



Global Industry Statement on the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions

The undersigned associations urge WTO members to support continuation of the [Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions](#) at the WTO's Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13).

Allowing the Moratorium to expire would be a historic setback for the WTO, representing an unprecedented termination of a multilateral agreement in place nearly since the WTO's inception – an agreement that has allowed the digital economy to take root and grow. All WTO members have a stake in the organization's continued institutional credibility and resilience, as well as its relevance at a time of unprecedented digital transformation.

Continuation of the Moratorium is critical to the ongoing COVID-19 recovery. As detailed by the United Nations, the World Bank, the OECD, and many other organizations, the cross-border exchange of knowledge, technical know-how, and scientific and commercial information across transnational IT networks, as well as access to digital tools and global market opportunities have helped sustain economies, expand education, and raise global living standards.

Continuation of the Moratorium is also important to supply chain resilience for manufacturing and services industries. Manufacturers – both large and small, and across a range of industrial sectors – rely on the constant flow of research, design, and process data and software to enable their production flows and supply chains for critical products.

The Moratorium is particularly beneficial to Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), whose ability to access and leverage digital tools has allowed them to stay in business amidst physical restrictions and lockdowns. Failure to renew the Moratorium will jeopardize these benefits, as customs restrictions that interrupt cross-border access to knowledge and digital tools will harm MSMEs and the global supply chain – increasing digital fragmentation. As [UNCTAD](#) has explained, such fragmentation “reduces market opportunities for domestic MSMEs to reach worldwide markets, [and] ... reduces opportunities for digital innovation, including various missed opportunities for inclusive development that can be facilitated by engaging in data-sharing through strong international cooperation. ... [M]ost small, developing economies will lose opportunities for raising their digital competitiveness.”

The risks of ending the Moratorium have been discussed in recent publications by the [International Monetary Fund](#), [OECD](#), [World Bank](#), [United Nations](#), and [WTO](#), and by think-tanks in [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Switzerland](#), [Belgium](#), and [around the world](#). As the [OECD](#) has explained, “[t]he overall revenue implications of the Moratorium are small..., [t]ariffs on electronic transmissions would hit low-income country trade the most... Smaller and women-owned firms could be most impacted...” [Other reports](#) predict greater GDP losses due to potential implementation of retaliatory duties and note that goods and services taxes (GST) / value added taxes (VAT) are preferable to tariffs both from the perspectives of revenue collection, economic efficiency, and administrability. Countries that impose such duties also face longer-term harms due to a less predictable investment climate, reduced foreign direct investment, and reduced access to knowledge, information, and digital tools needed by local workers, artists, patients, students, consumers, and other constituents.

Finally, at a time when [the G20](#), seeking to establish “a more stable and fairer international tax system,” has formally endorsed the [OECD Inclusive Framework's Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy](#), it seems unnecessarily disruptive for the WTO membership to abandon a foundational quarter-century old agreement regarding the treatment of electronic transmissions. We also note in this regard the [G7 Digital Trade Principles](#), which state that “[e]lectronic transmissions – including the transmitted content – should be free of customs duties, in accordance with the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions.”

We therefore urge all WTO members to show strong leadership and support of the digital economy by supporting continuation of the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions.

Sincerely,



1. ACEA – European Automobile Manufacturers Association
2. ACTI - Asociación Chilena de Empresas de Tecnologías de Información
3. AdvaMed
4. Advertising Association
5. Africa Cloud Association
6. Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance
7. AINAKI - Indonesia Animation Industry Association
8. Alianza del Pacifico
9. Allied for Startups
10. American Apparel & Footwear Association
11. American Chamber of Commerce in Australia
12. American Chamber of Commerce in Brazil
13. American Chamber of Commerce in Chile
14. American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia
15. American Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia
16. American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand
17. American Chamber of Commerce in Peru
18. American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
19. American Chamber of Commerce in Spain
20. American Chamber of Commerce to the EU
21. American Chemistry Council
22. AMETIC La Voz de la Industria Digital
23. ACT | The App Association
24. APPLiA
25. Asia Business Trade Association
26. Asia Cloud Computing Association
27. Asia Internet Coalition
28. Asia Pacific MSME Trade Coalition (AMTC)
29. Asia Pacific Services Coalition
30. Asociación de Internet MX
31. Asociación Latinoamericana de Exportadores de Servicios
32. Associação Brasileira das Empresas de Software
33. Association of American Publishers (AAP)
34. Association of Competitive Telecom Operators (India)
35. Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
36. AusFilm
37. Australasian Performing Rights Association / Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Association
38. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
39. Australian Information Industry Association
40. Australian Industry Group
41. Australian Services Roundtable
42. Autos Drive America
43. BDI – Federation of German Industries
44. Belize Coalition of Service Providers (BCSP)
45. BIO – Biotechnology Innovation Organization
46. Bitkom e.V.
47. Brazilian National Confederation of Industry
48. British Chamber of Commerce Kenya
49. Broadband India Forum (BIF)
50. BSA | The Software Alliance
51. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization
52. Business Council of Canada
53. Business Europe
54. Business NZ
55. Business Roundtable
56. Business South Africa (BUSA)
57. Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA)
58. CAINCO - Cámara De Industria, Comercio, Servicios Y Turismo De Santa Cruz – Bolivia
59. Câmara Brasileira da Economia Digital
60. Cámara Colombiana de Comercio Electrónico
61. Canadian Chamber of Commerce
62. Cámara de Comercio de Lima - CCL
63. Cámara de Industrias de Costa Rica
64. Cámara de Infocomunicación y Tecnología (INFOCOM)
65. Canadian Services Coalition (CSC)
66. Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry [S. Africa]
67. Caribbean Network of Services Coalition
68. Center for International Economic Collaboration (CFIEC)
69. The Chambers of Commerce of Ireland
70. Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon
71. Chamber of Digital Industry and Services of National Business Association of Colombia – ANDI
72. Chamber of Progress
73. China Council for Promotion of Int'l Trade
74. China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA)
75. City of London Corporation
76. Coalition for Digital Prosperity for Asia
77. Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
78. Coalition to Reduce Cyber Risk (CR2)
79. Computer and Communications Industry Association
80. Confederation of Danish Industry (DI)
81. Confederation of Finnish Industry (EK)
82. Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
83. Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)
84. Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
85. Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
86. Copyright Overseas Promotion Association (COA)
87. Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CAMTIC)
88. Danish Chamber of Commerce / Dansk Erhverv
89. DIGITALEUROPE
90. Digital Trade Network
91. Dominican Republic Services Association
92. Ecommerce Forum Africa

