



ASEAN-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AREA (AANZFTA)

1st INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE FTA JOINT COMMITTEE 2 October 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

The First Intersessional Meeting of the FTA Joint Committee (FJC) was held virtually on 2 October 2020. Representatives from all ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia, and New Zealand, and staffs from the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Meeting, which was co-chaired by:

- a) Ms Nor Zerlina Momin, Acting Director, Trade Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam, on behalf of the ASEAN Member States;
- b) Mr Simon Farbenbloom, Assistant Secretary, FTA Policy and Implementation Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for Australia; and
- c) Mr Keawe Woodmore, Deputy-Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, for New Zealand.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN OUTCOMES

1. WAY FORWARD FOR THE AANZFTA UPGRADE NEGOTIATIONS

AGREED on the way forward for the AANZFTA Upgrade Negotiations, with the first official round of the upgrade negotiations to commence in Quarter 1 2021 and the negotiations will proceed virtually until such time that in-person meetings could be held.

AGREED for all Parties to exert best effort and to target the conclusion of the upgrade negotiations within two years. **AGREED** to revisit this target, if necessary, by taking into account the progress of negotiations.

AGREED to task the subsidiary bodies to discuss key elements for the upgrade negotiations; identify economic cooperation support programmes for the negotiations, and to set out the plan for the upgrade negotiations.

AGREED for the subsidiary bodies to consider the Stage Two General Review, AANZFTA built-in agenda, RCEP Agreement, and elements or provisions to support the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ENCOURAGED those subsidiary bodies who had capacity to commence intersessional work early for the upgrade negotiations, early such as in the areas of Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Rules of Origin and Government Procurement.

2. OTHER MATTERS

ENCOURAGED all Parties to submit ideas or proposal for economic cooperation that will support the upgrade negotiations, as soon as possible.