APEC Business Advisory Council

ABAC 2026 | REIWG Work Programme

Presentation by Anna Curzon, ABAC New Zealand
Sunday 8 February 2026

Context



Geostrategic and geoeconomic friction



Rising inequality and barriers to access and opportunity



Digital disruption, AI transformation



Harmful climate change and green opportunities

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REIWG Priorities

Chair: Anna Curzon; Vice-Chair: Kok Ping Soon



Robust, resilient and open economic architecture

A credible and relevant WTO
FTAAP: Pathways and early harvest
Market diversification
Resisting protectionism and NTBs
Tax and customs frictions
Illicit tobacco trade



Unlocking pathways to prosperity

Women in Leadership in APEC
Equal Pay Framework
The Care Economy as Growth Driver
Access and opportunity for MSMEs & Indigenous Entrepreneurs



Future-proofing economies: Green, digital and services

Green economy model provisions
Coherent digital trade rules
Digital trade facilitation
Modern services trade

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Pillar I: Robust, resilient & open economic architecture

Priority Issue	Members	Possible Deliverables
WTO: Advocacy for a strong, relevant and effective WTO, and a credible MC14 outcome	Anna Curzon, ABAC New Zealand (**lead**) Junichiro Ikeda, ABAC Japan Marjorie Yang, ABAC Hong Kong, China Kok Ping Soon, ABAC Singapore	• TBC • Engagement with ICC
FTAAP: Advocacy for the top-down and bottom-up process (early harvest)	Anna Curzon, ABAC NZ	• FTAAP Statement (ABAC II) • Inputs to CTI FTAAP Ichma process • Recommendations to Leaders
Market Diversification in the context of regional economic integration	Sergio Ley, ABAC Mexico	• Research report • Recommendations to MRT, Leaders
Non-Tariff Barriers affecting food trade, food security & sustainability	Sarah Ottrey, ABAC New Zealand	• Food NTM research report (***ABAC-funded***) • Recommendations to MRT, Leaders
Reducing **tax and customs-related frictions** and costs in global trade ***{FTF}***	Cristian Lefevre, ABAC Chile	• Recommendations to MRT, Leaders
Combatting the trade of **illicit and counterfeit tobacco products**	Monica Hardy Whaley, ABAC USA	• Recommendations to MRT, Leaders

Pillar II: Unlocking pathways to prosperity

Priority Issue	Priority Leaders/ Project directors	Possible deliverables
Women in Leadership in APEC	Gabby Costigan, ABAC Australia	• Recommendations to MRT, Leaders • Letters/inputs to WEF/PPWE
Equal Pay Framework	Gabby Costigan, ABAC Australia	• Development of Equal Pay Framework Platform • FTAAP Statement
Advancing the **Care Economy** as a Growth Driver in APEC	Dato' Hazimah Zainuddin, ABAC Malaysia	• Recommendations to MRT, Leaders • Letters/inputs to WEF/PPWE
Championing access and opportunities for **MSMEs and Indigenous Entrepreneurs**	*ABAC New Zealand, as needed*	• Recommendations to MRT, Leaders

Pillar III: Future-Proofing our Economies

Priority Issue	Priority Leaders/ Project directors	Possible deliverables
Model Provisions for **Green Economy Agreements**	Kok Ping Soon, ABAC Singapore	• FTAAP Statement • Recommendations to MRT, Leaders
APEC Centre of Excellence on **Paperless Trade**	Kok Ping Soon, ABAC Singapore	• Letter to MRT • Recommendations to Leaders
Multimodal Paperless Trade	ABAC Russia	• Recommendations for MRT
Digital trade facilitation: **MLETR**	Marjorie Yang, ABAC Hong Kong, China	• Supporting paperless trade recommendations
AI for Trade Facilitation	Monica Hardy Whaley, ABAC USA	• Recommendations to MRT, Digital Ministers, Leaders
Digital trade rules coherence	Stephanie Honey, ABAC New Zealand	• Report on digital trade coherence • FTAAP Statement, Recommendations to MRT, Digital Ministers, Leaders
New **Services** Roadmap	*As needed: Stephanie Honey, ABAC New Zealand*	• Inputs to GOS/new APEC Services Roadmap process as needed
SMEs and **Digital Payments** in the Multilateral Trading System ***{FTF}***	Bimal Patel, ABAC USA	• Recommendations for MRT, Leaders, Finance Ministers, Digital Ministers
Digital Services Trade Rules: Hong Kong APEC Study Centre project	Marjorie Yang, ABAC Hong Kong, China	• *Supporting ABAC position on services roadmap*

Recommendations

- Members to endorse the proposed work programme for REIWG