

June-July 2022



CAFTA Trade Insights

CAFTA is the voice of Canada's agri-food exporters

CAFTA welcomes agriculture and WTO reform outcomes at MC12

The 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place on June 12-17 at the WTO headquarters in Geneva. After five years since the last Ministerial Conference (MC11) in 2017, MC12 secured a [package](#) of outcomes that revitalized the spirit of multilateralism at the WTO. While the outcomes were welcomed by the international community, there is still important work ahead in agricultural reform, the dispute settlement mechanism, and subsidies.

In the leadup to MC12, the Cairns Farm Group Leaders [reiterated](#) the need for “urgent agricultural trade reform to meet global challenges of food security, climate change and hunger” as agriculture remains the most distorted sector in world trade markets. CAFTA along with groups representing farmers, ranchers, food producers and exporters from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States of America [called](#) for renewed ambition on farm trade talks.

Greg Northey, Vice President of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) and head of CAFTA's delegation to MC12 in Geneva, issued the following [statement](#),

“While we need to review the details closely, it is encouraging that WTO members want to see the international community working together on issues related to global food security, advancing trade liberalization in agriculture, holding the line on rules-based trade and ensuring science is at the heart of rulemaking. The work ahead will be critical in ensuring that we now put words into action.” Read the full statement [here](#).



(Left to right) Greg Northey (ACCA), Claire Citeau (ACCA), Ministre du Commerce International Mary Ng





Fawn Jackson (CCA), Greg Northey (CAFTA), Randy Hoback (Député), Bob Lowe (CCA)



The Director General of the WTO, Ngozi speaking at an event organized by the International Chamber of Commerce

MC12 Outcomes

At the closing session of MC12, the Director-General, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala [remarked](#) “The outcomes demonstrate that the WTO is, in fact, capable of responding to the emergencies of our time. They show the world that WTO members can come together, across geopolitical fault lines, to address problems of the global commons, and to reinforce and reinvigorate this institution.”

Notable outcomes in agriculture include a Ministerial Decision on the World Food Program (WFP) Food Purchases [Exemptions from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions](#) and a Ministerial Declaration on the [Emergency Response to Food Insecurity](#). As well as a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) [Declaration on new challenges affecting food safety and animal and plant health](#) adopted by ministers at the SPS Committee. The SPS Declaration is significant as it recognizes the “emerging pressures” in food, animals, and plants as well as the importance of any trade measures to be based in scientific principles.

Other outcomes include a Ministerial Declaration on the WTO [Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics](#), a Ministerial Decision on the [Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights](#), a Decision on the [E-commerce Moratorium and Work Programme](#) and an [Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies](#).



The Ministerial Conference requested the General Council to hold consultations to decide the date and venue of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13). It is expected that MC13 should be held by 31 December 2023, that is 18 months away. Two proposals — by Cameroon and the United Arab Emirates — have been received to host the ministerial gathering.

On the Hill

On May 30, CAFTA Directors met in Ottawa for their board meeting and had the opportunity to meet with David Morrison, Deputy Minister of International Trade. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to discuss a wide range of challenges and opportunities ahead for Canada's agri-food exporters, as well as to discuss collaboration on shared objectives. CAFTA participated in a business forum with Minister Ng to discuss Canada's objectives heading into MC12. The discussion was hosted by the Ottawa Group Business Advisory Council.



CAFTA Executive Director, Claire Citeau, in a virtual meeting with Min. Ng and Canada’s WTO Ambassador DeBoer.

Parliamentary business was adjourned on June 23 and is expected to resume on September 19. Elected officials, government offices and opposition members continue their work and CAFTA is actively monitoring and watching for new business and personnel changes in political and administrative teams, which are generally more frequent during the summer months.

FTA Updates

Indo-Pacific Strategy: Advisory Committee

On June 9th, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Melanie Joly [announced](#) the establishment of the Indo-Pacific Advisory Committee, which is tasked with providing independent perspectives and recommendations on Canada’s Indo-Pacific strategy. Dominic Barton, Canada’s former ambassador to Beijing and former chair of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth, which [produced](#) the “Barton Report.” In the report, agriculture was identified as an engine of economic growth and export improvement.

Canada-UK FTA

Round two negotiations between the United Kingdom and Canada FTA took place on the week of June 20th. For more information, please read our most recent [statement](#) on the Canada-UK bilateral agreement.

Canada–India CEPA

CAFTA [met](#) with the High Commissioner of India in Canada, the Hon. Ajay Bisaria on June 9. The discussion was centered on the growing agri-food cooperation and ongoing negotiations for the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ([CEPA](#)) between Canada and India. On June 27, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [met](#) with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G7 meetings. In the meeting, both leaders discussed trade and agriculture.



L-R: Greg Northey CAFTA VP, Claire Citeau (CAFTA) and High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria.



Negotiators from Canada (left) and India at a roundtable with representatives of the business community in Ottawa.

Other Trade Updates

G7 Meeting

The Leaders of the G7 [met](#) in Elmau, Germany on 26-28 June 2022, they were also joined by the Leaders of Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal, South Africa, and Ukraine. The leaders added their financial support to the [Global Alliance on Food Security](#) by adding USD 4.5 billion and keeping their food and agricultural markets open. The G7 countries reiterated their support to remove unnecessary trade barriers and non-market practices as well as their commitment to reform the WTO “to achieve a fair, predictable, and stable trade environment.”

The U.S. Summit of the Americas

The United States hosted the Ninth [Summit of the Americas](#) from June 6-10 in Los Angeles, California. The Summit focused on “Building a Sustainable, Resilient, and Equitable Future” for the American continent with cooperation on economic recovery, climate change, health, and migration. The [Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity](#) initiative invites collaboration on trade, climate change, supply-chain resilience, and human and social capital formation. As of now, the initiative stands as an invitation to discuss, coordinate, and negotiate solutions on these issues.

WTO and related updates

Agriculture Meeting: MC12, food security, Nairobi, and Bali decisions

The Agriculture Committee [welcomed](#) the outcomes on food and agriculture achieved at MC12. On June 27, the committee introduced the new chair, Mr. Marcel Vernooij of the Netherlands. The discussions focused on the follow-up to the MC12 declarations, especially on the issue of food security. Members also continued reviewing various farm policies and considered issues related to the implementation of the Bali and Nairobi ministerial decisions.

CAFTA's Participation in Other Notable Events

The Globe and Mail's: Sustainable Agriculture

CAFTA's Executive Director, Claire Citeau participated in a panel discussing the role of sustainability in trade. Citeau emphasized the many strategies agri-food exporters are implementing in their operations



to achieve social, environmental, and economic sustainability. Citeau emphasized that, "if we don't think about agriculture in Canada from a global perspective, we risk missing out on great advances." The panelists discussed trade as a key to sustainability, as the free market not only facilitates access to new technologies, but also allows exporters in the sector to export responsibly produced, high quality food.

CAFTA Executive Director, Claire Citeau, at the Globe and Mail Event

in Toronto.

In case you missed it:

[WTO rolls out Trade Connectivity Heatmap to highlight bilateral trade between economies](#)

[Ottawa Group Ministerial statement on WTO reform](#)

[Minister Ng signs new Global Trade and Gender Arrangement with Chile and New Zealand](#)

[Global Affairs Canada releases their 2022-2023 Departmental Plan](#)

Contact us: www.cafta.org or info@cafta.org



Follow us: [@CAFTA_ACCA](https://twitter.com/CAFTA_ACCA)