

ISSN 0276-8275

WTTOnline.com

A Weekly Report for Business Executives on
U.S. Trade Policies, Negotiations, Legislation,
Trade Laws and Export Controls

Washington Tariff & Trade Letter®

Vol. 43, No 4

January 23, 2023

Senate Steel Boosters Call for More Tariffs

Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Bob Casey (D-Pa) are urging the Administration to add imports of downstream **grain-oriented electrical steel products (GOES)** to the Section 232 tariffs list. Unfair importation of downstream GOES laminations and cores are undercutting investments in domestic electrical steel and threaten the security of our transformer supply chain, the senators said in a letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo.

Commerce in 2020 found that GOES imports are a threat to national security, but opted not to take action under Section 232. That decision should be reversed, the senators said. "Without strong actions by the Biden administration to address these downstream product trade distortions and provide a degree of assurance that unfair trade will not be permitted to once again decimate the US electrical steel market, domestic investment to expand GOES production will not likely occur," they wrote. "By taking action now, the Biden Administration can help support additional investment to increase U.S. production of these materials – a win for national security, domestic industry, and American workers."

Canada and Mexico the Culprits

The senators point out that foreign countries, including Russia and China, are shipping GOES to Canada and Mexico, where it is transformed into downstream electrical steel products which can enter the United States in circumvention of the Section 232 tariffs. Commerce should work with Canada and Mexico to either reduce their exports of down-stream GOES products to the United States, or utilize more US GOES in the manufacturing of products containing electrical steel, the senators said. "We urge you to revisit the October 2020 report and take the necessary steps to recommend GOES laminations and cores be added to the Section 232 relief measures to ensure continued, robust domestic production of GOES and NOES," the senators wrote. "The transformer supply chain is critical to our national security, and as such, we must maintain domestic production capacity for all of the key materials in the transformer supply chain, including GOES."

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www.wttonline.com

Editor: Frank Ruffing +1.703.283.5220. fruffing@traderegs.com

US, Taipei Progress on Trade Deal

US and Taiwan trade officials reached consensus in a number of areas during discussions ending yesterday in Taipei on the bilateral Initiative of 21st Century Trade, according to the US Trade Representative's Office. In the first in-person negotiating round under the initiative, the two sides exchanged views on draft texts covering trade facilitation, anticorruption, small and medium-sized enterprises, good regulatory practices and services domestic regulation.

The officials pledged to "to maintain an ambitious negotiating schedule in the months ahead to continue this momentum," USTR said. The negotiations are being held under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States. Assistant US Trade Representative Terry McCartin acted as top US negotiator, as the designated representative of AIT.

Negotiating Texts

The texts discussed during this negotiating round "follow through on the two sides' shared commitment to pursue a high-ambition trade initiative, as outlined in the negotiating mandate that was established in August 2022, in order to strengthen and deepen economic and trade ties," according to USTR's readout. Congressional staff traveled to Taipei and were briefed by USTR officials throughout the round. In addition, USTR hosted a stakeholder consultation meeting,

Details on the next negotiating round will be made available at a later date, according to USTR. The two sides are hoping to reach an agreement as quickly as possible and are open to "early harvest" of any parts of the deal that are completed in advance of a finalizing the entire agreement, a US trade official told reporters last week. The other chapters envisioned under the initiative include agriculture, labor, environment, digital trade and dealing with state-owned enterprises.

Taiwan's Office of Trade Negotiations also raised the possibility of an early harvest on some of the issues discussed during the round that ended yesterday. Some of the issues discussed will need further consultations via video conferencing in order to reach agreement, according to the office.

US, China Try to Mend Fences

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had a "candid, substantive and constructive conversation" last week in Zurich as the two countries attempt to reset their strained relations.

The two officials "agreed it is important for the functioning of the global economy to further enhance communication around macroeconomic and financial issues," according a readout issued following their meeting. Secretary Yellen "raised issues of concern in a frank exchange of views," the readout said. She also announced plans to visit China soon to continue the discussions.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation of climate finance within the United Nation, G20 group of developed and developing countries and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. They also pledged to support emerging markets and developing countries as they make the transition to clean energy.

