



## Re-Negotiating NAFTA: which way forward?

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### **Introduction**

On May 18, 2017, US President Donald Trump announced the decision to re-negotiate NAFTA and on July 17, 2017, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) published the US NAFTA Objectives for Re-negotiation. Following this, four rounds of negotiations have been concluded. The first round of negotiation took place in Washington, D.C. from August 16–20, 2017; the second in Mexico City from September 1–5, 2017; the third from September 23–27, 2017 in Ottawa; and, the fourth from October 11–17, 2017 in Washington D.C.

The initial deadline for completing the NAFTA re-negotiation process was December 2017. However, given the fact that in the first four rounds the negotiators struggled to find agreement on some of the contentious provisions of the trade deal, the re-negotiation process has been extended to the first quarter of 2018. At the end of the fourth round on October 17, 2017 the US, Canada and Mexico said that they would extend NAFTA negotiations into next year, with the parties citing “significant conceptual gaps”.<sup>1</sup> Such a move has engendered both a sense of relief and uncertainty. Relief in the sense that the trade deal will not be abandoned, and uncertainty in terms of political challenge induced by the fact that the three countries will be holding elections next year (presidential election in Mexico, mid-term elections in the US and provincial elections in Canada). Moreover, in the US, legislation, known as the Fast Track Legislation, that gives the Trump administration more extensive authority to negotiate trade deals and then submit them to Congress for a simple up or down vote, without amendments will expire in July 2018.<sup>2</sup>

As the three countries prepare to meet for the fifth round in Mexico City from November 17-21, this paper seeks to examine the status of the re-negotiation process at the conclusion of the fourth round. Further, it also attempts to assess the future trajectory of the re-negotiation process. In doing so, an analysis of the objectives, statements by various leaders and other representatives at the negotiating table of the three countries and the progress made till the fourth round are being undertaken.

**The Re-negotiation Objectives of NAFTA Economies**

A comparative perspective of the objectives of the three member countries of NAFTA reveals that although the three countries are committed to completing the process of NAFTA modernization, the long lists of objectives submitted would require protracted discussions, especially the contentious issues.

***The United States’ NAFTA Objectives***

On July 17, 2017, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued the *Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Re-negotiation* identifying the main objectives of Trump Administration. In the *Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Re-negotiation* the fundamental objective behind re-negotiation is cited as addressing persistent imbalances (trade deficits) since the agreement came into existence in 1994. The document reads,

“...thousands of factories have closed, and millions of Americans have found themselves stranded, no longer able to utilize the skills for which they had been trained.”<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, in an effort to modernise the Agreement, the document underlined the importance of upgrading issues, particularly emphasising on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) and Rules of Origin (RoO) as well as inclusion of new issues, including E-commerce, State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), Regulatory Cooperation, and Trade Facilitation.

**Table 1**

**Upgrading Older Issues**

<b><i>Dispute settlement</i></b>	Seeks elimination of Chapter 19 of dispute settlement mechanism for countervailing and anti-dumping and preserve the ability of US to reinforce rigorously its trade laws.		
	<b><i>Chapter 11</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter 19</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter 20</i></b>
	Establishes a mechanism for the settlement of investment disputes that assures both equal	a mechanism of provide alternative to judicial review by domestic	a The dispute settlement provisions of Chapter 20 are applicable to all disputes regarding the interpretation or

treatment among courts of final application of the NAFTA investors of the Parties determinations in and intended to resolve to the Agreement in antidumping and disputes by agreement accordance with the countervailing duty stepwise - beginning with principle of cases, with review by government-to-international independent government (the Parties) reciprocity and due binational panels consultations followed by process before an NAFTA Free-Trade impartial tribunal. Commission (comprised of the Trade Ministers of the Parties) and then establishment of a five-member arbitral panel.

Alternatively, the investor may choose the remedies available in the host country's domestic courts. An important feature of the Chapter 11 arbitral provisions is the enforceability in domestic courts of final awards by arbitration tribunals.

**Rules of Origin (RoO)** RoO sets out the local content requirement for goods to qualify for the NAFTA duty treatment. The US has proposed for stricter rules to reduce the non-NAFTA content, particularly in the auto sectors.

