

SINGAPORE HOSTS INAUGURAL FUTURE OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE PARTNERSHIP MINISTERIAL MEETING

This is the first in-person meeting following the virtual launch of the FIT Partnership in September 2025.

1. Singapore hosted the inaugural Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Ministerial Meeting today. This is the first time Ministers from the FIT Partnership countries are meeting in person, following the virtual launch of the FIT Partnership in September 2025. The Meeting brought together Ministers and representatives from 16 FIT Partnership countries¹ and 6 observer countries². The World Trade Organization Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also participated virtually in the meeting. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong chaired the Meeting as well as led the Singapore delegation.
2. The FIT Partnership aims to advance open and fair trade practices amid growing challenges to the global trading system. It is an agile platform that fosters cooperation between private and public partners and serves as a pathfinder for solutions to address emerging challenges and opportunities. The priority areas for the FIT Partnership are: (i) supply chain resilience; (ii) investment facilitation; and (iii) non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation, and (iv) trade technology.
3. The FIT Partnership is gaining momentum as it grows its membership, with Paraguay and Malaysia joining as new members, bringing the total membership to 16 countries.
4. At the FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting, FIT Partners advanced the Partnership's agenda by endorsing a Ministerial declaration on supply chain resilience, signalling a shared commitment to ensuring more secure and resilient supply chains. The FIT Partnership also launched three new workstreams on (i) trade facilitation; (ii) strengthening the rules-based trading system; and (iii) leveraging technology to address current challenges in customs processes. Through these initiatives, the FIT Partnership hopes to deliver concrete and positive outcomes for businesses and citizens.
5. Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said, "The FIT Partnership is an agile platform that incubates innovative solutions for an open, fair and rules-based trading system, and a pathfinder for the future of investment and trade. The inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting marks a significant step for small and medium-sized countries. The new workstreams launched today will develop concrete ideas and initiatives that will bring the FIT Partnership forward and deliver tangible benefits for businesses."

¹ Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Uruguay.

² Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines and Thailand.

6. Singapore has been a strong advocate for the FIT Partnership as one of its four co-convenors along with New Zealand, Switzerland and the UAE. Singapore serves as the FIT Partnership's first Coordinating Partner and will hand over the role in mid-2026 to New Zealand. Singapore sees the FIT Partnership as a vital platform for like-minded, pro-trade partners to collaborate on strengthening the rules-based trading system. Singapore will continue to provide active support for the FIT Partnership's initiatives and workstreams, working closely with members to advance shared objectives and promote fresh approaches to international trade cooperation.

Annex A: Photo of the Inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Annex B: Joint Press Release on the Inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Annex C: FIT Partnership Ministerial Declaration

Annex D: FIT Partnership Declaration on Supply Chain Resilience

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
18 NOVEMBER 2025

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Photo of the Inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting



Caption: Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and Ministers from the participating countries at the inaugural Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Ministerial Meeting on 18 November 2025.

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. 13 Ministers from Brunei, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, 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 trade. 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.

FIT Partnership Ministerial Declaration

FUTURE OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE PARTNERSHIP

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Preamble

We, as Ministers:

Reiterating our support for the rules-based multilateral trading system, providing for a predictable, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and fair global trading environment;

Recognising that countries must navigate increasingly intricate technology and trade landscapes;

Reaffirming the vital role that foreign direct investment (FDI) plays in developing infrastructure, fostering international trade, creating export opportunities and enabling sustainable economic growth;

Emphasising the need for small, medium and trade-dependent countries to partner in affirming the principles of open and fair trade and to strengthen adherence to the rules-based trading system;

Have reached the following understanding:

Objectives

1. We will establish a Future of Investment and Trade Partnership (FIT Partnership) that will work toward the following objectives and develop concrete actions to advance the priority areas:

- a. Affirm the need for principles of open and fair trade and adherence to the rules-based trading system;
- b. Support inclusive growth through enhancing access to resources and technology;

- c. Address contemporary and emerging trade issues; and
- d. Enhance FDI flows with the aim of fostering greater and more sustainable growth.

Principles

- 2. To this end, the FIT Partnership will adhere to the following principles:
 - a. Supporting and abiding by the rules-based multilateral trading system;
 - b. Maintaining an open and fair trading environment as well as minimising and removing unnecessary barriers to trade and investment;
 - c. Promoting transparency and predictability in trade and investment policies;
 - d. Facilitating a level playing field for businesses;
 - e. Engaging, as appropriate in multi-stakeholder approaches;
 - f. Promoting collaborative solutions in emerging trade-related issues; and
 - g. Facilitating and enabling cross-border investment to drive economic growth and resilience.

Priorities

- 3. The FIT Partnership will prioritise the following elements:
 - 1. Supply chain resilience;
 - 2. Investment facilitation;
 - 3. Non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation; and
 - 4. Trade technology, recognising this priority area as a horizontal enabler that can reinforce and enhance progress across all the priorities.
- 4. The FIT Partnership will develop concrete actions to advance these priorities.
- 5. The FIT Partnership will also continue to identify other priorities based on consultations to further the FIT Partnership's objectives.

