

Meeting of Trade Ministers at the Pacific Alliance Summit (Mexico, July)

In July, the Trade Ministers from all negotiating countries met to discuss progress in the negotiations. They reaffirmed the commitment to work towards concluding the negotiations this year. Minister for Trade and Export Growth David Parker highlighted New Zealand's commitment to a Pacific Alliance FTA, but underlined that an agreement would need to provide meaningful, high quality access for New Zealand exports.

Progress against New Zealand's objectives

New Zealand's objectives for a Pacific Alliance agreement include securing commitments from Chile, Mexico, and Peru that build on existing agreements (including the CPTPP); a high quality and comprehensive first FTA with Colombia; and to reflect progressive trade principles while the Government consults New Zealanders on the development of a *Trade for All* agenda. A list of issues that the negotiation is covering is on our [website](#).

In many areas, we have made good progress since negotiations began in October 2017. This includes:

- the broad frameworks for goods and services trade, investment, access to government contract opportunities, and business visas (though the specific market access commitments that will sit under these rules, such as the elimination of tariffs, are still under negotiation);
- customs procedures and trade facilitation rules;
- rules that proscribe anti-competitive business conduct in our jurisdictions;
- identifying how the agreement can improve SMEs' and women's involvement in international trade and investment;
- identifying the types of cooperation activities that could take place under the FTA; and
- ensuring transparency in the development of laws and regulations in each country.

Over the first five negotiating rounds, New Zealand has put forward various proposals. These include New Zealand's opposition to any investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provisions in the FTA; rules to address non-tariff barriers that impact goods trade; proposals on specific environmental issues (including climate change, circular economy policy, and environmentally-harmful subsidies); a framework for cooperation on indigenous issues; and an agreement-wide exception in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi.

One of the biggest differences in the negotiation is different levels of ambition in market access offers. From New Zealand's perspective, goods market access (tariff) negotiations in particular still have some way to go to reach the level of access that we expect to see in an agreement. Minister Parker and New Zealand negotiators have been clear that New Zealand is expecting the Pacific Alliance to eliminate all tariffs, reflecting the commitments Alliance countries have made to other FTA partners. Certain agricultural products, however, are highly sensitive for some Pacific Alliance countries.

Further information

[Click here to go to our website for further information and background on the Pacific Alliance FTA negotiations.](#)

Kind regards,

New Zealand-Pacific Alliance FTA Team

Trade Negotiations Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

Exporter helpline 0800 824 605 Email PacificAllianceFTA@mfat.govt.nz

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz

