6 November 2026

TRADE POLICY REVIEW OF VIET NAM

4 AND 6 NOVEMBER 2026

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

1. Viet Nam's third Trade Policy Review has provided us with a clearer understanding of developments in its trade and trade-related policies and practices since its previous Review in 2021. I am pleased to note that, over the past two days, the Review has been conducted in a spirit of transparency, cooperation and open dialogue, reflecting the core principles of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and the multilateral trading system.

2. At the outset, I would like to thank H.E. Mr Mai Phan Dũng, Ambassador of Viet Nam, Deputy Director General Mr Khanh, and the entire delegation of Viet Nam for their active and constructive engagement throughout this Review, and the comprehensive responses provided this morning. Cảm ơn quý vị. I also wish to thank our discussant, H.E. Ambassador Seongmee Yoon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the WTO, for her insightful observations, enriching our discussions during this Trade Policy Review.

3. The high level of participation in this Review demonstrates the importance Members attach to Viet Nam's trade and related policies. As highlighted by our Discussant, Viet Nam received over 845 written questions from 32 Members. Of these, over 484 were answered ahead of the meeting. A total of 40 delegations took the floor during the two-day meeting.

4. A common theme in Members' statements was recognition of Viet Nam's remarkable economic transformation since its last Review. Members welcomed strong economic growth, progress in poverty reduction, the attainment of upper-middle-income status, sustained investment, and deeper integration into regional and global value chains. They highlighted reforms to streamline administrative procedures, modernize customs, facilitate investment, strengthen infrastructure and support higher-value-added industries, including semiconductors. Members also noted Viet Nam's important role in regional economic integration, including ASEAN and the CPTPP; and APEC chairmanship in 2027. Some encouraged stronger linkages between domestic enterprises and foreign-invested firms, greater domestic value addition and lower logistics costs.

5. Members commended Viet Nam's support for the rules-based multilateral trading system and encouraged its continued engagement in WTO reform. They welcomed its acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and participation in the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement, as well as its steps towards joining the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement. Some also highlighted Viet Nam's contribution to the WTO dispute settlement system, referring to the resolution of a dispute initiated by Viet Nam through a mutually agreed solution. A number of Members encouraged Viet Nam to advance or consider participation in the Agreement on Electronic Commerce, the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement and the initiative on services domestic regulation. Some also encouraged continued engagement in fisheries subsidies negotiations and other WTO discussions, while emphasizing the importance of inclusive reform.

6. Transparency and regulatory predictability featured prominently in Members' interventions. While acknowledging Viet Nam's efforts to simplify procedures and improve the investment climate, Members called for timely publication and notification of proposed measures, meaningful stakeholder consultations, adequate transition periods and consistent implementation across authorities and provinces. We take note of the update on notifications and transparency provided by the delegation this morning. Several encouraged Viet Nam to address outstanding WTO notifications, including those concerning import licensing, quantitative restrictions, subsidies and state trading enterprises;

other areas mentioned included agriculture and anti-dumping. Some specifically urged that notified technical regulations allow the recommended 60-day public comment period.

7. Members welcomed progress in trade facilitation, including digital customs procedures, risk management, the Authorized Economic Operator programme and mutual recognition arrangements. At the same time, they sought greater clarity and consistency in customs valuation, origin verification, import licensing, border clearance and approval procedures. Concerns were raised regarding technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including food safety, establishment approvals, livestock-product market access, agricultural transit documentation and phytosanitary certification. Members emphasized the use of relevant international standards, risk-based approaches, consultation, transparent procedures and the avoidance of unnecessary barriers to trade. Specific questions also concerned documentation requirements for chemical-product import licensing.

8. Members recognized reforms to promote investment and private-sector development, while encouraging greater legal certainty and effective implementation. Some sought improvements in services market access and competitive conditions, including in banking, telecommunications, distribution, transport, professional services and digital financial services. Issues raised included licensing requirements, foreign equity restrictions, investment incentives and competitive neutrality between state-owned and private enterprises. Some expressed concern about the economic role and governance of state-owned enterprises, while concerns were raised about certain applied tariffs relative to bound rates.

9. Government procurement was also raised as an area where greater openness and transparency could support competition and market access. Some sought clarification on restrictions affecting international bidding and requirements for foreign suppliers to involve domestic contractors, encouraged improved availability of procurement data, and invited Viet Nam to continue considering accession to the Agreement on Government Procurement. We take note of the additional information provided by the delegation this morning.

10. Viet Nam's growing digital economy attracted attention. Members welcomed efforts to promote digitalization, e-commerce and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. At the same time, several expressed concerns about overlapping regulations, limited consultation, local data storage requirements, restrictions or uncertainty affecting cross-border data transfers, local-presence requirements and market access for foreign digital service providers. Members sought greater procedural clarity, including on possible suspensions of cross-border data transfers, and encouraged transparent, predictable and proportionate approaches that facilitate trade and investment.

11. Members raised issues concerning intellectual property protection and enforcement, including online piracy, counterfeit goods, trade secrets, pharmaceutical intellectual property, patents and geographical indications. Some requested clearer information on enforcement measures and their effectiveness. Concerns were also expressed about certain technology-transfer-related regulatory requirements and their implications for business operations. In addition, some sought clarification on the use of anti-dumping and anti-circumvention measures affecting specific products.

12. Members welcomed Viet Nam's efforts relating to green growth, renewable energy, sustainable fisheries and environmental cooperation, and encouraged continued work on the green transition. They recognized its engagement in agricultural trade reform, while raising issues relating to food safety, agricultural market access and approval procedures. Several interventions highlighted support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and women's participation in trade, including through the National Strategy on Gender Equality and access to trade information. Members encouraged the sharing of experiences and the use of gender-disaggregated evidence to inform policy. Some also raised the implementation of international labour standards. The delegation of Viet Nam had referenced these matters in their response this morning.

13. Across these areas, Members stressed the value of transparency, predictability, timely notifications, constructive consultation and continued dialogue in supporting an open and rules-based trading environment.

14. Through its engagement in this Review and its replies to advance written questions, and the preliminary responses we heard this morning, Viet Nam's delegation has demonstrated the importance it attaches to the Trade Policy Review Mechanism and the multilateral trading system.

15. I trust that the delegation of Viet Nam will take into consideration the comments and perspectives shared by Members during this Review. We join Viet Nam in celebrating 20 years of WTO membership. We are pleased that Viet Nam considers the WTO and their engagement as a powerful catalyst for domestic reform and deeper integration into the global economy.

In closing, I would like to thank once again the Government and delegation of Viet Nam, our discussant, all participating delegations, and the Secretariat for their valuable contributions to this Review. With the responses to all written questions to be received within the customary one-month period, I declare the third trade policy review of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, closed.