Endorsed by the Ministers of the following countries on 16 September 2025:

**MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMY II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, DR AMIN LIEW ABDULLAH**

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHILE, ALBERTO VAN KLAVEREN

MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, COSTA RICA, MANUEL TOVAR RIVERA

**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ICELAND, ÞORGERÐUR KATRÍN
GUNNARSDÓTTIR**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
LIECHTENSTEIN, SABINE MONAUNI**

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE, MOROCCO, RYAD MEZZOUR

**MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
NEW ZEALAND, TODD MCCLAY**

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWAY, ESPEN BARTH EIDE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PANAMA, JAVIER EDUARDO MARTÍNEZACHA VÁSQUEZ

MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, RWANDA, PRUDENCE SEBAHIZI

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SINGAPORE, GAN
KIM YONG**

**FEDERAL COUNCILLOR AND HEAD OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, SWITZERLAND, GUY PARMELIN**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DR THANI BIN AHMED AL
ZEYOUDI**

ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, URUGUAY, AMBASSADOR VALERIA CSUKASI

Addendum 1

Endorsed by the Ministers of the following countries on 18 November 2025:

**MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MALAYSIA, TENGKU ZAFRUL BIN
TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ**

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, PARAGUAY, JAVIER GIMÉNEZ GARCÍA DE ZUÑIGA

FIT Partnership Declaration on Supply Chain Resilience

Future of Investment and Trade Partnership

Declaration on Supply Chain Resilience: Best Practices in Response to Major Supply Chain Risks and Disruptions

We, as Ministers:

RECOGNISING the importance of stable, transparent and resilient supply chains and that major supply chain disruptions can compromise access to essential goods, impacting *inter alia* economic security and stability, public health, food security, and the green and digital transitions;

AFFIRMING our objective to support inclusive growth through enhancing access to resources and technology;

AFFIRMING that open markets, a strong rules-based multilateral trading system, including compliance with those rules, contribute to supply chain resilience and to addressing major supply chain disruptions;

RECOGNIZING that strengthening the Participants' development of local economies and participation in global and regional value chains contributes to enhancing the resilience of supply chains;

AFFIRMING the Participants' intent to maintain open, diversified, transparent, competitive and resilient supply chains, especially during periods of supply chain disruption;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of refraining from adopting trade-restrictive measures including export restrictions, tariffs and non-tariff barriers;

RECOGNISING that increased cooperation in international trade policy can contribute to successfully addressing major supply chain risks and disruptions;

AFFIRMING that major supply chain risks and disruptions call for global, coordinated and informed responses;

UNDERSTANDING that supply chain risks and disruptions may be due to, among other causes, pandemics and regional epidemics, weather events, disasters declared or recognized by a central, regional, or local government, cyber incidents, logistical

interruptions, insufficient supply of raw materials or components, bottlenecks, or armed conflict;

DETERMINED to work closely to identify and address major supply chain risks and disruptions;

ACKNOWLEDGING the key role that the stakeholders could play in the promotion of supply chain resilience, including the development and management of supply chains;

DESIRING that this initiative supports the global response to major supply chain risks and disruptions.

Declare:

1. For the purpose of this declaration:
 - a) *Participant* means a country whose Minister has endorsed this declaration.
 - b) *Major supply chain risk* means the risk of any substantial interruption, delay, or degradation in the production, transportation, distribution, or availability of essential goods.
 - c) *Major supply chain disruption* means any substantial interruption, delay, or degradation in the production, transportation, distribution, or availability of essential goods.
 - d) *Essential good* means the goods a Participant deems critical to ensuring its economic security and stability, protecting its public health and safety, safeguarding its food security, or the continuity of its vital societal functions, and which, if unavailable or severely restricted, would pose a significant risk to its economy, public well-being, green and digital transitions, or the effective functioning of its institutions.
2. We affirm the Participants' objective to enhance cooperation and coordination to identify and mitigate ongoing or imminent major supply chain risks and disruptions of shared concerns.
3. To that purpose, we intend to regularly exchange views on supply chains of essential goods, including aspects related to local production conditions, with a view to identifying, preventing and mitigating major supply chain risks and disruptions, and to

share information and experiences on the effectiveness of the Participants' respective approaches to addressing major supply chain risks and disruptions.

4. In the event of major supply chain disruptions, the Participants endeavour to, *inter alia*,:
 - a) Where appropriate, reduce or eliminate customs duties on the import and export of relevant essential goods, consistent with their respective international obligations;
 - b) Refrain from applying unnecessary export prohibitions of, or restrictions on exports of, relevant essential goods;
 - c) Intensify consultations with a view to removing non-tariff barriers on relevant essential goods;
 - d) Expedite and facilitate the flow and transit of relevant essential goods through their respective sea and air ports, consistent with their respective domestic laws;
 - e) Apply measures in response to major supply chain disruptions, or measures that may have significant impact on the trade of relevant essential goods, in a transparent manner; and
 - f) Where possible, facilitate real-time information sharing and coordination on joint response plans and mitigation strategies, collaborate on studies, data sharing and risk assessments, and as well as report on the restoration of supply chains to normal operations.
5. If major supply chain risks are identified, we intend for the Participants to consider the application of the non-binding practices described in paragraph 4 to mitigate these risks.
6. We intend that each Participant nominates a supply chain national contact point. The FITP coordinating Participant will maintain a list of national contact points and their respective contact details, which can be used, *inter alia*, to facilitate information exchange and coordination during a major supply chain disruption or if a major supply chain risk is identified.

7. We confirm that, if they deem it necessary, the Participants may hold consultations with businesses and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate cooperation and coordination on trade policy approaches to mitigate major supply chain risks and disruptions, and enhance their effectiveness.
8. We confirm that this declaration does not create legal rights or obligations under international law.

Endorsed by the Ministers of the following countries on 18 November 2025:

MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, DR AMIN LIEW ABDULLAH

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWAY, ESPEN BARTH EIDE

MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIES, PANAMA, JULIO ARMANDO MOLTÓ ALAIN

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