Both Washington and Beijing have been trying to lower the temperature in what has become a heated relationship. “Amid a complicated global economic outlook, there is a pressing need for the two largest economies in the world to closely communicate on global macroeconomic and financial conditions and exchange views on how we are responding to various challenges,” Ms. Yellen said in remarks prior to the meeting. “While we have areas of disagreement, and we will convey them directly, we should not allow misunderstandings, particularly those stemming from a lack of communication, to unnecessarily worsen our bilateral economic and financial relationship.”

FinCEN Tackling Russian Illicit Finance

Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo announced yesterday that Financial Crimes Enforcement Network has issued an order identifying the virtual currency exchange Bitzlato Limited as a “primary money laundering concern” in connection with Russian illicit finance. The actions will “expose and disrupt Russian cybercriminals and their enablers,” Mr. Adeyemo said.

The designation of Bitzlato as a “primary money laundering concern” is a “unique” action that has only been taken by Treasury a few times, Mr. Adeyemo said at a press conference. “Bitzlato has repeatedly facilitated transactions for Russian-affiliated ransomware groups, including Conti, a Ransomware-as-a-Service group that has links to the Russian government and to Russian-connected darknet markets,”

Bitzlato received virtual currency worth almost half a billion dollars from illicit activity between 2019 and 2021. Nearly 50 percent of all known Bitzlato transactions during that time involved Russian illicit finance or otherwise risky sources.

“At a time when Russia is waging a brutal and unjust war in Ukraine, and as it seeks to circumvent sanctions and governance controls to fill its coffers and sustain its violence, we have no tolerance for criminal enterprises enriching Russia’s malicious interests.” Mr. Adeyemo stated. “Because of its significant operations in, and connection to, Russia and Russian illicit finance, Bitzlato threatens US national security, the integrity of the US and international financial sectors, and businesses and institutions worldwide.” The designation imposes special measures on covered financial institutions, prohibiting them from transmitting funds to or from Bitzlato, or from any account or wallet administered by or on behalf of Bitzlato.

Yellen About Africa

In remarks to Senegalese entrepreneurs and officials Thursday, **Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen outlined the Administration’s policy approach for Africa.** *The following has been edited for brevity, the entire speech can be read [\[here\]](#)*

“There is much work to do to tackle the many challenges facing Africa and the globe. But we believe that Africa will shape the future of the global economy. I’ll start by discussing Africa’s tremendous economic opportunity. Then, I’ll turn to our partnership on global priorities, including climate, health, and conflict.

“Finally, I will discuss how success on all of these objectives depends on strong, open, and accountable institutions.

Africa’s demographics present massive promise. But demographics is not destiny. Throughout history, young populations without opportunity can spell greater risk of unrest and conflict. This is Africa’s most daunting and most promising task: to provide broad and inclusive opportunity to the next generation of Africans. I believe it is a challenge with enormous consequences for the world as well.

America’s investments in Africa are motivated by our mutually beneficial, long-term partnership. The goal is to generate positive economic returns while fostering sustainable debt. So, our investments prioritize rigorous technical standards. And they reflect high standards for accountability and transparency, along with careful consideration of risks to debt sustainability.

We know that expanding trade beyond the continent is not enough. African products and innovations should be made more readily accessible to Africans themselves. That’s why the United States is strongly supportive of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The single best thing we can do to help the global economy is to end Russia’s illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine. Russia’s barbaric aggression against its neighbor is particularly being felt by Africa and its people. **We are now establishing a U.S.-Africa strategic partnership on food security.** This partnership will address the short-term needs of upwards of 300 million Africans affected by the food crisis. And it will also help build resilient and sustainable food systems for the long term.

We have worked with a coalition of countries to implement a **cap on the price of Russian crude oil.** While the policy is in the early stages of implementation, Treasury estimates that it has the potential to result in around \$6 billion in annual savings for the 17 largest net oil-importing African countries.

