

Workshop Outline and Agenda:

Online Workshop on Potential Options for a Voluntary Standstill on Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Virtual Workshop - 11:00pm, 19 August 2021 (NZDT)

Purpose of the Workshop

This APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) workshop, as part of the project self-funded by New Zealand ([CTI 08 2021S](#)) and facilitated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) as the project contractor, is intended to provide APEC officials and practitioners the opportunity to share information on and explore options, for those members that are in a position to do so, to undertake a potential voluntary standstill on inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

The intent is to reflect on whether and how the mechanism of a voluntary standstill arrangement might further spur progress towards APEC economies' commitment to rationalize and phase out fossil fuel subsidies. The sharing of historical examples, information and best practices in this area would particularly assist those APEC economies looking to accelerate fossil fuel subsidy reform as part of mounting climate ambition, as well as supporting economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshop's discussions will help define the issue at hand with regards to the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies and why a standstill is an approach worth consideration. It will touch on lessons from other existing standstill-type arrangements as well as the impacts that they may have within the APEC region, which in turn could help inform officials' discussion on the broader topic of fossil fuel subsidy reform and methods to enhance progress on this issue. The workshop will also reflect on the linkages between fossil fuel subsidies and trade, and how such subsidies have the potential to pose a trade challenge.

Timing, format, and target audience

The approx. 100 minute online workshop will be held on Thursday 19 August 2021 at 11:00pm NZDT. It will include presentations from subject matter experts, as well as the opportunity for interactive discussion (see agenda on page 2). Participation will be open to officials and practitioners across the APEC region. Besides those officials who participate in CTI, we encourage economies to include their other relevant agencies/departments/experts as they wish. Given the cross-cutting nature of this topic, we warmly welcome the participation of those officials who participate in the EWG, SFOM, and EC.

Logistics and registration

We will use the APEC 2021 platform via Microsoft Teams for these discussions. Details regarding registration and accessing the platform are included in Annex 1 (see page 3). We recommend you follow the instructions carefully, register well in advance of the meeting (which should appear as part of the *SOM3 meeting cluster*), and allow sufficient time before the meeting to login to the platform.

Indicative Agenda

An updated/finalised agenda will be circulated closer to the time of the workshop.

Welcome Remarks (3 min)

- New Zealand

Keynote presentation (25 min)

- Peter Wooders, Director, Energy Program, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Dr. Theresia Betty Sumarno, Energy Policy Consultant, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Mr Wooders and Dr. Sumarno will share insight on the rationale for a fossil fuel subsidy standstill, trade implications of fossil fuel subsidies, options for standstill models including domestic reform opportunities, as well as insights on potential impacts of a potential voluntary standstill on inefficient fossil fuel subsidies in the APEC region.

International perspectives on the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies on sustainable development and trade, and potential for regional cooperation models for progress on rationalising and phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, including voluntary standstill options (40 min)

Moderated by Peter Wooders

- TBC, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Daniel Ramos, Legal Officer, World Trade Organization
- TBC, World Bank
- Discussant: Ronald Steenblik, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Interactive discussion (30 min)

This will provide an opportunity for all attendees to raise any questions or to share additional comments. Moderated by Peter Wooders.

Summary and Closing Remarks (5 min)

- New Zealand

If any technical issues on the day please contact APEC2021support@mfat.govt.nz

Annex 1: Registration Details

General registration information

All meeting participants must be registered by their economy's respective Delegation Accreditation Officer (DAO) (this is usually an officer working under each economy's APEC Senior Official).

Your registration provides access to the **APEC 2021 Microsoft Teams Participant Portal**, which you can use to manage your schedule, see which meetings you have been registered for, access supporting information and join meetings.

If you have previously set up an account to access the APEC 2021 Participant Portal, you can login [here](#) to access this meeting/event as part of the SOM3 cluster.

If this is your first time using the APEC 2021 Participant Portal you must set up your account

When a DAO registers you as a Delegate, an APEC 2021 Participant Portal account will be created for you. Once your account has been created, you will receive an email from us at no-reply@apec2021nz.org (if it does not appear in your inbox, check your junk/spam folder). It is important that you action this email within 24 hours by selecting the link and following the instructions to complete your account setup. If this is not actioned you may not be able to attend your meeting.

During the account set up process you will need to create a password and login to your account. Once you have logged in, you will need to set up two-factor authentication before you can access the Participant Portal. You then may then set up the app on your mobile phone.

For detailed guidance on setting up your account, please refer to pages 10 to 20 in the Participant Guidelines provided.

Please contact your DAO or APEC Support if you require assistance

If you need any help with registration or setting up your account please talk to your economy's DAO at first instance, or contact APEC2021support@mfat.govt.nz if any technical issues encountered. Note, you will receive an automatic response from this address to confirm your email has been received.