP Digital Economy Measures*.

Roundtable Discussion:

CANPEC welcomed experts, highlighting the importance of the CPTPP amid ongoing global economic tensions.

AusPECC recounted their meeting with relevant CPTPP officials who welcome receiving the paper and recommendations. Organization for an event in Australia to present the recommendations to high-level government counterparts is ongoing and will be held mid-year (exact date TBC). This event will provide an opportunity to highlight the significance of the agreement in the current geopolitical environment, and the opportunities it presents for digital trade if updated to meet the current pace of innovation. The importance of incorporating business perspectives and impacts on consumers was emphasized.

Discussion highlights include the following:

- The possibility of presenting the paper at the second APEC Business Advisory Council meeting in Toronto to incorporate private sector feedback.
- Explore how CPTPP members can drive more ambitious outcomes, using this platform as a place of creative thinking and leveraging ideas that already exist in forward leading agreements such as unlocking digital talent flows, liberalizing digitally deliverable environmental services, or a digital transparency mechanism.
- Business engagement indicates private sector support for several areas in the paper, including competition law, standardization of regulatory approaches in data centres, and AI privacy.
- Support for similar thought-provoking multistakeholder processes should be expanded – included as a recommendation in messaging to government counterparts.

Update on the presentation of PECC's CPTPP Track 1.5 Process to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

Summary:

On April 24, Dan Ciuriak, Canadian lead expert, presented the PECC Track 1.5 process at the Second ABAC meeting's Regional Economic Integration Working Group in Toronto, Canada. The Council took note of the presentation from CANPEC on the exercise and encouraged members to share feedback on the PECC paper through ABAC New Zealand, ABAC Canada and/or ABAC Australia.

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Given the importance of the business voices in the process of upgrading the CPTPP, the Track 1.5 process should also take note of existing ABAC projects in digital trade including an ABAC Singapore-led project to release a policy paper on business perspectives on necessary regulatory updates and international cooperation to facilitate digital trade. This project aims to develop model trade provisions that promote general principles rather than detailed technical rules on salient issues including cybersecurity, data innovation and regulatory sandboxes, artificial intelligence, regulatory transparency, cross-border data flows, paperless trade and interoperable digital standards and certification.

While the ABAC project outcomes will be brought forward for endorsement by ABAC in late-2025, the draft provisions could be used to further support the recommendations made in the PECC discussion paper.

Draft provisions include:

1. To boost confidence in digital trade, it is imperative to address (i) threats to cybersecurity and (ii) ensure the ethical, trusted, safe, and responsible development and use of AI. Given the evolving nature of AI and recent trends, provisions that are innovation-friendly that encourages growth and keeps up with technology.
2. For efficient and conducive business operations across borders, there should be provisions for facilitating cross-border data flows and electronic transfer of information. This includes the enablement of seamless end-to-end paperless trade. Simultaneously, promoting data-driven innovation creates an enabling and innovative digital economy.
3. To enable businesses to operate seamlessly, model provisions should establish guidelines to ensure transparency in rules and regulations governing the digital economy, including the compatibility and interoperability of regulatory frameworks such as digital standards and certifications.

Participants of Roundtable (April 9th)

Name	Economy	Affiliation
Arjuna Nadaraja	Australia	AUSPECC Chair
Kristen Bondietti	Australia	AUSPECC Vice Chair
Don Campbell	Canada	CANCPEC Chair
Hugh Stephens	Canada	CANCPEC Vice Chair
Grace Gown	Australia	Government Experience Manager ANZ, Xero
Devon Whittle	Australia	Special Counsel, Watson Farley & Williams
Dominic Scott	Canada	Strategic Advisor, Isolated Electronics inc, formerly VP of Cisco
Momo Sakudo	Canada	CANCPEC
Tanya Dawar	Canada	Research Scholar, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Dan Ciuriak	Canada	Director and Principal, Ciuriak Consulting Inc.
Dr. Hong Yanqing	China	Professor of law, Beijing Institute of Technology's School of Law
Dr. Hideyuki Miura	Japan	Associate Professor, Kyorin University Faculty of Social Sciences
Kensuke Yanagida	Japan	JANCPEC
Juan Navarro	Mexico (Canada based)	President, CMX Partnerships / Associate Faculty, Royal Roads University

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Stephanie Honey	New Zealand	Trade policy consultant and former New Zealand trade negotiator
Dr. José Carlos Feliciano Nishikawa	Peru	Deputy Director of the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Universidad del Pacífico in Peru
Dr. Deborah Elms	Singapore	Head of Trade Policy, Hinrich Foundation
Dr. IChing CHEN	Chinese Taipei	Assistant Professor, Department of Diplomacy and International Relations, Tamkang University
Jesse Wang	Chinese Taipei	CTPECC
Dr. Susan Ariel Aaron	US	Research Professor, Director of Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub at the GW Elliott School of International Affairs
George Lever	Chile	Research Manager, Santiago Chamber of Commerce
Loreto Leyton	Chile	Executive Director, Chile Pacific Foundation; CHILPEC Chair

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