

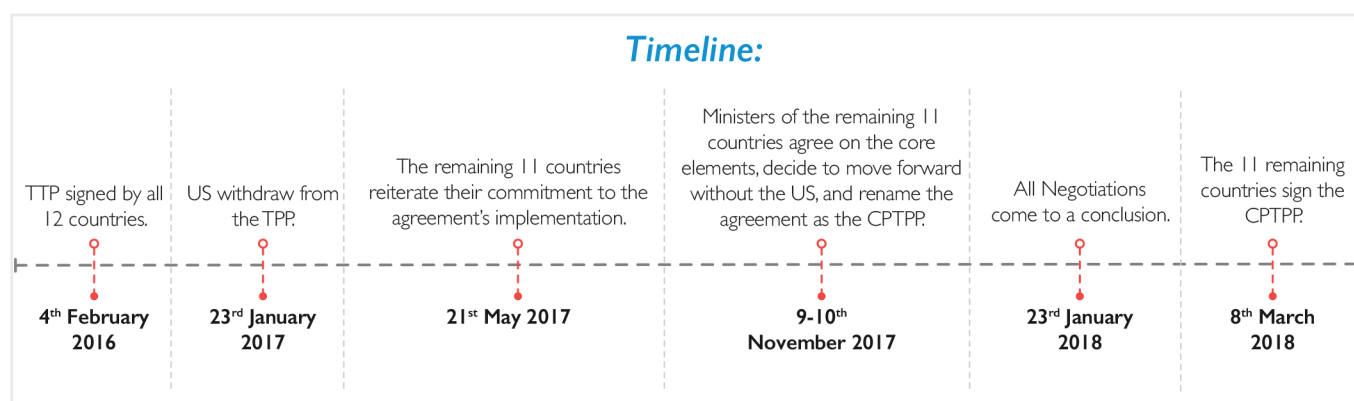
I. What is the CPTPP?



The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or the CPTPP, is a free trade agreement between 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The signatories of the agreement, as of March 2018, are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.¹

The CPTPP is the successor to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was the original free trade agreement (FTA) between the United States and the 11 members of the CPTPP. The TPP was an ambitious FTA that had been negotiated for almost a decade under US leadership during the time of the Obama administration. Not only was the agreement broad, covering two-fifths of the world economy, it was also comprised of 30 chapters that covered areas from tariff reductions to labour standards and intellectual property rights. The concluded TPP Agreement was signed in New Zealand in February 2016 by all 12 countries.

However, on 23 January 2017, the US government decided to withdraw from the TPPA. Because the US accounted for 60% of the combined GDP of the 12 TPP members, the agreement could not enter into force without its participation.² Nevertheless, in light of US withdrawal, the governments of the remaining 11 countries affirmed the economic and strategic importance of the TPP and met on several rounds to find ways to implement the agreement. On 8 March 2018, the 11 countries signed the CPTPP, essentially agreeing, on principle, to enable the ratification of the Agreement in order to bring it into force.³



¹ "Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)." Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Canada. December 13, 2018.

² "Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) & Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)." MITI FTA.

³ "Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)." Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Canada. December 13, 2018.