

**Statement of the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, together with the APEC
Investment Experts' Group Supporting the Investment Facilitation for Development
Agreement¹**

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) reiterates its strong commitment to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action, to realize an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations². APEC recognizes the positive role that plurilateral negotiations can play and supports the progress of such negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Through the joint statements of the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) in 2024, APEC welcomed the conclusion of the text of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement at the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) and called for its early incorporation into the WTO legal framework.

Acknowledging the potential role of the IFD Agreement in improving the investment and business climate and in making it easier for investors in all sectors of the economy to invest, conduct their day-to-day business, and expand their operations;

Recognizing the purpose of the investment facilitation measures under the IFD Agreement is to enhance regulatory transparency and predictability, to streamline administrative procedures, to encourage the reduction of transaction costs, to retain and expand investments, and to foster cross-border cooperation, particularly for developing and least-developed economies;

Emphasizing the potential contribution of the IFD Agreement to sustainable and inclusive economic growth by promoting regulatory coherence, responsible business conduct, and anti-corruption measures;

Noting the potential role of the IFD Agreement as a tool to promote investment, enhance economic resilience, and help achieve the Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action;

¹ For greater certainty, this Statement is without prejudice to an APEC member economy's position vis-à-vis its participation in the IFD Agreement

² 2023 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Statement of the Chair

Reaffirming the positive role that plurilateral negotiations can play at the WTO, as a means to advance issues of interest to members, foster new ideas and approaches, and build momentum toward multilateral outcomes;

In this context, APEC economies:

- congratulate participants in the IFD Agreement for successfully concluding the text of the Agreement at the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference, and for their continued efforts toward its incorporation into the WTO legal framework
- encourage them to promote broader participation in the IFD Agreement by engaging with non-participants and highlighting its potential benefits
- encourage all WTO members to find consensus on incorporating the IFD Agreement into the WTO legal framework
- encourage developed participants in the IFD Agreement to provide technical assistance and capacity-building in their efforts to enable developing and least-developed participants to implement the IFD Agreement effectively and benefit fully from its provisions
- Note the potential role of the effective implementation of the IFD Agreement in fostering a more predictable and business-friendly environment, thereby attracting greater investment flows and bridging the investment gap between developed and developing economies.

The respective APEC participants in the IFD Agreement stand ready to provide all necessary support for its incorporation into the WTO legal framework³, and to support investment facilitation needs assessments in cooperation with relevant international organizations⁴.

We encourage APEC member economies to review the implementation of APEC's guiding principles on investment facilitation, such as Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP), and to leverage APEC's capacity-building experience, to foster peer learning, to engage the private sector and other stakeholders, and to enhance coordination to ensure effective implementation and maximize developmental impact.

³ The current APEC member participants in the IFD Agreement are: Australia; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; and Thailand.

⁴ Including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the World Bank Group (WBG), and the World Economic Forum (WEF).