

2021 Update by the United States on the Status of CTI Pathfinder Initiatives

CTI Pathfinder	Lead Economy/ies	Year Launched	Update on Implementation <i>(Indicate progress such as status of discussions and projects/capacity building initiatives)</i>	Membership <i>(as of August 2021)</i>
Pathfinder on the APEC Technology Choice Principles	United States	2006	<p>In 2017, the United States tabled a proposal for an FTAAP work program on technology choice in CTI. The work program did not move forward, but aimed to enable the sharing of policy objectives and experiences that help spur the development of innovative technologies, promote freedom of technology choice, and maximize flexibility for goods and service providers in choosing which technologies to use for the provision of goods and services.</p> <p>The United States continues to consult with economies on the Pathfinder and welcome economies' views on its applicability to APEC's work on the digital economy and opportunities to further the discussion.</p>	15 (AUS; CDA; CHL; HKC; JPN; MAS; MEX; NZ; PNG; PER; PHL; SGP; CT; US; VN)
Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value	United States	2011	<p>APEC's continued effort to improve supply chain connectivity is important to maximizing the economic benefits of the internet and digital economy, especially MSMEs.</p> <p>A key aspect of supply chain connectivity is streamlining customs procedures and lowering shipping costs for our businesses and consumers – that is the goal of the Pathfinder to Enhance Supply Chain Connectivity by Establishing a Baseline De Minimis Value. Commercially significant de minimis levels streamline customs paperwork, but also lower shipping costs for our businesses by eliminating collection of commercially insignificant duties and taxes.</p> <p>The Pathfinder's de minimis threshold is the equivalent of \$100 USD, which the United States sees as a baseline that all economies can work towards meeting or exceeding, and we would encourage other economies to consider joining the Pathfinder as a concrete</p>	11 (BD; HKC; JPN; ROK; MAS; NZ; PH; RUS; SGP; CT; US)

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			action to support the further internationalization of MSMEs in the region and making progress towards the Bogor goals. The United States encouraged more economies to join the Pathfinder as a concrete action to support internationalization of MSMEs in the region and to make progress towards the Bogor Goals.	
Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duty Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions, Including Content Transmitted Electronically	United States	2016	This Pathfinder enables APEC economies to lead the global standard of removing traditional trade impediments in the digital world, such as agreeing not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions, including content transmitted electronically, in order to provide predictability for businesses and consumers. Based on the common FTA practice, the supporting APEC economies seek Leaders' endorsement of this Pathfinder to maintain a permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, including content transmitted electronically. The United States encouraged more economies to join the Pathfinder on Permanent Customs Duties Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions (Hong Kong China was the most recent economy to join in SOM1 2020). This Pathfinder was discussed at the U.S.-hosted Digital Trade Policy Dialogues (TPD) in May 2021 and will also be discussed at the upcoming October 2021 TPD	13 (AUS; BD; CDA; CHL; HKC; JPN; ROK; MEX; NZ; PE; SGP; CT; US)
Pathfinder on Building Blocks for Facilitating Digital Trade	United States	2019	This Pathfinder provides the opportunity for APEC economies to continue examining issues related to digital trade, and to use these "building blocks" to implement policies and frameworks, in addition to identifying new issues for discussion. The purpose of this Pathfinder is to enable economies to facilitate digital trade both within and outside their economies, and promote innovative, inclusive, and sustainable growth in the region and globally. CTI endorsed the Work Plan to Identify Building Blocks to Facilitate	11 (AUS; CDA; CHL; JPN; KOR; MEX; NZ; PER; SGP; CT; US)

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			<p>Digital Trade for 2018.</p> <p>The United States encouraged more economies to join this Pathfinder and adopt these building blocks. It was also discussed at the U.S.-hosted Digital Trade Policy Dialogues in May 2021 and will be a topic for discussion at the October 2021 TPD.</p> <p>Furthermore, the United States is developing a concept note to provide technical assistance in implementing these building blocks to volunteer APEC economies.</p>	