

Annex B: Joint Ministerial Statement on the Substantial Conclusion of Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (“DEPA”) negotiations

1. We, the Ministers responsible for the trade of Chile, New Zealand and Singapore, met in Singapore on 21 January 2020 to announce the substantial conclusion of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (“DEPA”).
2. We recognise that digitalisation has transformed the nature of trade, and that as small, outward-facing and trade-dependent countries, we share a common objective of advancing trade in the digital era. We also recognise that current trade rules and policies do not fully address the new issues brought about by digitalisation and digital trade.
3. In furtherance of our shared vision, the Parties welcome the substantial conclusion of negotiations for the DEPA, which represents a new form of economic engagement and trade in the digital era.
4. We share the view that the DEPA is a comprehensive and forward-looking pathfinder agreement that addresses key issues in the digital economy, such as, use of electronic documentation in cross-border trade and business, personal information protection, cybersecurity, online consumer protection, digital identities, fintech, artificial intelligence, data flows and innovation, trade and investment opportunities for SMEs, and digital inclusivity. Through the DEPA, we can build on existing trade agreement commitments by leveraging on technology, facilitate business-to-business connectivity in the digital age, and collaborate on new issues intrinsic to the digital realm.
5. The DEPA will also complement other ongoing efforts such as the WTO Joint Statement Initiative negotiations on e-commerce as well as digital economy work streams within APEC and other international fora. We also welcome other like-minded partners to participate in the DEPA.
6. We further affirm that the DEPA will allow our businesses and consumers to better participate in the digital economy, and to take advantage of the numerous opportunities presented by the digitalization of trade.
7. We agree that the successful conclusion of DEPA is demonstrative of the strong partnership between the Parties. We share the desire that the DEPA be signed and enter into force in the near future.

Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore, Hon Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Trade and Export Growth, New Zealand, Hon David Parker
Vice Minister of International Economic Affairs, Chile, Rodrigo Yáñez