



**MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE, SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT**

**FOURTH SESSION**

**18–20 May 2016**

*Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva*

**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 18 May 2016**

<b>Wednesday, 18 May 2016</b>	
10–11 a.m.	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p>Agenda item 1. Election of officers          Agenda item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work          Agenda item 3. Services, development and trade: The regulatory and institutional dimension</p> <p><b>Opening statement</b>          (To be confirmed)</p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b>          Mr. Guillermo Valles, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD</p> <p><b>Presentation of the background note by the secretariat</b>          Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, Head, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD</p>
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p><b>Session 1. Services economy and trade for development</b></p> <p>Services economy and trade are central to job creation, efficient economies, strengthened productive capacity and structural transformation in line with developing countries' aspiration for upgrading, diversification and enhanced competitiveness. Services exports have been more dynamic and resilient than trade in goods, and are thus important for export diversification. This session will examine how a dynamic services economy and trade can contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as this presumes efficient, equitable services and universal access to infrastructure and essential services. The session will also consider how the quality and coherence of policies, regulations and institutions are key determinants of services performance and are decisive in deriving benefits from development.</p> <p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What significant developments have taken place in the services sector and trade in services, particularly in infrastructure services?</li> <li>▪ What role do services play in global value chains?</li> <li>▪ How can the services economy and trade maximize their contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, job creation and strengthened supply capacity?</li> <li>▪ What are the challenges and opportunities for developing countries to harvest the development potential of the services economy and trade?</li> <li>▪ How do policies, trade liberalization, regulations and institutions affect services</li> </ul>

	<p>performance and their role in development?</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou, Ambassador and Permanent Observer, African Union</li> <li>▪ Mr. Xu Bo, Deputy Director General, Services Department, Ministry of Commerce, China</li> <li>▪ Mr. Rashid S. Kaukab, Executive Director, CUTS International Geneva</li> <li>▪ Ms. Marva Corley-Coulibaly, Senior Economist, Research Department, International Labour Organization</li> <li>▪ Mr. Pascal Kerneis, Managing Director, European Services Forum</li> <li>▪ Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</li> <li>▪ Mr. Daniele Gerundino, Director, ISO Academy, International Organization for Standardization</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>
<p>3–6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Session 2. Domestic regulations and trade liberalization in services</b></p> <p>Trade liberalization increasingly covers infrastructure services and regulation, influencing the design and functioning of domestic regulatory and institutional frameworks. The General Agreement on Trade in Services recognizes the right to regulate and seeks a balance between key policy objectives and liberalization. However, the Doha Round did not give priority attention to services, creating incentives to pursue other avenues with more regulatory pressure. The Trade in Services Agreement seeks to enhance regulatory disciplines, and the emerging new-generation regional trade agreements and mega-regional trade agreements pursue regulatory convergence. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, for example, goes beyond the General Agreement on Trade in Services and imposes additional obligations. This session will discuss which regulatory and trade policy options can be pursued to harvest the development potential of services in the context of regulatory requirements of international trade initiatives, including on regulatory convergence.</p> <p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the potential impact of domestic regulations on international trade, and how can trade strategies influence domestic regulatory and institutional frameworks?</li> <li>▪ What are the particular challenges of new-generation and mega-regional trade agreements for national regulatory efforts, including through the different approaches on regulatory coherence?</li> <li>▪ What are the specific constraints affecting developing countries in addressing the regulatory convergence envisaged by several international trade initiatives?</li> <li>▪ How to approach regulatory cooperation, such as harmonization or mutual recognition, to address regulatory divergence, including from trade through regional or global value chains?</li> <li>▪ How does the changing regulatory landscape, particularly in infrastructure services characterized by blurred sectoral approaches and the integration of products with services, affect strategies for regulatory convergence?</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Aaditya Mattoo, Research Manager, Trade and Integration, World Bank (by video conference)</li> <li>▪ Mr. Marc Vanheukelen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the European Union to the World Trade Organization (WTO)</li> <li>▪ Ms. Vahini Naidu, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of South Africa to WTO</li> <li>▪ Mr. Markus Jelitto, Counsellor, Division of Trade in Services, WTO</li> <li>▪ Ms. Sanya Reid Smith, Legal Adviser and Senior Researcher, Third World Network</li> <li>▪ Ms. Alicia Greenidge, President and Chief Executive, Summit Alliances International</li> <li>▪ Mr. Rudolf Adlung, Independent Expert</li> </ul>

