



**APEC Business Advisory Council**

**ABAC 2023**

**EIWG: WTO**

**Presentation by ABAC New Zealand  
ABAC II, 28 April 2023**

[www.abaconline.org](http://www.abaconline.org)

# Strengthening the WTO

- The context remains challenging: “polycrisis”
- The WTO can help shore up growth and address new challenges
- ABAC priorities for the WTO this year:
  - Build on MC12, including implementation of agreed outcomes
  - Prepare to achieve tangible progress at MC13 in February 2024
  - Maintain the credibility of the institution
  - Strengthen the voice of business

## Deliverables and milestones:

1. WTO Statement (annexed to MRT Letter)
2. Possible visit to Geneva



# WTO Statement

## Key messages

- The WTO still matters – including to meet current challenges
- APEC members can, and should, lead
- Open plurilateral initiatives are a practical way forward
- Core reforms are still needed (agriculture, fisheries, the Moratorium)
- The rules must be enforceable: fix the Appellate Body and disputes system
- Strengthen the voice of business (including ABAC) at the WTO

# WTO priorities



Fish Subsidies:  
Implementation and Phase 2



E-commerce Joint Initiative



Distorting agriculture subsidies  
Food security



Environment initiatives  
including TESSD plurilateral



Moratorium on Customs Duties  
on Electronic Transmissions



Reform  
Including Appellate Body

## **Recommendation**

- Endorse the WTO Statement