

# INCLUSIVE TRADE ACTION GROUP (ITAG)

## PROGRAMME 2019 - 2020

### Background

Following the March 2018 signing of the Joint Declaration on Fostering Progressive and Inclusive Trade, ITAG was officially launched in November 2018 in Port Moresby. New Zealand, Chile and Canada issued a Ministerial statement which **outlined three objectives** for 2019:

1. share experiences and best practices in order to develop inclusive trade provisions in a context of a challenging digital economy (e.g. women's economic empowerment, gender equality, indigenous peoples, SMEs, labour, and the environment) and promote their use in bilateral, regional, and multilateral negotiations;
2. work together to better understand and communicate the positive impact of trade and trade agreements on all segments of society; and
3. build a community of like-minded nations and advance the principles of inclusive trade together in multilateral forums and among CPTPP member countries, including to establish an ITAG caucus in APEC and at the WTO.

### Proposed Points of Engagement

When	What
Throughout 2019	Use Chile's APEC hosting year to promote a <b>strong public-facing ITAG brand</b> .
30 Jan 2019	Inaugural <b>ITAG WTO caucus meeting in Geneva</b> . Ambassadors identified the completion of the fisheries subsidies negotiations as a first order priority, with the following additional areas identified for action: sustainability; gender inclusiveness; and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
5 March	ITAG officials presented at the Canada-sponsored APEC <b>"Capacity Building Workshop on Women and Trade"</b>
March	<b>Inaugural ITAG officials and APEC ITAG caucus meetings</b> on the margins of the APEC SOM1 meetings in Santiago, Chile.
18 March	ITAG officials presented at the Canada-sponsored Workshop on <b>Labour in Trade Agreements</b> at the WTO in Geneva
28 March	<b>Second WTO ITAG caucus</b> in Geneva.
17 May	<b>Ministerial meeting of ITAG</b> in the margins of the <b>APEC Meeting of Ministers' Responsible for Trade in Valparaiso, Chile</b>

May/June	Possible ITAG seminar at the WTO on the <b>linkages between agricultural trade and the sustainable development goals</b> , sponsored by New Zealand
July	ITAG <b>Workshop on Trade Policy Engagement</b> in Santiago where Members will exchange points of view about how to effectively communicate to citizens the direct benefits of trade and trade agreements and the positive impacts on their daily lives sponsored by Chile.
8 – 10 October	<b>World Indigenous Business Forum (WIBF)</b> hosted in Vancouver, Canada. <b>Workshop</b> to share Members' policies and programs with regards to Indigenous people and inclusive trade so as to determine best practices and to enable future common strategies to facilitate indigenous peoples' participation into international trade.
7 – 9 October	<b>Second CPTPP Commission meeting</b> in Auckland, New Zealand. Potential opportunity for a side event on SMEs and Inclusive Trade in conjunction with the inaugural CPTPP SMEs Committee meeting. Opportunity to start discussion on data needs for ITAG areas of interest in the CPTPP.
8 – 11 October	Possible ITAG seminar at the WTO to highlight how <b>digital trade/e-commerce outcomes can contribute to inclusive trade</b> (with a particular focus on MSMEs and gender) during the WTO Public Forum, sponsored by New Zealand.
November	<b>ITAG Leaders' meeting</b> and review of ITAG's progress in the margins of the <b>2019 APEC Leaders' Meeting</b> , together with a <b>senior officials meeting</b> . Possible deliverables include: i. Trilateral CPTPP side letter on trade and gender; ii. Trilateral CPTPP side letter on trade and climate change and  Possible launch of: i. Trilateral CPTPP side letter on trade and indigenous peoples;
June 2020	<b>MC12 in Kazakhstan</b> : opportunity for Joint Statement from enlarged ITAG.
September 2020	Build on earlier discussions to examine the effectiveness of the CPTPP Agreement with respect to sustainable development, gender, indigenous peoples, domestic regional economic development, SMEs, labour rights, the environment and climate change in preparation for a review in 2021.
TBC	Joint <b>indigenous business missions</b>
On-going	<b>ITAG Expansion</b> : Identify opportunities to engage with other potential ITAG members amongst the CPTPP and APEC membership, as well as how best to advance (and at what point) engagement with those WTO Members outside CPTPP and APEC with potentially like-minded views e.g. countries such as Norway and Costa Rica.