

U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade Summary of Texts Proposed by the U.S. Side

To date, in negotiations between the United States and Taiwan, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO), toward a second agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade, the U.S. side has proposed negotiating texts covering the following trade areas from the initiative's negotiating mandate:

Agriculture

The U.S. side has tabled proposed text for a chapter on agriculture that includes a broad set of provisions designed to open or expand opportunities for U.S. agricultural producers to access the Taiwan market, to advance food security, and to promote sustainable agricultural production. The text is also aimed at increasing transparency and regulatory certainty for agricultural exporters and importers, as well as at encouraging collaboration and innovation in areas such as sustainability and food security.

In particular, the proposed text includes elements relating to sustainable agriculture as well as elements relating to innovation and technology. The proposed text acknowledges that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to sustainable agriculture and promotes collaborative work to share best practices and explore science- and evidence-based solutions tailored to the conditions of the United States and Taiwan. The proposed text also includes cooperative efforts to promote innovation, fair trade, and individualized approaches to advance environmental goals.

The proposed text also includes a number of provisions regarding food safety, plant health and animal health protection, and other provisions of importance for agricultural trade, preserving the role of regulatory authorities to ensure the safety of their domestic food supplies, while also facilitating trade in agricultural goods. These provisions are intended to improve transparency of regulatory processes and procedures, to advance science-based decision-making to protect human, plant, and animal life and health, to improve processes and promote cooperation regarding regulatory and administrative requirements, and to facilitate agricultural trade. The proposed text also includes provisions related to transparency in import licensing procedures for agricultural products, certification requirements, and equivalency to ensure that any requirements for importation are clearly communicated to agricultural producers.

The proposed text also contains provisions intended to promote food security in the region, such as disciplines regarding the imposition of export restrictions.

Environment

The U.S. side has tabled proposed text for a chapter on environment. Consistent with the initiative's negotiating mandate, the proposed text includes provisions and initiatives that seek to deepen cooperation and joint approaches on trade and the environment between the United States and Taiwan. The proposed text includes provisions that will meaningfully contribute to environmental protections and respond to common sustainability challenges, including climate

change. The proposed text affirms that the two sides recognize a healthy environment is essential for building inclusive, resilient, and strong economies, that sustainable management and continued availability of natural resources are foundational to the global economy, and that many environment- and climate-related challenges are global in nature and require a collective response.

The proposed text also addresses a number of environmental priorities shared by the United States and Taiwan. In this regard, it includes novel provisions to address these matters, including with regard to climate and trade, clean energy and clean technologies, environmental goods and services, more resource efficient and circular economies, digital economy and environmental sustainability, responsible business conduct, sustainable finance, and environmental justice.

The proposed text commits the two sides to continue to improve levels of environmental protection and to effectively enforce respective environmental laws. It also commits the two sides not to weaken or reduce the protections afforded in domestic environmental laws in an effort to attract trade or investment.

The proposed text establishes opportunities for public participation, provides for public information and public awareness of relevant environmental laws and policies, and requires the use of consultative mechanisms regarding the implementation of the chapter. The proposed text also provides for the consideration of public submissions on matters relating to the chapter and establishes an Environment Committee to oversee the implementation of the commitments set forth in the chapter.

As previewed in the negotiating mandate, the proposed text reflects the two sides' commitments to take measures to strengthen and promote environmental protections, including natural resource conservation, and to tackle pressing environmental challenges. To that end, the proposed text includes provisions to address air quality, marine litter, and plastic pollution, to combat wildlife trafficking, to promote sustainable forest management, to conserve marine species, and to prevent the loss of biodiversity. The proposed text also includes provisions on fisheries-related matters, such as addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity.

Labor

The proposed text for a chapter on labor includes provisions and initiatives that will benefit workers and ensure free and fair trade that contributes to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth for the United States and Taiwan. It includes a particular focus on improving compliance with labor rights in supply chains and on distant water fishing vessels, and it fulfills the Administration's ongoing commitment to put workers' interests at the center of all of our trade engagements.

The proposed text requires each side to adopt and maintain internationally recognized labor rights and protections for whistleblowers in its labor laws. The proposed text also includes provisions aimed at promoting compliance with labor laws through commitments related to non-derogation from, and the effective enforcement of, labor laws. It further contains robust

provisions on migrant workers, including a provision concerning the charging of recruitment fees and related costs, and procedural guarantees, including provisions concerned with increasing the amount of labor rights and enforcement information available and promoting access to Wi-Fi for workers on distant water fishing vessels.

The proposed text also includes provisions establishing cooperative mechanisms to help the two sides support each other in achieving ambitious labor goals and to collaborate constructively on labor issues, including through capacity building, and sharing information and best practices. The proposed text directs the two sides to identify and collaborate on emerging labor issues, including related to promoting labor rights of workers in the digital economy, improving compliance with labor rights in supply chains, and improving working conditions on deep sea fishing vessels. The proposed text includes a mechanism to address forced labor in supply chains and an entity-specific mechanism to encourage corporate accountability in cases where an entity violates domestic labor laws. Finally, the proposed text establishes processes and mechanisms for the two sides to maintain regular communication and cooperation on the implementation of the commitments in the chapter, including with members of the public. In addition to a commitment to promote public awareness of labor laws, several provisions establish mechanisms to engage with stakeholders and other members of the public.