

8 July 2015

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
Forty-seventh (47th) session**

**27 - 28 July 2015
UNCC, Bangkok**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

The Secretariat delivers an opening statement.

2. Election of officers

The Standing Committee is invited to elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson for the 47th session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Standing Committee is invited to adopt the agenda.

4. Discussion on India's request to China

In its recent communications to the Secretariat, India has clearly stated that India is in a position to move ahead with additional concessions from China under the 4th Round tariff concession negotiations. China has expressed that this can be discussed only after concluding the current Round of negotiations. At its 46th session of the APTA Standing Committee in Seoul and to date, the other APTA Participating States have expressed their concerns and have emphasized on the urgent need to convene the Ministerial Council meeting at an early date and to implement the outcome of the 4th Round of negotiations on the basis of present offers made by the Participating States.

5. Implementation of the Fourth Round

The Standing Committee is invited to decide whether the APTA Participating States wait until India's bilateral negotiations with China conclude or implement the 4th Round on the basis of already finalized and circulated National Schedule of Concessions among the agreeable Participating States and agree with India to implement when she is ready to do so.

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6. The Protocol to amend the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement: Second Amendment

The Standing Committee is invited to discuss and finalize the Second Amendment to APTA, which will be in the form of a Protocol to amend the Agreement including the proposal made by the Republic of Korea in amending Box 8 of the Certificate of Origin.

7. Verification of the final national lists of concessions

All Participating States and Mongolia have submitted their final national lists of concessions to the APTA Secretariat. The lists were circulated to all Participating States at the 44th Standing Committee meeting for cross verification in the prescribed format.

Bangladesh, the Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka vetted their lists by making initial signs on their national lists of concessions. China, Lao PDR, and Mongolia stated that they are ready to make initials on their national lists of concessions by the 47th Standing Committee session.

8. Starting negotiations on the Framework Agreements on services, investment, and trade facilitation

The Standing Committee is invited to discuss how to proceed with the negotiations on Trade Facilitation, Investment and Services Trade under the APTA Framework Agreements, which have been signed and duly ratified by all Participating States of APTA.

9. Date and venue for the 48th session of the Standing Committee and the 4th session of the APTA Ministerial Council

The 4th Ministerial Council Meeting will be preceded by the 48th session of the Standing Committee; therefore, the Standing Committee is invited to confirm the exact date and the venue of the 48th session of the Standing Committee as well as of the 4th Ministerial Council session, tentatively re-scheduled to be held in September 2015 as proposed by the Standing Committee at its 46th session.

10. Other matters

The Standing Committee may discuss any other issues not covered under specific agenda items.

11. Adoption of the report

The Standing Committee is expected to adopt the report of its 47th session on 28 July 2015.

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