



# Geneva WATCH

An overview of the bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral trade negotiations

Charles Akande, Editor

## Full TPP Text Released

**The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) member countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam) finished their work on the agreement and released the text on November 5, giving the opportunity to industry stakeholders and members of parliament of each country – particularly the U.S. Congress – to review the agreement before it is signed by leaders.**

“Consistent with the Trade Priorities Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the TPP Agreement,” U.S. President Barack Obama wrote on November 5, in a letter sent to Congress. “My administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this TPP Agreement.”

The U.S.’s Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) only requires that the full text be made available to the public 60 days before the President signs it into law. However, the Obama administration has opted to release the accord at the same time as notification to Congress, giving stakeholders an opportunity to start analyzing the accord early.

“We have now taken the additional step of committing to have the text publicly available for longer than required – a full 90 days – before the President signs the TPP,” U.S. Trade Representative Chief Transparency Officer, Tim Reif, wrote.

“This is the first trade agreement to put a real focus on American small businesses who will gain powerful tools to help them export. This is the first trade agreement to put disciplines on state-owned

enterprises to make sure that when they compete against our private firms, there’s a level playing field. And this is the first trade agreement to take on the digital economy, ensuring that individual and businesses in America and around the world will benefit from the expanding opportunities offered by a free and open Internet,” U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Froman said.

Once President Obama signs the TPP agreement, the U.S.’s International Trade Commission (ITC) will begin what Reif calls “a comprehensive analysis of the potential economic impact of TPP.” The TPA gives the ITC 105 days to complete this exercise, which may bring the finalization of the TPP implementation sometime around the middle of May/early June according to various sources.

### WTO and the Structure of the MC10 Ministerial Declaration

The WTO Membership agreed on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to follow the structure of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference held in Bali in December 2013, by dividing the upcoming Nairobi (Kenya) Ministerial Declaration into three parts:

1. Restate the Membership’s attachment to the importance of the multilateral trading system in the context of the WTO’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary
2. Include a set of deliverables in the declaration which should essentially be composed of issues currently being negotiated i.e. export competition and other development issues
3. Agree on the shape of the future work to be undertaken after Nairobi, i.e. the post-Nairobi work programme

The consultations on the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference deliverables continue this week.

**Geneva Watch is published by Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers to report on the various events occurring in Geneva, particularly on the WTO negotiations on agriculture.**

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Legal Deposit: National Library of Canada, ISSN 1496-9254



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