

Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Mexico and Canada join negotiations

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced, September 6, that Mexico and Canada will formally join the negotiating rounds for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).

The TPP has as its goal the creation of an economic integration area in the Asia-Pacific region. The countries participating in the negotiations seek to design an inclusive, high quality agreement that will lay the foundations of development and economic growth among its members.

The initiative was originally proposed by the countries forming part of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore. These were later joined by United States, Australia, Peru, and Vietnam in 2008, and Malaysia, in 2010.

So far there have been fourteen rounds of negotiations, and twenty-nine chapters are under discussion, including issues related to market access, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, border services, telecommunications, and public sector purchasing. The thorniest negotiating issues are those relating to intellectual property rights and the role of State enterprises.

As noted in [INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 175](#), The TPP's importance to Latin American countries taking part in the process differs widely. While Peru seeks to increase its trade with the rest of the parties, Chile, which already has free trade agreements with a number of countries (e.g. Australia, United States, Malaysia, and Peru, and is in talks with Vietnam), aims not only to participate in the area of free trade, but also to focus on faster customs procedure and regulatory consistency.

Mexico, for its part, hopes to open up markets for agricultural products such as tequila, beer, meat, and fruit and vegetables, and to maximize its role in global supply chains.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "[Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement decides negotiating model](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.184*, December 2011.
- IDB/INTAL. "[5th round of talks toward a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#)," in: *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No.175*, March 2011.

For more information, see below:

- International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. "[Virginia Talks Yield Progress on TPP, Though Deadline Remains Elusive](#)," in: *Bridges Weekly*, Vol. 16, No. 31, September 19, 2012.
- International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. "[TPP: incorporación de México en la ronda de negociaciones](#)," in: *Puentes Quincenal*, Vol. 9, No. 14, September 2012.
- Mexican Economy Secretariat. "[México ingresa formalmente al TPP](#)."