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Cooperation and Capacity Building

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) levels the playing field for American workers and American businesses, leading to more Made-in-America exports and more higher-paying American jobs here at home. By cutting over 18,000 taxes different countries put on Made-in-America products, TPP makes sure our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, service suppliers, and small businesses can compete—and win—in some of the fastest growing markets in the world. With more than 95 percent of the world’s consumers living outside our borders, TPP will significantly expand the export of Made-in-America goods and services and support American jobs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TPP includes some of the most ambitious commitments ever reflected in a trade agreement. It will also join together countries of differing levels of development, some of which have never undertaken high-standard trade commitments. The Cooperation and Capacity Building chapter will help en-

sure that all of our partners can fulfill their obligations, draw their maximum potential benefit from the agreement, and emerge as strong and sustainable markets for U.S. exports of goods and services. It does not establish an assistance program, but rather creates a framework to identify needs and resources for capacity building assistance, on a voluntary basis, to ensure full implementation of the TPP Agreement and to maximize its benefits.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Promoting Cooperation and Capacity Building

The Cooperation and Capacity Building chapter recognizes the value of cooperation and capacity building activities, as mutually agreed between two or more Parties, in helping all Parties to fully implement the TPP Agreement.

Procedures for Cooperation and Capacity Building

The chapter establishes a Committee on Cooperation and Capacity Building to identify and review areas for potential cooperative or capacity building efforts, on a voluntary basis and subject to the availability of resources. This Committee will facilitate exchange of information and identify contact points to help with requests related to cooperation and capacity building.

NEW FEATURES

The United States and other developed TPP countries have been providing technical assistance and trade capacity building during the negotiations, and intend to provide ongoing support to developing country participants during the implementation phase as well. While previous agreements have included capacity-building programs, TPP is the first U.S. agreement to create a formal and permanent framework of cooperation to build the capacity needed in developing countries to fully implement a high-standard agreement. This is especially important as the TPP will be the largest and most diverse Free Trade Agreement the United States has ever negotiated.

IMPACT

TPP includes a broad range of commitments, covering tariff reductions, trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers, investment, agriculture, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, intellectual property rights, cross-border servic-

es trade, labor standards, environmental standards, disciplines on State-Owned Enterprises and a framework for trade related to the digital economy. Realizing these benefits, however, depends not merely on negotiating the commitments, but on fully implementing them.

Especially for TPP's lower-income members, this will require significant effort. Given scarce resources, it is important to ensure that capacity building resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. Over time, coordinated approaches to capacity-building will conserve resources while deepening cooperative relationships among TPP technical experts, reinforcing our efforts to expand high-standard rules across TPP.