We believe that the international community, including China, needs to provide meaningful debt relief to help countries regain their footing. Timely debt relief is in the interests of both debtors and creditors.

We support the addition of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20. Africa’s voice should not be one of an invited guest, but that of a full member.

Africa is uniquely positioned to play a growing role in our efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. We also know that Africa has been disproportionately impacted by global health challenges. Another transnational issue that requires attention is conflict and fragility. Last fall, I hosted ten African finance ministers for a dinner in Washington; all of them cited conflict as a major concern. Maintaining sustained action on these global challenges will require an evolution of our international institutions. The multilateral development banks already play a strong role in supporting poverty reduction and economic growth across Africa. But these banks should also tackle the growing threat of transnational challenges as part of their core work.

Our engagement with Africa prioritizes adherence to high standards like transparency, good governance, accountability, and environmental sustainability. While our approach may be exacting, we believe it delivers lasting results. Countries need to be wary of shiny deals that may be opaque and ultimately fail to

actually benefit the people they were purportedly designed to help in the first place. This can leave countries with a legacy of debt, diverted resources, and environmental destruction.

Africa has always been at the center of world history. It is, after all, the birthplace of humanity. And over the past few centuries, our histories have been intertwined, with our people's drawing strength and inspiration from each other in our respective struggles for civil rights. Today, the world continues to be enriched by the ingenuity and culture of Africa. In this job, I have been fortunate to have had the counsel of an American immigrant born in Nigeria: Wally Adeyemo, who is our Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

FCPA Self-Disclosure Incentives Sweetened

In an effort to encourage more voluntary self-disclosure, Justice announced revisions to the Corporate Enforcement Policy, which applies to all corporate criminal matters handled by the Criminal Division, including all FCPA cases nationwide.

These revisions provide specific, additional incentives to companies for voluntary self-disclosures, as well as for cooperation and remediation. The revisions make clear that there will be very different outcomes for companies that do not self-disclose, meaningfully cooperate with our investigations, or remediate.

"This is not a race to the bottom," warned **Assistant Attorney General Kenneth Polite** while announcing the new policy. "A reduction of 50% will not be the new norm; it will be reserved for companies that truly distinguish themselves and demonstrate extraordinary cooperation and remediation."

The Criminal Division is issuing this revised Policy, effective on a prospective basis as of January 2023, which provides, *inter alia*, that when a company has voluntarily self-disclosed misconduct to the Criminal Division, fully cooperated, and timely and appropriately remediated, all in accordance with the standards set forth below, there will be a presumption that the company will receive a declination absent aggravating circumstances involving the seriousness of the offense or the nature of the offender.

Aggravating circumstances that may warrant a criminal resolution include: involvement by executive management of the company in the misconduct; a significant profit to the company from the misconduct; egregiousness or pervasiveness of the misconduct within the company; or criminal recidivism.

Although a company will not qualify for a *presumption* of a declination if aggravating circumstances are present, prosecutors may nonetheless determine that a declination is an appropriate outcome if the company demonstrates to the Criminal Division that it has met all of the following factors:

- The voluntary self-disclosure was made immediately upon the company becoming aware of the allegation of misconduct;
- At the time of the misconduct and disclosure, the company had an effective compliance program and system of internal accounting controls, which enabled the identification of the misconduct and led to the company's voluntary self-disclosure; and
- The company provided extraordinary cooperation with the Department's investigation and undertook extraordinary remediation that exceeds the respective factors listed herein.

If a criminal resolution is warranted for a company that has voluntarily self-disclosed, fully cooperated, and timely and appropriately remediated, the Criminal Division:

- will accord, or recommend to a sentencing court, at least 50% and up to a 75% reduction off of the low end of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines (U.S.S.G.) fine range, except in the case of a criminal recidivist, in which case a reduction of at least 50% and up to 75% will generally not be from the low end of the U.S.S.G. fine range, and prosecutors will have discretion to determine the starting point for the reduction based on the particular facts and circumstances of the case;
- In assessing the appropriate form of the resolution, will generally not require a corporate guilty plea—including for criminal recidivists—absent the presence of particularly egregious or multiple aggravating circumstances, such as those described above, excluding recidivism (i.e., involvement by executive management of the company in the misconduct; a significant profit² to the company from the misconduct; and egregiousness or pervasiveness of the misconduct within the company); and
- generally will not require appointment of a monitor if a company has, at the time of resolution, demonstrated that it has implemented and tested an effective compliance program and remediated the root cause of the misconduct.

