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Statement on Beijing TPP Leaders' Summit **Lori Wallach, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch**

After Years of Missed TPP Deadlines Leaders' Statement Repeats Same Vague Pablum About Progress, Path to a Future Deal; Deadline for TPP Announced by Obama in June Passes

These talks started in 2008, in June President Obama announced that this summit was when a deal would be done, but instead its déjà vu with the same sort of vague cheerleading statement about progress and a path to an imminent deal that we have seen after every TPP leaders' summit since 2011.

Perhaps before wasting even more taxpayers' money with further TPP meetings, trade officials should take stock of why TPP is deadlocked and opposition to the sort of deal that has been written to date is growing.

Despite the intense secrecy of the negotiations, parliamentarians and citizens in many TPP nations have woken up to the fact that deal now on offer would be damaging to most people even if the large corporations pushing the deal might improve their profit margins.

Only five of the TPP's 29 chapters even deal with trade issues, and the non-trade provisions would promote lower wages, higher medicine prices, more unsafe imported food, and new rights for foreign investors to demand payments from national treasuries over domestic laws they believe undermine the new TPP privileges they would gain. This is stoking opposition in many countries so trading off these important domestic policies has become increasingly difficult.

Add to that that there is no chance that President Obama will get Fast Track trade authority from the 113th Congress and even with the GOP congressional sweep, there are decent prospects that he never will.

Background: Past TPP Leaders' Statements, Obama on APEC Being Final TPP Deadline

2013 <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/10/08/trans-pacific-partnership-leaders-statement>

Trans-Pacific Partnership Leaders Statement

We, the Leaders of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam, are pleased to announce today that our countries

are on track to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. Ministers and negotiators have made significant progress in recent months on all the legal texts and annexes on access to our respective goods, services, investment, financial services, government procurement, and temporary entry markets. **We have agreed that negotiators should now proceed to resolve all outstanding issues with the objective of completing this year** a comprehensive and balanced, regional agreement that achieves the goals we established in Honolulu in 2011, ensures the benefits of the agreement are fully shared, and takes into account the diversity of our levels of development.

A final Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement must reflect our common vision to establish a comprehensive, next-generation model for addressing both new and traditional trade and investment issues, supporting the creation and retention of jobs and promoting economic development in our countries. The deepest and broadest possible liberalization of trade and investment will ensure the greatest benefits for countries' large and small manufacturers, service providers, farmers, and ranchers, as well as workers, innovators, investors, and consumers.

We see the Trans-Pacific Partnership, with its high ambition and pioneering standards for new trade disciplines, as a model for future trade agreements and a promising pathway to our APEC goal of building a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific. We are encouraged by the growing interest in this important negotiation and are engaging with other Asia-Pacific countries that express interest in the TPP regarding their possible future participation.

Stakeholders across the region have provided valuable input to TPP negotiating teams both on-site at rounds and in our respective countries. As we work to conclude these negotiations, we will further intensify consultations with stakeholders to craft a final agreement that appropriately addresses the interests of our citizens. We look forward to review and consideration of the outcome of our work, consistent with each of our domestic processes.

2012 <https://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/tpp/Trans-Pacific-Partnership-Leadership-Statement.pdf>

Trans-Pacific Partnership Leaders Statement September 9, 2012

We, the Leaders of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam, noting the progress our countries have achieved in 13 rounds of TPP negotiations, **reaffirm the commitments we made in Honolulu in November 2011 to concluding a comprehensive, next-generation regional agreement that liberalizes and promotes trade and investment, and addresses new and traditional trade issues and 21st-century challenges.**

Based on the significant advances our negotiators have made in the four negotiating rounds and other intersessional meetings since Honolulu, we are confident that this goal is within our reach. The conclusion of the TPP will provide a promising pathway for free trade across the Asia-Pacific, support the creation and retention of jobs in our markets, boost our competitiveness, promote economic growth throughout our region, and advance our development goals.

We agree to renew our efforts to **conclude the negotiations expeditiously** so that our manufacturers, service providers, farmers, ranchers, workers, and consumers can begin reaping as soon as possible the considerable benefits we anticipate from this agreement. In doing so, our negotiators should carefully consider, synthesize, and reflect the wide-ranging views they have received from their stakeholders. We

also recognize the challenges of negotiating this ambitious, next-generation trade agreement in a manner that appropriately balances our diversity. Toward this end and as they begin the 14th round of negotiations this week, we have instructed our negotiating teams to direct their energies at promptly finding pragmatic, creative, flexible, and mutually-acceptable solutions to the remaining issues under negotiation.

We welcome Mexico and Canada as new TPP partners following months of detailed consultations that confirmed their commitment to the high level of ambition we are seeking to achieve in the TPP while not slowing progress toward conclusion. We view their entry into the negotiation as a reaffirmation of the potential of this initiative and a notable step in expanding our current partnership of nine countries to others across the Asia-Pacific region. Meanwhile, we have directed our negotiating teams to continue discussions with other Asia-Pacific partners that have expressed interest in joining the TPP in order to facilitate their possible future participation.

2011 <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/12/trans-pacific-partnership-leaders-statement>

Trans-Pacific Partnership Leaders Statement

We, the Leaders of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam, are **pleased to announce today the broad outlines of a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement among our nine countries**. We are **delighted to have achieved this milestone** in our common vision to establish a comprehensive, next-generation regional agreement that liberalizes trade and investment and addresses new and traditional trade issues and 21st-century challenges. We are confident that this agreement will be a model for ambition for other free trade agreements in the future, forging close linkages among our economies, enhancing our competitiveness, benefitting our consumers and supporting the creation and retention of jobs, higher living standards, and the reduction of poverty in our countries.

Building on this achievement and on the successful work done so far, we have committed here in Honolulu to dedicate the resources necessary to conclude this landmark agreement as rapidly as possible. At the same time, we recognize that there are sensitive issues that vary for each country yet to be negotiated, and have agreed that together, we must find appropriate ways to address those issues in the context of a comprehensive and balanced package, taking into account the diversity of our levels of development. Therefore, we have instructed our negotiating teams to meet in early December of this year to continue their work and furthermore to schedule additional negotiating rounds for 2012.

We are gratified by the progress that we are now able to announce toward our ultimate goal of forging a pathway that will lead to free trade across the Pacific. We share a strong interest in expanding our current partnership of nine geographically and developmentally diverse countries to others across the region. As we move toward conclusion of an agreement, we have directed our negotiating teams to continue talks with other trans-Pacific partners that have expressed interest in joining the TPP in order to facilitate their future participation.

Obama on APEC 2014 as final TPP deadline:

"...And our hope is, is that by the time we see each other again in November when I travel to Asia that we should have something that we have consulted with Congress about that the public can take a look

at, and we can make a forceful argument to go ahead and close the deal. But we've got a lot of work to do between now and then..." ([Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Key of New Zealand after Bilateral Meeting: June 20, 2014](#))