29 May 2026

TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF JAPAN

27 AND 29 MAY 2026

Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson,
Ambassador H.E. Ms Nella Pepe Tavita-Levy
(Permanent Representative of Samoa)

1. Japan's 16th Trade Policy Review has given us a clearer understanding of the development of its trade and related policies since its previous Review in 2023. I am pleased to note that the current Review was conducted with the spirit of transparency, cooperation, and open dialogue, which are central to the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and the multilateral trading system.

2. At the outset, I would like to thank H.E. TAKAHASHI Katsuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for International Economic Affairs and Representative of the Government of Japan for Free Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations and the entire delegation of Japan for their active and constructive engagement throughout this Review. I also wish to thank our discussant, H.E. Ambassador Phan Dung MAI, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the WTO, for his valuable remarks, enriching our discussions during this Trade Policy Review.

3. The remarkably high level of participation in this Review demonstrates the importance Members attach to Japan's trade and related policies. Japan received over **800** advance written questions from **40 Members**, and over **60 delegations** took the floor during the two-day meeting.

4. A common thread throughout these two days of meetings was the strong recognition of Japan's leadership and contributions to the multilateral trading system. Members underscored Japan's constructive role and active participation in WTO. They highlighted Japan's leadership in Joint Initiatives, contributions to fisheries subsidies disciplines, including financial support, and engagement on environmental issues, including plastics pollution. Members also appreciated Japan's support for Aid for Trade and its participation in the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement. Members encouraged Japan to continue its leadership role in support of an open, inclusive, and effective multilateral trading system, including ongoing efforts towards WTO reform.

5. In their interventions, Members highlighted Japan's major role in the global economy and reaffirmed its standing as a reliable trading partner and a significant source of foreign direct investment. They also valued Japan's role as a supplier of high-value and technology-intensive goods, with growing potential in services trade. Members further recognized Japan's long-standing engagement in promoting economic integration at the bilateral and regional level. Members also noted structural challenges, including an ageing society, labour shortages, and low productivity growth, alongside the need for fiscal consolidation. In this context, Members underscored the importance of facilitating labour mobility, including the movement of natural persons.

6. Members noted that Japan maintains efficient customs procedures and generally low applied MFN tariffs, while also noting the complexity of its tariff structure. Concerns were expressed regarding protection in the agricultural sector, including through tariff and non-tariff measures and domestic support, alongside acknowledgement of progress in trade liberalization. Members welcomed Japan's extension of GSP preferences for graduating LDCs and encouraged continued efforts to enhance transparency and promote further market openness, including in agriculture.

7. Members exchanged views on industrial policies and economic security-related measures, including in strategic sectors, emphasizing the importance of transparency, non-discrimination, and consistency with WTO rules. They also underlined the need for predictability in the design and implementation of such measures and encouraged continued dialogue on these issues, with a view to fostering mutual understanding and maintaining an open, rules-based trading environment.

8. Members expressed appreciation for Japan's efforts to enhance its investment environment, notably through predictable regulatory frameworks and corporate governance reforms. Members also welcomed progress on inclusive and forward-looking priorities, including gender equality, participation in trade of women and MSMEs, and governance in digital, AI, and green domains. Some Members encouraged further efforts to strengthen the evidence base for policymaking and to ensure that regulatory developments remain transparent and manageable, particularly for smaller stakeholders.

9. In addition, Members raised a number of specific sectoral and regulatory issues, including in the areas of services, government procurement, standards, and selected industrial sectors. Members underscored in this regard the importance of continued transparency, proportionality, and dialogue.

10. Through its active participation over the two-day meeting and its extensive responses to a very large number of advance written questions, Japan's delegation has clearly shown the importance it attaches to the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and to the Multilateral Trading System.

11. I trust that the delegation of Japan will carefully consider the comments and perspectives shared by Members during this Review. We look forward to receiving the remaining written replies within the customary one month.

12. In closing, I would like to thank once again the delegation of Japan, our discussant, and all participating delegations for their valuable contributions. I also extend my appreciation to the Secretariat for its work in supporting this Review.