If a company did not voluntarily self-disclose its misconduct to the Criminal Division in accordance with the standards set forth above, but later fully cooperated and timely and appropriately remediated in accordance with the standards set forth above and below, the company will receive, or the Criminal Division will recommend to a sentencing court, up to a 50% reduction off of the low end of the U.S.S.G. fine range, except in the case of a criminal recidivist, in which case the reduction of up to 50% will generally not be from the low end of the U.S.S.G. fine range.

NASA-University Export Ruse

The mid-level program administrator responsible for a scheme to export flight control modeling software to a Chinese government entity pleaded guilty Jan 17th. The apparent motive was greed, facilitated by lax accounting and compliance controls.

Between August 2016 and September 2020, Jonathan Yet Wing Soong, 35, was employed as by Universities Space Research Association (USRA), a nonprofit research corporation which leads the NASA Academic Mission Services (NAMS) contract at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA. USRA is contracted by the NASA to, among other things, distribute domestically and internationally sensitive aeronautics-related software developed through the Army's Software Transfer Agreement (STA) program.

As USRA's STA program administrator, Soong was responsible for overseeing certain software license sales, conducting export compliance screening of customers, generating software licenses, and, on occasion, physically exporting software. As part of his duties, Soong was responsible for vetting customers to ensure they did not appear on certain restrictive lists—including the Department of Commerce's Entity List and other U.S. government lists—that placed limitations on the transfer of products to identified entities.

In pleading guilty, Soong admitted that he willingly exported and facilitated the sale and transfer of restricted software to Beihang University knowing that the university was on the Department of

Commerce's Entity List. Beihang University of Aeronautics and Astronautics BUAA was added to BIS' Entity List in May 2001 due to the University's involvement in People's Republic of China military rocket systems and unmanned air vehicle systems. In 2015 Teledyne LeCroy, a New York Test Equipment manufacturer agreed to settle charges of exporting oscilloscopes to the same entity.

According to reporting at the time of his initial indictment in May 2022, Soong also admitted USRA had not received all the credit card payments made for the software he had exported over the years, and he admitted some of the payments had gone to his personal account. "He claimed that when customers wanted to pay by credit card, USRA did not have a method set up to accept credit card payments," the complaint states. "He claimed he justified the payments as giving himself a 'bonus,' and estimated he stole 'tens of thousands' over the years."

China Chip Chemicals Scheme

Four and a half years after Customs flagged an attempt to export semiconductor lithography supplies to a barred Chinese Entity, Tao Jiang, 53, of Riverside, CA, and Broad Tech Systems, Inc., pleaded guilty as charged by way of indictment to conspiracy, violation of the Export Control Act, and money laundering conspiracy.

Jiang and Broad Tech admitted that they conspired together and with Bohr Winn-Shih, an engineer employed at Broad Tech, to order chemicals from Rhode Island-based Fujifilm Electronic Materials USA, then knowingly submitted false and misleading documentation to the U.S. Government and to shipping companies in an effort to have those products illegally shipped to a China Electronics Technology Group Corporation 55th Research Institute, a/k/a Nanjing Electronic Devices Institute (CETC/NEDI), in violation of the Export Control Reform Act.

On October 25, 2018, The Customs and Border Protection National Targeting Center alerted an agent from the Department of Commerce (DOC) of an intended export of 58 gallons of Photoresist to NEDI. The shipment was halted and agents from DOC communicated with Fujifilm to inform them that NEDI was included on a U.S government list of Chinese companies that U.S companies are prohibited from exporting commodities to. The product was returned to Fujifilm.