	Interactive debate
<b>Thursday, 19 May 2016</b>	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	<p><b>Session 3. Regulatory frameworks and trade in telecommunications and in information and communications technology services</b></p> <p>The dynamism in developing economies’ telecommunications and information and communications technology (ICT) services supports modern economic and social activities and increased productivity and competitiveness. In telecommunications, multiple regulatory needs are addressed in a context of exponential technological change, new business models and evolving market structure. This has led to fourth-generation regulation overseeing the whole digital ecosystem. The sector also has an increasingly important international dimension, tradability and high foreign investment. This requires coherence between trade, trade liberalization and regulatory frameworks. This session will take stock of recent regulatory and trade trends and examine opportunities for coherence between both agendas.</p> <p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How do multiple regulatory goals, such as market growth, universal access, competition and consumer and data protection, affect coherence between regulation, trade and trade liberalization in the sector?</li> <li>▪ How do new business models and technological change affect the coherence of regulatory and liberalization agendas in telecommunications and ICT services?</li> <li>▪ How to secure coherence and coordination between trade policy and regulatory objectives in telecommunications and ICT services?</li> <li>▪ What lessons can be learned from experiences, mainly in developing countries, in pursuing coherence between trade and regulation?</li> <li>▪ How to harness the potential of e-commerce for development, including by removing barriers to e-commerce?</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Lee Tuthill, Counsellor, Trade in Services Division, WTO</li> <li>▪ Mr. Hildegunn Kyvik Nordås, Senior Policy Analyst, Trade in Services Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development</li> <li>▪ Ms. Hayun Kang, Director, Department of International Cooperation Research, Korea Information Society Development Institute, Republic of Korea</li> <li>▪ Mr. Ibrahima Diagne, Managing Director, Gainde 2000, Senegal, and President of the African Alliance for E-Commerce</li> <li>▪ Mr. Nick Ashton-Hart, President of the Assembly, Internet and Digital Ecosystem Alliance</li> <li>▪ Ms. Cécile Barayre, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT Analysis Section, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>
3–6 p.m.	<p><b>Session 4. Financial services regulation and liberalization</b></p> <p>The importance of financial services is manifold, providing valuable inputs for the whole economy, facilitating domestic and international transactions, mobilizing and channelling savings and providing credit for productive investment in the real economy. Recent regulatory efforts have focused on macroprudential objectives for overly deregulated financial markets. The increasing international dimension of financial services provision calls for a coherent approach between regulatory and trade agendas. This session will review recent regulatory and trade developments and consider possible avenues for a coherent outcome that enables trade and financial inclusion and stability in a manner that contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>

	<p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How do new technologies and digital financial services affect coherence between financial regulatory and liberalization agendas?</li> <li>▪ How do other provision models, such as development financing, correspondent and postal banks, and microfinancing affect coherence between financial regulation and trade?</li> <li>▪ How to ensure coherence and coordination between trade policy, trade liberalization and regulatory objectives in financial services?</li> <li>▪ What lessons can be learned from experiences, mainly in developing countries, in promoting coherence between trade and regulation for financial inclusion and stability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?</li> <li>▪ How to ensure regulatory cooperation in financial services, including on cross-border issues?</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Juan Marchetti, Counsellor, Trade in Services Division, WTO</li> <li>▪ Mr. Emile Van Der Does de Willebois, Global Lead on Financial Market Integrity Issues, World Bank (by videoconference)</li> <li>▪ Mr. Wayne McCook, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Jamaica</li> <li>▪ Ms. Liliana Rojas-Suarez, Senior Fellow, Centre for Global Development (by videoconference)</li> <li>▪ Mr. Venkatesen Mauree, Programme Coordinator, Policy and Technology Watch Division, International Telecommunication Union</li> <li>▪ Ms. Ashly Hope, Research Adviser, Financial Services Sector Regulation, Tralac</li> <li>▪ Mr. Andrew Cornford, Observatoire de la Finance</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>
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<b>Friday, 20 May 2016</b>	
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<p>10 a.m.–12.45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Session 5. Towards a coherent approach to trade and regulation of services</b></p> <p>Devising a sound regulatory and institutional framework is as important as it is challenging. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, with priorities subject to many variables such as development levels, productive capacities, linkages with other sectors, regional and international cooperation, and quality of infrastructure services. International trade brings additional layers of complexity to regulatory and institutional frameworks. Coherence between regulatory and trade agendas and between regulatory authorities, sectoral and trade ministries is crucial for trade liberalization to promote development. This session will consider lessons learned from practices and experiences in building coordination and coherence towards mutually supportive regulatory and trade strategies.</p> <p><b>Issues for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Which principles and coordination mechanisms can contribute to coherence between regulation, national policies and trade liberalization, to address regulatory divergence, the adequate adoption of international standards and limits on regulatory options?</li> <li>▪ What is the role of institutional capacity, settings and arrangements in enabling the effective coherence of services regulation and liberalization?</li> <li>▪ How can coherence be promoted, pursued and facilitated at the regional and international levels?</li> <li>▪ What lessons can be drawn from evidence of country and regional experiences in designing and implementing coherent approaches to trade and best-fit regulations of services?</li> <li>▪ How should commonalities and specificities across countries, regions and sectors be taken</li> </ul>
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	<p>into account in coherent and integrated approaches to services sector development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What tools are available or can usefully be developed to help countries identify coherent, integrated and best-fit policy, liberalization, regulatory and institutional frameworks? What is the role of UNCTAD in this regard?</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University</li> <li>▪ Ms. Aude Le Tellier, International Affairs Directorate, French Energy Regulatory Commission</li> <li>▪ Mr. Pralok Gupta, Assistant Professor, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi</li> <li>▪ Ms. Joy Kategekwa, Head, Regional Office for Africa, UNCTAD</li> <li>▪ Mr. Assoukou Raymond Krikpeu, Director of Cooperation and Coordinator, Joint Technical Secretariat, West African Economic and Monetary Union–Economic Community of West African States</li> <li>▪ Mr. Julian Mukiibi, Assistant Director, CUTS International, Geneva</li> </ul> <p>Interactive debate</p>
12.45–1 p.m.	<p>Way forward  Agenda item 4. Adoption of the report of the meeting  Concluding remarks</p>