

at the discretion of the Minister for International Trade. The Minister may create additional sectoral advisory groups as required.

One of the unique characteristics of the advisory committee system is the openness with which members exchange information and advice with the Government. The nature of these exchanges is often of a confidential nature.

In this context, before they take their position on a committee, all members are required to sign a security declaration undertaking to respect the confidentiality of classified information provided to them by the Government.

#### The International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC)

The membership of this committee is broadly representative and reflects regional, sectoral and demographic interests. ITAC members are selected from the business, labour, environmental, academic, consumer, research and cultural communities.

#### Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs)

The 15 SAGITs are as follows:

1. Agriculture, Food and Beverage
2. Apparel and Footwear
3. Arts and Cultural Industries
4. Consumer and Household Products
5. Energy, Chemicals and Petrochemicals
6. Financial Services
7. Fish and Fish Products
8. Forest Products
9. Industrial and High Technology Equipment
10. Minerals and Metals
11. Business and Professional Services
12. Telecommunications and Computer Services
13. Textiles, Fur and Leather
14. Transportation Equipment
15. Transportation Services

Members of the ITAC and SAGITs serve in their individual capacities, not as representatives of specific entities or interest groups.