Several days after the shipment to NEDI was halted, Fujifilm received a call from Jason Jiang, acting on behalf of Broad Tech, requesting to purchase 94 gallons of Photoresist. During continuing communications, Jiang and Bohr Winn-Shih represented to the Fujifilm that the intended recipient of order, was a company called NTESY, located in Nanjing, China. Fujifilm communicated to DOC agents that they found this to be suspicious because they had never done business with Broad Tech; ninety-four gallons was a significant quantity of Photoresist; and that the request came just several days after the shipment to NEDI had been recalled.

Jiang and Broad Tech Systems, Inc. are scheduled to be sentenced on April 11, 2023. Jiang's associate, Bohr Winn-Shih, 65, of Ontario, CA, pleaded guilty in May 2021 and was sentenced to one year of probation. [\[indictment\]](#)

**** Briefs ****

BIS / Knives out from New House Leaders. *Bloomberg* reports a top Republican lawmaker asked the Commerce Department for documents linked to the enforcement of export controls on sensitive technologies, amid concerns that the Biden administration isn't doing enough to restrict China's access to advanced semiconductors.

Texas Representative Michael McCaul, the newly installed chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in the letter to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo that her department hasn't responded to previous requests to explain how it enforces the controls. "The United States needs a whole-of-government approach to protect sensitive and military-useful technology from foreign adversaries, such as the People's Republic of China," McCaul wrote in the letter, which was sent last week but not previously made public. "The initial deadlines for the enclosed letters passed long ago – in some cases more than a year – without acceptable responses."

A Commerce Department spokesperson, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said implementing robust controls is a bipartisan priority and the department wants to ensure McCaul's committee has the information it needs. McCaul and Raimondo were expected to meet soon.

BIS / Section 1758 Bio & Toxins Rule Set. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) published the final rule to amend the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to reflect decisions made at Australia Group (AG) Virtual Implementation Meetings and the AG Plenary Meeting held in July 2022.

The amendments include revisions to certain Export Control Classification Numbers to clarify the controls on genetic elements and genetically modified organisms and the scope of the exclusion that applies to medical isolators "specially designed" for barrier nursing or transportation of infected patients; and makes clarifications by adding four naturally occurring, dual-use marine toxins (specifically, brevetoxins, gonyautoxins, nodularins and palytoxin) and removing cholera toxin. The addition of these four toxins is consistent with Section 1758 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA) regarding emerging and foundational technologies.

Finally, this rule also includes amendments to reflect the AG Plenary updates to the nomenclature of certain bacteria and fungi, and the clarification of the definition of "disinfected" as it applies to certain biological equipment. [\[88 FR 2507\]](#)

BIS / Chips Rules Add Macau This rule adds the destination of Macau to the scope of the Regional Stability (RS) controls that were implemented specific to China in the October 7 advanced computing and semiconductor manufacturing equipment rule. For purposes of the EAR, this rule does not change the status of Macau; it will continue to be treated as a separate destination from China. [\[88 FR 2821\]](#)

BIS / Licensing Responsibilities & Enforcement collection of information involves ten miscellaneous activities described in Sections 744.15(b), Part 744 Supplement No. 7, paragraph (d), § 748.4 and Part 758 of the EAR that are associated with the export of items controlled by the Department of

Commerce. Comments were previously requested; this notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments [[OMB Control Number 0694-0122](#)].

Most of these activities do not involve submission of documents to the BIS but instead involve exchange of documents among parties in the export transaction to ensure that each party understands its obligations under U.S. law. Others involve writing certain export control statements on shipping documents or reporting unforeseen changes in shipping and disposition of exported commodities. These activities are needed by the Office of Export Enforcement and the U.S. Customs Service (Customs) to document export transactions, enforce the EAR and protect the National Security of the United States.

USTR / UK Raises EV Tax Credit Concerns US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Kemi Badenoch discussed Britain's concerns with a US tax credit for the purchase of electric vehicles that trade partners say is discriminatory. The two trade officials met last week on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos.