**Inclusion of New Issues**

**E-commerce** Seeks to ensure non-discriminatory treatment on digital products so as to guarantee government-sanctioned discrimination based on nationality or territory in which the product is produced. Further, secure commitments not to impose custom duties on digital products (eg. Software, music, video and e-books), and non-imposition of measures restricting cross-border data flows or the use or installation of local computing facilities.

**SOEs** Seeks to define SOEs based on government ownership or control to curb unfair competition by SOEs.

**Regulatory Cooperation** To ensure transparency and accountability in development, implementation and review of regulations, including publication and public comment to facilitate market access and promote greater compatibility

among the three partners.

<b>Trade Facilitation</b>	Aims to facilitate transparency by ensuring that all laws and regulations are published and made accessible to both exporters and importers. Also, to set high standards of implementation of customs and trade facilitation under the WTO framework.
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Source: USTR and NAFTA Secretariat available @ <https://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/Home/Dispute-Settlement/Overview-of-the-Dispute-Settlement-Provisions>

### **Canada's NAFTA Objectives**

Setting the priorities for the NAFTA Renegotiation talks, Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, identified Canada's core objectives for the talks on August 14, 2017. The first fundamental objective, akin to the US, is to modernise the NAFTA Agreement to 'ensure a vibrant and internationally competitive technology sector' so that all sectors of the economy could reap the full benefits of digital revolution. Emphasising that the agreement should be made more progressive along the lines of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the other objectives underlined include stronger labour and environmental standards by integrating into the core agreement, new chapter on gender, harmonisation of regulatory practices, to ease movement of professionals by reviewing NAFTA Chapter 16; opening up the market to government procurement and defending Canadian national interests to supply management and reform of investor- state dispute settlement process.<sup>4</sup>

### **Mexico's NAFTA Objectives**

The main objectives of NAFTA Renegotiations underlined by the Ministry of Economy of Mexico include modernisation aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of Mexico; an inclusive and responsible regional trade; seize opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and promote the certainty of trade and investment in the region.<sup>5</sup> Under each of these categories, Mexico has identified a list of priority areas. (Table 2)

**Table 2**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Priority Areas</b>
<b>Strengthen Competitiveness</b>	<i>Maintain preferential market access for goods and services.</i>
	<i>More predictable, agile and transparent custom procedures</i>
	<i>Measures to prevent unjustified barriers to free trade</i>
	<i>Promote good practices in regulation, planning, emission, implementation, and revision</i>
	<i>Maintain non-discriminatory treatment for Mexican investors</i>
	<i>Expand the categories for temporary entry of business people and</i>

	<i>promote labor mobility</i>
	<i>Promote skill development programs</i>
<b>Promote Inclusive and Responsible Regional Trade</b>	<p><i>Boost the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen implementation of national and international commitments on labor</i></p> <p><i>Establish transparency and anti-corruption measures</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on environment</i></p> <p><i>Improve border infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Incorporate gender perspective</i></p>
<b>Seize Opportunities for 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>	<p><i>Update provisions on energy sector to reflect the changes in energy industry</i></p> <p><i>Promote the development of digital economy, e-commerce and digital financial services</i></p> <p><i>Promote greater access to US and Canadian markets for Mexican investors</i></p> <p><i>Promote greater integration in North American telecom markets</i></p> <p><i>Promote balance in the protection of intellectual property between public and innovator's interests.</i></p>
<b>Promote certainty in trade and investment</b>	<p><i>Update the dispute settlement system (investor-state; state-state; anti-dumping and countervailing; financial services)</i></p> <p><i>Promote free competition among businesses through cooperation and exchange of information among authorities of three countries</i></p> <p><i>Provide clear rules on regional public procurement access.</i></p>

Source: "Prioridades de México en las negociaciones para la modernización del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte".

### **The Renegotiation: Who said what?**

An analysis of various statements by leaders and other representatives of US, Mexico and Canada in different rounds help understand the trajectory of the re-negotiation process. The analysis of statements in Table 3 suggests that in much of the statements, and in general attitude, there is a negative undertone, suggesting a greater possibility of a breakdown of the NAFTA talks resulting in no trilateral deal. In fact, there is a strong indication towards bilateral deals in case negotiations break down, especially between US-Canada and Canada-Mexico. A bilateral US-Mexico pact appears bleak as Mexico has made it clear that an end to NAFTA would affect bilateral cooperation with the US.

