Strengthening **American** business and investment in the Indo-Pacific

IPEF MINISTERIAL SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2022

Key Takeaways

- The meeting between IPEF Member Countries concluded on September 9 in Los Angeles. Members released four ministerial statements relevant to each IPEF pillar: Trade, Supply Chain, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy. The full post-meeting statement can be found here.
- The statements are an agreement to continue negotiating in the four areas previously identified.
- All members are participating in all pillars, with the exception of India, which has withdrawn from the Trade Pillar.
- The language so far is general and aspirational, as expected at this stage. However, some specific areas that have stronger language or make explicit references to other frameworks.
- As noted at the last Taskforce meeting, the goal of the meeting was to finalize these scoping papers, nothing more.
- An overview of each pillar is given below:

Trade Pillar

- o All members will participate, with the exception of India.
- o Areas previously identified have been included within the scope: labor, environment, the digital economy, agriculture, competition policy, transparency, good regulatory practices, trade facilitation, inclusivity, technical assistance, and economic cooperation.
- o Indigenous people and MSMEs had also been identified in the leaked document, but these appear to have been moved to the preamble.
- Language on labor appears to be oriented toward enforcement.
- Language on the environment does refer to "strengthening environmental protection".
- Language on digital appears to have more committed and specific language, stating that members "will work towards": (1) trusted and secure cross-border data flows; (2) inclusive, sustainable growth of the digital economy; and (3) the responsible development and use of emerging technologies.
- o Language on agriculture appears to be oriented toward addressing NTMs/regulatory barriers, but with a set of objectives aimed toward "enhancing food and agricultural supply chain resilience and connectivity".
- o Language on good regulatory practices is expected, but notes services it will seek to build on from the WTO Joint Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation.
- o Language on competition policy, trade facilitation, inclusivity, and technical cooperation is as expected.



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Supply Chain

- o It appears to be oriented toward six work areas: establish criteria for critical sectors and goods; increase resiliency and investment in critical areas and goods; establish an information sharing and crisis response mechanism; strengthen supply chain logistics; enhance the role of workers; and improve supply chain transparency.
- o The first two appear to be the most central, with identification of goods and identification of "sole sources and chokepoints" being the priority.

Clean Economy

- o The clean economy statement is wide-ranging and includes language on investment and incentives across a range of sectors.
- o There is a clear reference to mobilizing private capital, blended instruments, and PPPs for investments in developing countries.

Fair Economy

- o The section appears to be oriented toward implementing the Financial Action Task Force and broader adoption.
- o There also appears to be a push toward the OECD BSPS framework.