Joint Press Release of the Second Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Ministerial Meeting – July 2026 Auckland, New Zealand

The second Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Ministerial Meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand 17 July. This meeting follows the inaugural FIT Partnership Ministerial meeting in Singapore in November 2025.

The Meeting brought together Ministers and Representatives from the FIT Partnership, a grouping of small and medium sized, trade-dependent countries, all committed to open and fair trade.

To this end, Ministers agreed on a forward-looking set of outcomes to strengthen economic resilience, accelerate digital trade, reduce barriers, and advance practical cooperation:

- 13 Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay, issued a Ministerial Declaration on Promoting Economic Resilience to Address Economic Security Risks, underscoring their shared commitment to strengthening resilience while preserving open markets and avoiding unnecessary restrictions on trade;

- 14 Ministers from Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay, issued a Ministerial Declaration on Facilitating the Digitisation of Trade Processes and Documents, with a focus on encouraging the adoption of international standards and interoperable systems to make trade faster, simpler, and more secure;

- 8 Ministers from Chile, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Singapore, and Uruguay joined a Plurilateral Arrangement relating to Cooperation on Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs), providing a framework for Members to take practical steps to tackle trade barriers and strengthen our trading positions;

- Ministers agreed on future work of the FIT Partnership, notably on addressing contemporary subsidies issues, on strengthening the transparency, predictability and fairness of the rules-based trading system and building on the ongoing work on supply chain resilience to advance practical and concrete cooperation.

During the Auckland meeting, the FIT Partnership welcomed new Member countries Korea, Peru and Thailand, bringing the total membership to 19 countries[1]. This growing membership reflects the interest generated by the FIT Partnership and its positive trade agenda which supports economies to navigate uncertainty while remaining open and connected.

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[1] Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Iceland, Korea, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay

FIT Partnership Ministers were joined by counterparts from Fiji and Samoa as New Zealand's guests from the Pacific region for this second Ministerial meeting.

Alongside these Auckland outcomes, FIT Partnership Ministers and Representatives committed to maintaining strong momentum through its action-oriented agenda. They emphasised the importance of the FIT Partnership in having real world impact by closely engaging relevant stakeholders. With this in mind, Ministers engaged with a number of New Zealand business leaders, including through a panel discussion, as representatives of this key stakeholder group.

New Zealand acknowledged the United Arab Emirates for taking on the role of Coordinating Chair of the FIT Partnership later in the year, with the third FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting planned for early 2027 in the United Arab Emirates.

END

Annex A - Photo of the Second FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Future of Investment & Trade Partnership

ANNEX A

Photo of the Second FIT Partnership Ministerial Meeting

Caption: Representatives from the participating countries at the second Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership Ministerial Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand on 17 July 2026.