They discussed the importance of investing in clean energy technology and "Ambassador Tai acknowledged the UK's concerns with the Inflation Reduction Act," according to a readout of the meeting from USTR. The UK, European Union, South Korea and Japan all complain that the EV tax credit contained in the Inflation Reduction Act puts foreign automakers at a competitive disadvantage and violates World Trade Organization rules. The two officials also discussed the importance of working with WTO members to reform and strengthen the body "so it better serves the lives and livelihood of all people,"

USTR / EU Steel Down to "Brass Tacks" The two-year suspension of Steel and Aluminum Tariffs in October 2021 looms as negotiators seek to address overcapacity and incentives for carbon reduction in the industry. Speaking to reporters in Brussels, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai acknowledged the pressure to reach a deal. "So, it's January 2023," she said. "This is the period when we're getting down to brass tacks."

USTR / EU Tariff Rate Quota Agreement. In Brussels last week US Trade Representative Katherine Tai signed the [U.S.-EU Tariff Rate Quota \(TRQ\) Agreement](#), which will enable the United States to preserve its existing access to the EU market for various agricultural commodities following the United Kingdom's exit from the EU on January 1, 2021. The new TRQ allocations are based on the historic pattern of agricultural exports to the 27 EU Member States. The Agreement will restore favorable market access for multiple U.S. agricultural products, including for U.S. rice, almonds, wheat, and corn.

FTC / Made in America Claim puts Pyrex in the Soup. The Federal Trade Commission announced a settlement with Instant Brands, the maker of Pyrex brand kitchenware for misrepresenting the country of origin of their products. The \$129,416 fine resulted from more than 110,000 units of Chinese-made measuring cup sets sold to U.S. consumers as being "Made in USA." The gadget maker owns brands InstantPot, CorningWare and others, and is controlled by private equity firm Cornell Capital LLC.

US - Japan Space Cooperation. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and other dignitaries signed The Framework Agreement for Cooperation in the Exploration

and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, for Peaceful Purposes January 13. Neither the U.S. nor the Japanese governments released the text of the framework, which “will take our cooperation to new heights,” according to Blinken. “It’ll strengthen our partnership in areas like research on space technology and transportation, robotic lunar surface missions, climate-related missions and our shared ambition to see a Japanese astronaut on the lunar surface.”

Farm Bill – Ag. Chair Says it’s “Crunch Time.” [Farm Progress](#) reports newly seated Chair of the House Agriculture Committee Glen “GT” Thompson (the first chair from Pennsylvania in 170 years), said farm bill negotiations had reached “crunch time” given the current farm bill, enacted in 2018, will expire Sept. 30. Addressing concerns that his party’s right wing would hijack the process, Thompson said “The farm bill is always bipartisan, always bipartisan. At the end of the day, final votes are fairly bipartisan, and my goal is to keep it that way from the very beginning.”

IPEF / India to Host Special Round India Hosting Special IPEF Round. India is hosting a special negotiating round for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework next month that will address supply chains, clean economy and fair economy, but not the trade pillar. India is the only member of the IPEF that opted out of participating in one of the four IPEF pillars – specifically trade. The special round is slated to take place beginning February 8 in New Delhi. “Stakeholder Listening Sessions” will be held, with Commerce hosting their virtual event February 1 (*see Calendar, below*).

WTO / USTR & Switzerland Discuss Reform US Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Deputy USTR Maria Pagán discussed reform of the World Trade Organization with Switzerland Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos. The two US trade officials reiterated the US commitment to working with members of the WTO on reform and identifying areas of common ground that “will help to make the WTO more responsive to the lives of all people,” according to a readout from USTR. They also discussed the WTO ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics. The officials also discussed the recent US-Switzerland Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice Mutual Recognition Agreement, which will help streamline the movement of pharmaceutical goods and stressed the importance of working together to create resilient supply chains in a rapidly evolving global economy.

