

HONG KONG JOINT BUSINESS DECLARATION:

A CALL FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS TRADE LIBERALISATION

AUSTRALIA



BRAZIL



CANADA



CHILE



EUROPEAN UNION



HONG KONG



JAPAN



NIPPON KEIDANREN



KENYA



NEW ZEALAND



SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN (REPRESENTING 12 COUNTRIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA)



MEXICO



TANZANIA



TAIWAN



UGANDA



USA



United by a common vision:

Our organizations represent business from many countries and regions around the world, accounting for around 65% of all global trade. We have come together—united by a common vision—to advocate for the liberalization of global trade and the concomitant economic benefits for all countries through the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations. Through multilateral trade liberalization, we can continue to expand the sphere of economic opportunity, and strengthen the rules that support the global trading system, while countering the unproductive instincts of protectionism and unilateralism.

The final Doha agreement needs to ensure that all WTO Members, notably developing countries, participate in and benefit from the gains of trade liberalization. This requires genuine market liberalization by all countries, since an ambitious outcome of the DDA will generate substantial economic growth for the global economy at large. We must therefore commit to the success of the Hong Kong Ministerial and the conclusion of the DDA by the end of 2006.

Because of its critical importance to global development, we call on political leaders to demonstrate greater vision, ambition, and responsibility and to commit to meaningful outcomes in the DDA negotiations. Now is the time to put short-term politics aside and aggressively pursue the level of progress that will guarantee the conclusion of the DDA by the end of 2006. There has already been too much delay. Nevertheless, it is still possible to achieve ambitious and concrete results that will produce tangible economic benefits for all countries by the end of the negotiations in 2006.

The Hong Kong Ministerial is a critical milestone for the DDA and the framework for the successful conclusion of the DDA must be achieved in all areas of the negotiations: industrial market access, services, agriculture, trade facilitation and rules. Such progress will only be realized if all WTO Members demonstrate willingness to compromise throughout the negotiations.

WTO membership (149 countries and growing) is truly representative of the global community, comprised of developed, rapidly emerging countries, and many poorer countries. WTO rules need to recognize those differences and specific development needs. While we believe that multilateral trade liberalization will promote development among the broader WTO membership, and we strongly support the development focus of this trade round, we also believe that these results can best be realized through comprehensive trade liberalization. As such, each country's contribution to the DDA should therefore include an understanding of its economic development. We especially hope that the DDA would lead to improved trading opportunities for the least developed countries. Appropriate and effective technical assistance should be developed in close cooperation with the countries concerned.

Negotiating issues:

- We, as business organizations, firmly believe that trade liberalization is, over the medium and long term, economically beneficial to all WTO members. Market forces should guide agriculture development with the efficient allocation of resources based on comparative and competitive advantage for all countries. Therefore, the final **agriculture** agreement should substantially improve market access and lead to the elimination of all types of trade distorting subsidies in all countries in a coherent and progressive manner.
- A substantial share of the benefits of the DDA will result from agricultural liberalization and the introduction of stronger market incentives. Only balanced and ambitious liberalization in all three pillars of the agriculture negotiations will genuinely open markets. All WTO members need to contribute to **agricultural liberalization** although the poorest countries should be given more flexibility. The aim should be to significantly reduce higher levels of protection and support in order to provide real market opportunities. The result of the DDA should be a substantially liberalized global agricultural market.
- Reducing/eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers ranks among the key objectives of the WTO. The DDA must genuinely provide new market access by substantially reducing or eliminating tariffs among, at minimum, the developed and emerging countries through a non-linear formula and a voluntary sector approach. We also urge governments to engage more thoroughly on the issue of non-tariff barriers with the aim of effectively removing these hindrances to international trade. Both horizontal and sectoral approaches should be used to remove NTBs. **Industrial market access (NAMA)** negotiations should lead to greatly increased trade opportunities for all countries.
- The underwhelming level of ambition shown in the DDA **Services** negotiations thus far is regrettable and must be turned around. We urge all WTO Members to vastly improve their GATS offers to provide genuine new business opportunities. Services liberalization will generate new export opportunities and help attract foreign investment – thus improving the services sectors and contributing to the local economy of all WTO Members. Regardless of negotiating approaches, services must be substantially liberalized while respecting the right of WTO Members to regulate in a non-discriminatory manner. Binding current practices would constitute a minimum step forward but business is also looking for concrete new market access.

Few businesses involved in trade relish the frustrations, complexities, delays and costs associated with border procedures (fees, formalities, transit). We call on WTO Members to pursue far-reaching negotiations on a reviewable **trade facilitation agreement**, which aims to reduce trade transaction costs while improving the transparency and automation of procedures and thus enhancing efficiency and reducing possibilities of corruption. We recognize that the poorest countries need technical assistance to ensure that they too can benefit from a trade facilitation agreement and we urge our governments and relevant international organizations to provide the most effective assistance possible to achieve that aim.

- Business requires a predictable and transparent rules-based trading environment and agrees that the implementation of the multilateral rules governing **anti-dumping/anti-subsidy and**

regional trading arrangements needs to be interpreted in a similar way by all countries to establish a level playing field. While the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement and the Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement (ASCM) remain fundamentally well-founded in their principles and objectives, WTO Members should work constructively in Hong Kong and in 2006 to outline the provisions that all Members can agree need to be clarified in order to ensure that all countries play by the same rules and that enforced measures are objective and fact-based, transparent, fair and compliant with predictable and due process. An acceptable compromise on this issue that seeks to achieve reductions in dumping and subsidization by all parties should be agreed the end of the DDA negotiations.