In each of the succeeding four rounds, the three countries sought to advance and protect the interests of their respective countries at the negotiating table. When the negotiations commenced in August, the US administration alleged that the agreement was jeopardising American interests. In this direction, USTR Robert Lighthizer emphasised, *“The views of the President about NAFTA, which I completely share, are well known. I want to be clear that he is not interested in a mere tweaking of a few provisions and a couple of updated chapters. We feel that NAFTA has fundamentally failed many, many Americans and needs major improvement”*.<sup>6</sup> Like US, Canada also indicated its desire to protect its own interests. During the third round, Foreign Affairs Minister Freeland vowed in parliament that Canada will defend its automotive, resource and dairy sectors from any US assault which could cause job losses for Canada.<sup>7</sup> For Mexico, the renegotiation talks entail the principle of dignity and sovereignty.

After four rounds of completion of talks, there are still apprehensions that the talks will stall in the face of aggressiveness of the US administration. Expressing dismay at the end of the fourth round, Lighthizer held that there is “no indication that our partners are willing to make any changes that will result in a rebalancing and a reduction in the (se) huge trade deficits. Now, I understand that after many years of one-sided benefits, their companies have become reliant on special preferences and not just comparative advantage. Countries are reluctant to give up unfair advantage.”<sup>8</sup> President Trump on October 11, 2017 stated that he was open to bilateral trade pacts with either Canada or Mexico if a three-way deal cannot be reached to substantially revise the pact.<sup>9</sup> Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto expressed similar sentiments. While Canada maintained that “unconventional” demands from the US are making the work of negotiating the trilateral trade pact “much more challenging”, Mexico “suggested there could be other ways to move forward”.

**Table 3**

<b>Rounds</b>	<b>First Round</b> <i>August 16–20, 2017</i> <b>Washington D.C.</b>	<b>Second Round</b> <i>September 1–5, 2017</i> <b>Mexico City</b>	<b>Third Round</b> <i>September 23–27, 2017</i> <b>Ottawa</b>	<b>Fourth Round</b> <i>October 11–17, 2017</i> <b>Arlington, Virginia</b>	<b>Fifth Round</b> <i>November 17–20, 2017</i> <b>Mexico City</b> <i>(scheduled)</i>
<b>Countries</b>	<b>Statements by Various Leaders and Officials of Member Countries on NAFTA Renegotiation Talks</b>				
<b>United States</b>	<p><b>President Donald Trump</b></p> <p><i>October 11, 2017: “It’s possible we won’t be able to reach a deal with one or the other, but in the meantime we’ll make a deal with one”.<sup>10</sup></i></p> <p><b>US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer</b></p> <p><i>August 16, 2017:</i>  <i>“We feel NAFTA has fundamentally failed many, many Americans and needs major improvement.”<sup>11</sup></i></p> <p><i>September 5, 2017: “...We also must address the needs of those harmed by the current NAFTA, especially our manufacturing worker. We must have a trade agreement that benefits all Americans, and not just some at the expense of others.”<sup>12</sup></i></p> <p><i>October 17, 2017; “Frankly, I am surprised and disappointed by the resistance to change from our negotiating partners on both fronts. We have made some headway on the first objective, but even here we have sometimes seen a refusal to accept what is clearly the best text available in spite of the countries having agreed to it in the past.</i>  <i>In certain cases, partners who agree to TPP have actually rejected its text here. I would have thought by now we could have cleared chapters dealing</i></p>				