WTO / Swiss Sign on to Fisheries Pact. Switzerland became the first WTO member to formally submit its acceptance of the WTO’s new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, paving the way for the historic agreement for ocean sustainability to enter into force. Adopted by consensus at the WTO’s 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in Geneva on 12-17 June 2022, the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies sets new binding, multilateral rules to curb harmful subsidies, and establishes a Fund to provide technical assistance and capacity building for least developed countries to implement the Agreement. “I am very grateful to Switzerland for its leadership in being the first WTO member to submit its instrument of acceptance of the historic new Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies,” said Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

WTO / IFD Deal in the Works. Over 110 WTO members have been working to pin a deal that would help countries across regions improve their investment climate and attract foreign direct investment (FDI). **The [Investment Facilitation for Development \(IFD\) agreement](#)** aims at bringing greater transparency

and predictability to investment measures, speeding-up and streamlining investment-related administrative procedures, and enhancing international cooperation, information sharing and the exchange of best practices. According to preliminary estimates by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability, the IFD agreement could generate global welfare gains of between 0.56 and 1.74 percent, depending on the depth of a potential deal, with the highest welfare increase for low and middle income countries. [[WTO IPD Portal](#)]

*** Calendar ***

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on January 25 and 26, 2023, 9 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology. **Wednesday, January 25: OPEN SESSION** will be accessible via teleconference. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov, by January 18

Emerging Technology Technical Advisory Committee (ETTAC) will meet on January 27, 2023, at 9 a.m., (Eastern Standard Time) in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC (enter through Main Entrance on 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues). The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on the identification of emerging and foundational technologies with potential dual-use applications as early as possible in their developmental stages both within the United States and abroad. **Open Session: 2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** with Speaker from Pew Research Center and Presentation: Artificial Intelligence and Society: What Do People Say? To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov no later than January 20, 2023.

Sensors and Instrumentation Technical Advisory Committee (SITAC) will meet on *Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 9:30 a.m., (Pacific Standard Time)* at the SPIE Photonics West 2023, at the InterContinental San Francisco, 888 Howard Street, in the C (5th Floor), San Francisco, CA 94103. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to sensors and instrumentation equipment and technology. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov no later than January 24, 2023.

IPEF Special Negotiating Round - Stakeholder Listening Session (Virtual) -- *Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am (Eastern Time)* The U.S. Department of Commerce invites interested stakeholders to participate in a stakeholder listening session opportunity on February 1, 2023, in advance of the special negotiating round for Pillars II-IV of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in New Delhi, India. The special negotiating round hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi will be for IPEF Pillar II (supply chains), Pillar III (clean economy), and Pillar IV (fair economy). Registration for all participants must be sent to USCommerceIPEF@trade.gov. In the email, please use the subject line "Department of Commerce IPEF Listening Session." *Registration will close at 12:00pm (Eastern Time) on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.*

DDTC Webinar: U.S. Export Control Seminar for Australian, Canadian, and UK Government, Industry, and University Communities

The Canada and UK session runs January 23 – 26, 2023. The Australia session runs February 6 – 9, 2023 (D.C. time) / February 7 – 10, 2023 (Canberra time). Click here for tentative agendas: [Canada & UK seminar](#), [Australia seminar](#). To register, email U.S. Department of State at DDTCRSVP@state.gov: Registration deadline for the Canada and UK seminar is January 17. Registration deadline for the Australia seminar is January 30. Each seminar session is limited to the first 900 registrants.

2023 Washington International Trade Conference, sponsored by Washington International Trade Association (WITA) *virtually on Zoom, Monday, February 13, and Hybrid, Tuesday, February 14.* [\[Registration\]](#)

USDA's 99th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF), will be held in-person at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott on *February 23-24, 2023*, and all sessions will be livestreamed on a virtual platform. More than 30 sessions and 100 agriculture leaders and subject matter experts will discuss key issues impacting the sector [\[Info\]](#)

WITA 2023 Congressional Trade Agenda. *Friday, March 3, 2023. 9:30 am - 11:00 am ET.*
Featured Speakers:

Sally Laing, Chief International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Democratic Staff

Mayur Patel, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff.

Josh Snead, Republican Chief Trade Counsel, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee.

Alexandra Whittaker, Democratic Chief Trade Counsel; Staff Director Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee. Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC [\[Registration\]](#)