

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

CHAPTER SUMMARY: LABOUR

The Labour Chapter promotes compliance with internationally-recognised labour rights, enhanced cooperation and consultation on labour issues, and effective enforcement of labour laws in TPP Parties.

The Chapter includes provisions that reflect a shared commitment by TPP Parties to combat forced, compulsory, and child labour.

The Chapter is enforceable under the TPP Dispute Settlement Chapter.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHAPTER

The Chapter reaffirms TPP Parties' obligations as members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and requires Parties to have laws at the federal level of government that enshrine the rights stated in the ILO Declaration.

Building on internationally recognised labour rights (these are: freedom of association, collective bargaining, elimination of compulsory labour, abolition of child labour, and elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation), the TPP Parties are required to have laws governing acceptable conditions of work: minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational health and safety.

The Chapter prohibits TPP Parties from weakening the protections afforded to workers under their labour laws, or from failing to enforce them. The Chapter also promotes initiatives to discourage the importation of goods produced by forced or compulsory labour, including child labour.

The Chapter also encourages businesses in TPP Parties to adopt corporate social responsibility initiatives supported by the relevant Party.

The Chapter contains a number of transparency provisions for TPP Parties, including requirements to make information public about labour laws and their enforcement.

Implementation of the Chapter will be facilitated through a range of mechanisms, including through public submissions, cooperative activities and consultations. Members of the public will have the right to raise labour concerns with TPP Parties. Parties are required to provide timely responses to public submissions and publish them, where appropriate.

The Chapter promotes cooperation between TPP Parties on labour issues. Areas identified for cooperation include job creation, sustainable growth and skill development, promotion of equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, and protection of vulnerable workers.





TPP Parties have agreed to form a Labour Council with representatives from each Party. The Council's responsibilities will include: establishing priorities for cooperation and capacity building, facilitating public participation in and awareness of the implementation of the Chapter, and reviewing the implementation of the Chapter to ensure it is operating effectively.

TPP Parties will, where appropriate, liaise and collaborate with international organisations such as the ILO or APEC on matters related to the Chapter.

Each TPP Party will be required to have a National Contact Point for labour issues, whose responsibilities will include communication with the public. The Chapter requires each Party to maintain a national labour consultative or advisory body, so members of the public may provide views on matters regarding the TPP Labour Chapter.

Should a dispute arise between TPP Parties under the terms of this Chapter, Parties must make every effort to resolve the dispute through cooperation and consultation. However, should that process fail to resolve the dispute, TPP Parties will have access to the same TPP dispute settlement procedure that applies to other Chapters in the Agreement.