	<p><i>with digital trade, telecommunications, anticorruption, and several sectoral annexes, for example.</i>"<sup>3</sup></p>
<p><b>Canada</b></p>	<p><b>Prime Minister Justin Trudeau</b></p> <p><b>October 11, 2017:</b>  <i>Canada is "very much aware of and very braced for" Trump's unpredictability, but his government would work in a "thoughtful, meaningful way towards getting a good deal".</i><sup>14</sup></p> <p><b>Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland</b></p> <p><b>August 16, 2017:</b>  <i>"Canada does not view trade surpluses or deficits as a primary measure of whether a trading relationship works". "Nonetheless, it is worth noting that our trade with the US is balanced and mutually beneficial".</i><sup>15</sup></p> <p><b>26 September, 2017:</b>  <i>"We are fighting very hard at the NAFTA negotiating table for the interests of all Canadian workers. That very much includes workers in the auto sector..." "...It very much includes workers in the natural resources sector and we are fighting hard for an energy chapter. The interests of Canadian workers are absolutely at the heart of our negotiating strategy and we are going to defend it."</i><sup>16</sup></p> <p><b>October, 2017:</b>  <i>The "unconventional" demands from the U.S. are making the work of negotiating the trilateral trade pact "much more challenging."</i></p> <p><i>"... in rounds three and four, we have seen proposals that turn back the clock on 23 years of predictability, openness and collaboration under NAFTA," "In some cases, these proposals run counter to World Trade Organization rules. This is troubling."</i><sup>17</sup></p>
<p><b>Mexico</b></p>	<p><b>Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto</b></p> <p><b>October 12, 2017:</b></p>

*"I think that Canada and Mexico share that the NAFTA agreement is a good mechanism, not the only one, but it is a good mechanism to boost the development of the region."<sup>18</sup>*

*"Mexico would keep working with both Canada and the United States to reach a deal that was beneficial for all three countries, but he suggested there could be other ways to move forward."*

**Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray**

**August 30, 2017:**

*Mexico will leave the negotiating table if US President Donald Trump goes ahead with a threat to start the process of withdrawing from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).<sup>19</sup>*

**October 10, 2017**

*"An end to NAFTA would mark a breaking point in US-Mexican relations and affect bilateral cooperation"<sup>20</sup>*

*"We always have to be ready to get up from the table. This is a logical posture in any negotiation. It's also a principle of dignity and sovereignty." "Mexico is much bigger than NAFTA and we have to be ready for any scenario in the negotiations."<sup>21</sup>*

**Mexican Finance Minister Jose Antonio Meade**

**October 12, 2017:**

*"We have the possibility of identifying tariff measures; we have the possibility to identify other markets to be our providers and other markets that we can turn to." "We're working on that, we have been working and perfecting the analysis to identify not only industries but companies that could help the contingency if we don't reach a satisfactory negotiation."<sup>22</sup>*

*Source: Compiled by the author from various sources.*

### **The Renegotiation: Where it has progressed so far?**

The NAFTA re-negotiations talks so far had four rounds spreading over 22 days. The first round set the tone of the negotiations, setting priorities of each country in the re-negotiation table. The scope and volume of proposals underlined during the first round of the negotiation reflected the commitment from all three countries to an ambitious outcome and the importance of updating the rules governing the world's largest free trade area.<sup>23</sup> In the second round, important progress was achieved in many

disciplines which resulted in the consolidation of proposals into a single text to work during subsequent negotiation rounds.<sup>24</sup>

Till the third round, substantive progress has been made in the areas of competition policy, digital trade, customs and trade facilitation, telecommunications and regulatory practices between the three NAFTA partners, yet there remained major pending issues in the areas of rules of origin, labour standards, dispute resolutions, government procurement, agricultural trade, textiles and sunset clause.<sup>25</sup> In the fourth round, the three countries were not able to reach agreement on a range of issues, including what percentage of a product should be made in the US and whether the trade pact should expire every five years.<sup>26</sup> Overall, in the first four rounds, there has been some headway in modernising the trade pact, which is one of the objectives of the re-negotiation process. Yet many contentious issues pertaining to RoO, Dispute Settlement Mechanism and others remain to be negotiated.

### **The Renegotiation: Way Ahead**

As the fifth round of talks gets underway from November 17-21, 2017, there are many issues at stake:

1. **Chapter 19:** Both Canada and Mexico oppose the US proposal to eliminate Chapter 19 of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the agreement. Canada has been a beneficiary of Chapter 19 which has ruled in favour of it on softwood lumber and other trade issues. The US contends that Canada unfairly subsidised its lumber by providing cheap access to public land.<sup>27</sup>
2. **Rules of Origin (RoO):** Mexico in particular has reservation about the US proposal for increasing the North American content to 85 percent from the current 62.5 percent with an extra requirement of 50 percent of US-specific content as part of the RoO for auto industry.<sup>28</sup> The US argument is that strengthening the RoO for auto industry would restore some auto parts production, including electronics and jobs in the US. Further, it will also restrict auto parts, which did not exist at the time when the current agreement was negotiated in 1994, and are not counted against the current 62.5 percent threshold, especially electronics sourced from Asia such as console touch screens or hybrid-drive controllers.<sup>29</sup> However, Mexico strongly opposes a US-specific content requirement as it would limit the growth of its own car industry. It is noteworthy that the US imports a quarter of its auto parts from Mexico and Canada.<sup>30</sup>
3. **Supply Management Dairy:** Though there is no direct mention of Canada's dairy supply management system in the US Summary of Objectives, it seeks to eliminate "non-tariff barriers to US agricultural exports". In the fourth round, the US has finally articulated a clear demand that Canada increase its market access for US exports. In respect of the supply management system, the US has asked for its progressive removal over the course of a decade. Opposing the proposal, Canada's Agriculture Minister Lawrence Macaulay remarked, "It's a system that we've fought to put in place, and I've indicated quite clearly that our government is going to

fight to make sure that it stays in place. To deal with anything else is simply a non-starter.’<sup>31</sup>

4. **Five Year Sunset Clause:** On October 12, 2017 during the fourth round of negotiations, US proposed to insert a five-year sunset clause into the agreement whereby the deal would automatically end after five years unless all three member countries agree to its extension.<sup>32</sup> Both Canada and Mexico have expressed reservation about the proposal stating that it would create economic instability and deter businesses from long-term investments because of increased unpredictability.<sup>33</sup>

## Conclusion

The summary of objectives submitted by the three member countries of NAFTA did not suggest the complete abandonment of the agreement. However, the statements by the leaders and representatives of the three countries carry a negative tone suggesting thin chances of arriving at a mutual agreement.

With each additional round scheduled through the first quarter of the next year, uncertainty will continue to loom large over the re-negotiations talks. The fate of NAFTA would depend much on how the three countries reach an agreement on the aforementioned contentious issues where discussion has not even started. At this stage, it seems more likely that the re-negotiation talks will get harder as it stretches into next year and gets entangled with the national and provincial elections in Mexico, the US and Canada, and the US Fast-Track Legislation which expires in July 2018.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.*

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> USTR, “Trilateral statement at the Conclusion of the Fourth Round of NAFTA Negotiations”, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/october/trilateral-statement-conclusion> (accessed on October 23, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Ana Swanson “Nafta Talks’ Extension May Make for Slow, Painful Demise”, The New York Times, October 17, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/17/us/politics/nafta-negotiators-extend-talks-delaying-its-expected-demise.html> (accessed on October 23, 2017)

<sup>3</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiation”, July 17, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/NAFTAObjectives.pdf> (accessed on May 19, 2017)

<sup>4</sup> Government of Canada, “Address by Foreign Affairs Minister On the Modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement”, <https://www.canada.ca/en/global->

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affairs/news/2017/08/address\_by\_foreignaffairsministeronthemodernizationofthenorthame.html (accessed on October 12, 2017)

<sup>5</sup> “Prioridades de México en las negociaciones para la modernización del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte”, <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/finlandia/images/pdf/TLCAN/Prioridades-de-Mexico-negociaciones-TLCAN.pdf> (accessed on October 12, 2017)

<sup>6</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Opening Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the First Round of NAFTA Renegotiations”, August 16, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/august/opening-statement-ustr-robert-0> (accessed on September 26, 2017)

<sup>7</sup> Robert Fife and Steven Chaser, “Freeland vows Canada will stand up to US on autos and dairy in NAFTA talks”, *The Globe and Mail*, September 26, 2017, <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/freeland-vows-canada-will-stand-up-to-us-on-autos-and-dairy/article36393503/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&> (accessed on October 8, 2017)

<sup>8</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Closing Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the Fourth Round of NAFTA Renegotiations”, October 17, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/october/closing-statement-ustr-robert> (accessed on October 18, 2017)