93. eco – Association of the Internet Industry
94. economiesuisse
95. E-Merchants Trade Council (EMTC)
96. Emerging Business Factory (Morocco)
97. Emerging Payments Association Asia (EPA Asia)
98. ENGINE
99. Entertainment Software Association
100. EU-ASEAN Business Council
101. Eurochambres
102. EuroCommerce
103. European Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia
104. European Chamber of Commerce in Thailand
105. European Games Developer Federation (EGDF)
106. European Roundtable for Industry (ERT)
107. European Services Forum (ESF)
108. European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)
109. Express Association of America (EAA)
110. Federation of European Publishers
111. Federation of Hellenic ICT Enterprises
112. Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII)
113. Forum for Internet Retailers, Sellers & Traders of India
114. German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)
115. German electro and digital industry association (ZVEI)
116. German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce
117. Global Data Alliance
118. Global Express Association
119. Global Innovation Forum
120. Global Trade Solutions (South Africa)
121. Grenada Coalition of Service Industries (GCSI)
122. Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
123. Hong Kong Coalition of Services Industries
124. India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA)
125. INDIA SME FORUM
126. Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA)
127. Indonesia Services Dialogue (ISD)
128. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
129. Interactive Games and Entertainment Association
130. The International Association of Scholarly, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)
131. International Apparel Federation (IAF)
132. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
133. Int'l Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA)
134. International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)
135. IP Federation (United Kingdom)
136. Japan Association of New Economy (JANE)
137. Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)
138. Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)
139. Japan Information Technology Service Industry Association (JISA)
140. Japan Machinery Center for Trade and Investment (JMC)
141. Japan Semiconductor Industry Association (JSIA)
142. Japan Services Network (JSN)
143. Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI)
144. Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand
145. Kenya Private Sector Alliance
146. Korea International Trade Association
147. Korea Semiconductor Industry Association
148. Korean Broadcasters Association
149. Korean Film Digital Distribution Association
150. La Chambre de Commerce d'Industrie et d'Agriculture de Saint-Louis (Sénégal)
151. La Conférence permanente des chambres consulaires et organisations intermédiaires africaines et francophones
152. Malaysian Service Providers Confederation (MSPC)
153. Malaysia Semiconductor Industry Association
154. MedTech Europe
155. Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology
156. Mexican Chamber of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies (CANIETI)
157. Motion Picture Association (MPA)
158. Motion Picture Distributors Association of Australia
159. Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan
160. National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
161. National Association of Cinema Operators – Australasia
162. National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Assn of America
163. National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
164. National Retail Federation
165. New Zealand International Business Forum
166. Philippine Exporters Confederation (PHILEXPORT)
167. Professional & Business Services Council
168. Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce & Industry
169. Payments Leadership Council
170. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
171. Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)
172. Retail Industry Leaders Association
173. Saint Lucia Coalition of Services Industries (SLCSI)
174. Saint Kitts & Nevis Coalition of Services Industries
175. scienceindustries
176. Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines
177. SEMI
178. Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
179. Screen Producers Australia (SPA)
180. SGTECH
181. Sindicato Nacional dos Editores de Livros (SNEL) (Brazil)
182. Singapore Business Federation
183. Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association
184. Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
185. SPADA NZ–The Screen Production & Development Association
186. Sociedad de Comercio Exterior del Perú (ComexPerú)
187. Sociedad de Fomento Fabril (SOFOFA)
188. Taiwan Coalition of Services Industries (TWCSI)
189. Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (TSIA)
190. TechNet
191. techUK
192. TECHNATION Canada
193. Technical Service Providers Association of South Africa
194. Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
195. Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
196. TheCityUK
197. Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries
198. Unión Costarricense de Cámaras y Asociaciones del Sector Empresarial Privado (UCCAEP)
199. Uruguay: National Chamber of Commerce and Services
200. US-ASEAN Business Council
201. US-Bangladesh Business Council
202. US Chamber of Commerce
203. US Council for International Business
204. US-India Business Council
205. US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)
206. US-Pakistan Business Council
207. US-South Africa Business Council
208. US Information Technology Office (China)
209. Video Games Europe
210. Vietnam E-commerce Association (VECOM)
211. World Information Technology and Services Alliance