- We support progress on the rest of the DDA issues to arrive at a comprehensive package for all WTO Members.

Committed to success in Hong Kong:

We are committed to making the Hong Kong Ministerial a success. It is the final staging post to the conclusion of an ambitious DDA by the end of 2006. We will therefore continue to work together in support of achieving substantial commitments to trade liberalization and stronger multilateral trade rules over the coming months. We will step up our activities and be in Hong Kong to support the negotiating process and the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and convince our politicians to move the negotiations forward quickly.

21 NOVEMBER 2005 HONG KONG JOINT BUSINESS DECLARATION SIGNATORIES:

A CALL FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN HONG KONG

- 21 leading business organizations
- From all six continents: Africa, Southern Mediterranean, North & South America, Asia, Australia and Europe
- Representing around 65% of world trade

Africa



<http://www.cti.co.tz>

Confederation of Tanzania Industries

CTI is Tanzania's leading confederation for industry.



www.kam.co.ke

Kenya Association of Manufacturers

KAM is Kenya's leading representative organization for industry.



www.employers.co.ug

Federation of Uganda Employers

The Federation of Uganda Employers represents business across Uganda since 1961. The FUE gained recognition by government as the sole organization representing employer views.

North America



www.cme-mec.ca

Canadian Manufacturers is Canada's leading industry association. Its members produce three-quarters of the country's manufactured goods and about ninety percent of Canada's merchandise exports.

North America

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA



The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is Canada's leading business organization bringing together companies large and small from every sector of the economy and in every corner of the country.

www.chamber.ca



The United States Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation, representing 3 million businesses of every size and sector, including 2,800 state and local chambers of commerce and 830 business associations around the United States, and 102 American Chambers of Commerce in 87 countries.

www.uschamber.com



CSI is the leading US business organization dedicated to the reduction of barriers to international trade and investment in services. CSI was formed in 1982 to ensure that trade in services, once considered outside the scope of trade negotiations, would become a central goal of future trade liberalization initiatives.

www.uscsi.org



The National Foreign Trade Council (www.nftc.org) is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based global trading system. Founded in 1914 by a broad-based group of American companies, the NFTC now serves some 300 member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.



COPARMEX

www.coparmex.org.mx

COPARMEX (Confederación Patronal de la República Mexicana): The Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic is an organization of entrepreneurs that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors, in every part of our country.

South
America



Confederação Nacional da Indústria

www.cni.org.br

The National Confederation of Industry is the chief institutional representative of the Brazilian industry. It focuses on improving the competitiveness of Brazilian industry and integrating it to the world economy.



www.fiesp.org.br

The Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP) is the leading regional manufacturing sector organization in Brazil, and is comprised of 132 sectoral trade associations representing over 40% of the country's industrial GDP and more than 140.000 companies.



www.ccs.cl

Service Coalition of Exporters (CES), Chile represents services exporters across Chile.

Asia



香港服務業聯盟

Hong Kong Coalition of Service

www.hkcsi.org.hk

The Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries was founded in 1990 by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. It is the Chamber's service policy think tank. With representatives from more than 50 service sectors, the HKCSI is the major private sector voice for Hong Kong's service industries.

NIPPON KEIDANREN

www.keidanren.or.jp

Nippon Keidanren is a key organization in Japan, consisting of more than 1,300 companies and about 130 industrial sector associations, and represents the interests of all businesses.



www.keidanren.or.jp

Japan Services Network represents service industries in Japan.

Asia



Chinese National Federation of Industries is the trade association representing Taiwanese Business Community.

Australia & New Zealand



The Australian Services Roundtable is the peak business body for the services industries in Australia



The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, New Zealand, has been in the business of encouraging regional development and representing the region's wealth creators - its businesses - since 1856.

Europe



The European Services Forum (ESF) is a network of representatives from the European services sector. We are committed to actively promoting the interests of the European services sector and the liberalisation of services markets throughout the world in connection with the GATS 2000 negotiations.



The American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) is the voice of companies of American parentage committed to Europe towards the institutions and governments of the European Union.

Southern Mediterranean



Union Méditerranéenne des Confédérations
d'Entreprises
Union of Mediterranean Confederations of
Enterprises
www.umce-med.org

UMCE is a regional professional organization which gathers the main professional organizations of the twelve Mediterranean Partner Countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia & Turkey.



Europe



www.unice.org

UNICE is the voice of business in Europe. It represents 39 national business federations from 33 countries including the 25 EU Member States.

UNICE MEMBER FEDERATIONS

 Austria	 Belgium	 Cyprus	 Czech Republic	 Denmark	 Denmark
 Finland	 France	 Germany	 Germany	 Greece	 Hungary
 Iceland	 Iceland	 Ireland	 Italy	 Luxembourg	 Malta
 Norway	 Poland	 Portugal	 Portugal	 Spain	 Sweden
 Switzerland	 Switzerland	 The Netherlands	 Turkey	 Turkey	 United Kingdom
 Bulgaria	 Croatia	 Estonia	 Latvia	 Lithuania	 Rep. of San Marino
 Romania	 Slovak Republic	 Slovenia			