<sup>9</sup> Roberta Rampton and David Ljunggren, “Donald Trump says open to bilateral Canada, Mexico pacts if NAFTA talks fail”, *Reuters*, October 11, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta/trump-says-open-to-bilateral-canada-mexico-pacts-if-nafta-talks-fail-idUSKBN1CG0DV> (October 13, 2017)

<sup>10</sup> Roberta Rampton and David Ljunggren, “Donald Trump says open to bilateral Canada, Mexico pacts if NAFTA talks fail”, *Reuters*, October 11, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta/trump-says-open-to-bilateral-canada-mexico-pacts-if-nafta-talks-fail-idUSKBN1CG0DV> (October 13, 2017)

<sup>11</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Opening Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the First Round of NAFTA Renegotiations”, August 16, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/august/opening-statement-ustr-robert-0> (accessed on September 26, 2017);

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<sup>12</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Closing Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the Second Round of NAFTA Renegotiations”, September 5, 2017, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/september/closing-statement-ustr-robert> (accessed on September 22, 2017)

<sup>13</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Closing Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the Fourth Round of NAFTA Renegotiations”, October 17, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/october/closing-statement-ustr-robert> (accessed on October 18, 2017)

<sup>14</sup> Roberta Rampton and David Ljunggren, “Donald Trump says open to bilateral Canada, Mexico pacts if NAFTA talks fail”, *Reuters*, October 11, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta/trump-says-open-to-bilateral-canada-mexico-pacts-if-nafta-talks-fail-idUSKBN1CG0DV> (October 13, 2017)

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<sup>15</sup> Doug Palmer, Adam Behsudi and Megan Cassella, “U.S. sets tough tone with Canada and Mexico as NAFTA talks begin”, *Politico*, August 16, 2017. <https://www.politico.com/story/2017/08/16/us-nafta-rewrite-trade-deficits-241702> (accessed on October 22, 2017)

<sup>16</sup> Robert Fife and Steven Chaser, “Freeland vows Canada will stand up to US on autos and dairy in NAFTA talks”, *The Globe and Mail*, September 26, 2017, <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/freeland-vows-canada-will-stand-up-to-us-on-autos-and-dairy/article36393503/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&> (accessed on October 8, 2017)

<sup>17</sup> Kathleen Harris, “Freeland calls U.S. NAFTA demands 'troubling' and 'unconventional'”, CBS News, October 17, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nafta-freeland-lighthizer-round4-1.4358242> (accessed on October 22, 2017)

<sup>18</sup> Sharay Angulo and Daina Beth Solomon, “Canada, Mexico vow to stick with NAFTA talks, Mexico works on Plan B”, *Reuters*, October 13, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta-mexico/canada-mexico-vow-to-stick-with-nafta-talks-mexico-works-on-plan-b-idUSKBN1CH303> (accessed on October 13, 2017)

<sup>19</sup> “If Trump pulls trigger on NAFTA withdrawal, Mexico will walk away”, *Reuters*, August 31, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta-mexico/if-trump-pulls-trigger-on-nafta-withdrawal-mexico-will-walk-away-idUSKCN1BA2TK> (accessed on September 22, 2017)

<sup>20</sup> Ana Isabel Martinez, David Lawder, “U.S. businesses fear NAFTA doomed; Mexico warns of consequences”, *Reuters*, October 10, 2017, <https://in.reuters.com/article/uk-trade-nafta/u-s-businesses-fear-nafta-doomed-mexico-warns-of-consequences-idINKBN1CF2GT> (accessed on October 12, 2017)

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<sup>22</sup> Sharay Angulo and Daina Beth Solomon, “Canada, Mexico vow to stick with NAFTA talks, Mexico works on Plan B”, *Reuters*, October 13, 2017, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-nafta-mexico/canada-mexico-vow-to-stick-with-nafta-talks-mexico-works-on-plan-b-idUSKBN1CH303> (accessed on October 13, 2017)

<sup>23</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Trilateral Statement on the Conclusion of the NAFTA Round One”, Press Release, August 20, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/august/trilateral-statement-conclusion> (accessed on September 26, 2017);

<sup>24</sup> Office of the USTR, Executive Office of the President, “Trilateral Statement on the Conclusion of the Second Round of NAFTA Negotiations”, Press Release, September 5, 2017, <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/september/trilateral-statement-conclusion-0> (accessed on September 26, 2017)

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