

Joint Press Release on the Inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting

18 November, 2025: The Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership held its inaugural Ministerial Meeting on 18 November 2025 in Singapore, bringing together Ministers and representatives from the FIT Partnership countries and 6 observer countries. The World Trade Organization Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also participated [virtually] in the meeting.

The FIT Partnership was launched on 16 September 2025 to promote open and fair trade, support inclusive growth, and address contemporary trade challenges. As a principles-based and non-binding grouping, the FIT Partnership aims to strengthen the rules-based trading system through practical and solution-focused initiatives in areas such as supply chain resilience, non-tariff trade barriers, and the facilitation of investment in the adoption and integration of emerging technologies.

During the meeting, the FIT Partnership welcomed new member countries Paraguay and Malaysia, joining existing members Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. This brings the membership of the FIT Partnership to 16 countries.

The inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting also welcomed representatives from non-member countries including Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines and Thailand who participated in the meeting to better understand the FIT Partnership and its initiatives.

The Ministers reaffirmed the FIT Partnership's commitment to open and fair trade and launched the following initiatives to address emerging challenges and opportunities in trade and investment:

- a. 10 Ministers from Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay issued a Ministerial Declaration on Supply Chain Resilience to enhance cooperation and coordination to identify or mitigate ongoing or imminent major supply chain risks and disruptions of shared concerns. This will allow swifter and more meaningful responses to major supply chain risks and disruptions. The FIT Partnership will build on this declaration to further strengthen cooperation and coordination on issues relating to supply chain resilience;
- b. launched a workstream to advance digital and paperless trade. The workstream will promote the adoption of international standards and legislation, to facilitate the use and exchange of digital trade documentation;
- c. launched a workstream on strengthening the rules-based trading system. The workstream will incubate solutions on contemporary trade challenges and be a pathfinder for reform to existing trade structures; and
- d. launched a new workstream on leveraging technology to address current challenges in customs processes. This initiative will provide small and medium-

sized enterprises (SMEs) specialising in trade technology with the opportunity to test and refine their innovative solutions for scale-up.

Looking ahead, the FIT Partnership will maintain its focus on having real-world impact and amplifying the collective voice of small and medium, trade-dependent countries to champion open and fair trade. As it continues to expand, the Partnership will continue to invite additional countries willing to uphold its principles.