



**APEC Business Advisory Council**

**ABAC 2020**

**Supporting the WTO**

**Summary Presentation by Rachel Taulelei, ABAC New Zealand  
REIWG, 22 July 2020**



# COVID WTO Initiatives

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- Sectoral elimination of tariffs and NTBs on essential medical supplies and basic hygiene products;
- Measures to ensure that supply chains are resilient even in times of crisis;
- Remove barriers to the movement of essential personnel in times of crisis;
- Shore up trade in food and agriculture, by removing export restrictions, eliminating NTBs, strengthening value chains and enhancing transparency

# Current WTO challenges

- MC12 delayed to mid-2021
- Distraction of Director-General race
- Appellate Body paralysis continues
- Challenging progress on negotiating areas
  - “Unfinished business” from Doha Round
  - E-commerce
- Other reforms – discussions ongoing





The background of the slide is a photograph of the Doha skyline at night. The Aspire Tower, a tall red structure with a green spherical top, is the central focus. In the foreground, a large fountain with many jets of water is illuminated with warm lights. Other skyscrapers are visible in the background.

## WTO Ministerial (“MC12”)

- Transparency, monitoring
- Doha – unfinished business
  - Agriculture domestic support
  - Fish subsidies
  - Services domestic regulation
- E-commerce negotiations
- Other issues
  - Inefficient fossil fuel subsidies
  - Greater inclusion in trade





## Recommendations

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Members to endorse our statement expressing strong support for urgent reform of the WTO