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**Statement on Sydney TPP Ministerial Declaration**  
**Lori Wallach, Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch**

***Déjà Vu Declaration Repeats Same Vague “Significant Progress”  
Announcement Issued After Ministerials Over the Past Two Years***

“After yet another lengthy meeting, TPP trade ministers’ official declaration repeats much of the same spin we have seen over the past two years and given the extreme secrecy of the process, there is no way for the public, Congress or press to find out what is really happening.

Even with the extreme secrecy, enough TPP draft text has leaked to reveal that it is good news that officials did not announce a breakthrough at this meeting.

Perhaps before wasting even more taxpayers’ money with further such meetings, U.S. trade officials should take stock of why opposition to TPP is growing: the U.S. Congress will not provide the Obama administration with trade authority in no small part because it has ignored Congress’ demands for the deal, including that TPP must include disciplines on currency manipulation, and other TPP countries oppose many U.S. demands that could raise medicine prices, undermine financial stability and Internet freedom, and subject their laws to review in corporate tribunals – among other deadlocked issues.

With no chance that President Obama will get Fast Track trade authority from the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress and decent prospects that he never will, it’s becoming increasingly clear that congressional demands relating to inclusion of currency disciplines in TPP will have to be met for a deal to get through Congress, yet to date U.S. negotiators have not even raised this issue.”

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