

## **SINGAPORE PLEDGES TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH WTO MEMBERS ON WTO REFORM AND E-COMMERCE ISSUES**

1. Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu represented Singapore at the 14<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 26 to 29 March 2026. 166 WTO Members engaged in intensive discussions over several days on WTO reform, extension of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, second phase of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, and other issues.
2. Good progress was made in discussions on WTO reform, including on decision-making, development and level playing field, as well as modalities of reform. Members also engaged in discussions to extend the moratorium on customs duties on electronic commerce beyond two years. While consensus was not reached on these issues, Singapore together with other Members will continue to pursue discussions to find solutions.
3. In addition, at MC14, Singapore led the successful adoption of the interim arrangements for the WTO E-Commerce Agreement (ECA) by 66 WTO Members, while continuing to pursue incorporation of the agreement into the broader WTO legal framework. This is the world's first-ever set of global digital trade rules, and it signals a clear pathway forward for members who are willing to pursue plurilateral agreements to address new trade issues, while remaining open for other members to join when ready at a later stage. The ECA, notably, includes a permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, and would come into effect once 45 Members ratify the ECA. This would enable businesses and consumers to better harness opportunities in the digital economy by lowering costs, reducing friction, and strengthening trust in cross-border transactions.
4. Minister Fu said: "We welcome the broad support of a diverse group of least-developed, developing and developed Members on WTO reform and to extend the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. We deeply regret that consensus could not be reached at the WTO 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on these issues.
5. Singapore remains a strong supporter of WTO reform and the moratorium. The moratorium has played a vital role in facilitating digital trade, providing certainty and predictability to businesses and consumers across the globe. It is disappointing that a

decision on the moratorium, in particular, could not be reached with a handful of WTO Members. Singapore urges WTO Members to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions, as digital trade will continue to grow in importance. We are heartened that more than 60 Members have adopted the interim arrangements for the WTO E-Commerce Agreement, which includes a permanent moratorium. We are ready to work with like-minded partners to implement the ECA expeditiously, and encourage more members to join.”

6. On the sidelines of MC14, Minister Fu also hosted a Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Co-Conveners’ Ministerial Meeting, and co-hosted a Ministerial Meeting on the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA). She also attended a meeting between the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the European Union (EU), and was a guest speaker for the 2026 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. In addition, Minister Fu had bilateral meetings with many ministerial counterparts to discuss how Members could work together to strengthen the rules-based trading system, opportunities arising from digitalisation and the green transition, as well as ways to deepen bilateral cooperation to deliver tangible benefits for our businesses and citizens alike.

7. Further information on MC14 and its outcomes can be found [here](#).

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**  
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**Photos of MC14**



**Caption:** Opening Ceremony of MC14 on 26 March 2026  
**Photo Credit:** WTO



**Caption:** MPIA Parties issue joint statement at MC14 on 28 March 2026

Photo credit: WTO



Caption: Ministerial Session on E-Commerce Agreement on 28 March 2026

Photo credit: WTO