



**APEC Business Advisory Council**

**ABAC 2023**

**EIWG:  
Trade and Indigenous Inclusion**

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# Trade and Indigenous Inclusion

## *What are the challenges?*

- Each community is unique, but a common legacy of structural barriers
- Some similarities with MSMEs, women – but we lack disaggregated data
- **Typical challenges:** size and scale; legal status; accessing capital and financing; capability and infrastructure; access to markets; COVID impacts

## *What could help?*

- leveraging cultural “brand” and IP; moving up the value chain; trade reform; digital empowerment

<b>2023 Work Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>II. Trade agreements (WTO, FTAs), with an eye to FTAAP</li> <li>III. Access to trade finance and the digital economy</li> <li>IV. Tailored capability-building: best practices</li> </ul>
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# ABAC Indigenous Business Leaders' Dialogue 2021

## Key recommendations:

- Accord priority to developing Indigenous economic inclusion in APEC, to ensure that Indigenous peoples can **participate fully in APEC work** and access needed resources;
- Work in partnership with the Indigenous Business sector to **stimulate and incentivise business growth and scalability** for greater involvement in trade and economic cooperation;
- Identify and address the **infrastructure needs** of rural and remote Indigenous communities;
- Expand the range of **data** collected relevant to the needs of the Indigenous business sector, and recognise the role of free, prior and informed consent in the collection, use and storage of Indigenous peoples' business and economic data; and
- Explore how Indigenous economies could benefit from existing **multilateral trade rules** and how the provisions of pathway agreements to **FTAAP** could be structured to meet Indigenous business needs.



## WTO and Indigenous inclusion

- Not explicitly mentioned in WTO Agreements (other than individual exclusions e.g. on government procurement, intellectual property)
- Core WTO negotiating issues are of significant interest to Indigenous communities  
e.g. fish subsidies, agriculture, fossil fuel subsidies/environment, services, E-Commerce Joint Initiative

# FTA approaches

## Modest early approaches

CPTPP

USMCA

## Comprehensive & operative FTAs

NZ-UK FTA

NZ-EU FTA

## Innovative models

DEPA

Australia-NZ  
Indigenous  
Collaboration  
Arrangement

# IPETCA

*Indigenous Peoples' Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement (2021)*

- Involves APEC economies Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei
- Partnership Council includes governments and Indigenous Peoples
- Cooperation activities to share knowledge, best practices, increase participation in trade – across a menu of potential areas
- 3 notable elements:
  - Environment
  - Cultural heritage, traditional knowledge
  - E-commerce, digital technologies



## Recommendation

- ABAC to encourage policymakers to collect disaggregated data on Indigenous trade participation
- ABAC to advocate for trade provisions (including in FTAAP) that reflect Indigenous business needs and interests