



MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE, SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

THIRD SESSION

11–13 May 2015

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

PROGRAMME

Monday, 11 May 2015	
10–10.30 a.m.	<p><i>Opening session</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of officers 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work <p><i>Opening statement</i> Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD</p> <p><i>Opening remarks and presentation of the background note by the secretariat</i> Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, Head, Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, UNCTAD</p>
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>Session 1: Trends in services, development and trade</p> <p><i>There is a large untapped potential for countries to capitalize on the service sectors for diversification, structural transformation and sustainable development. The session will review recent economic and policy developments affecting the services economy and trade, particularly infrastructure services, that have called for renewed policies and regulations, as well as institutional frameworks, that are best fit to specific national circumstances and priorities. Taking into account the multidimensional importance of the sector, including income generation and job creation, the session will also examine the contribution of the sector to the proposed sustainable development goals.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What significant developments have taken place in the services sector and trade in services, particularly in infrastructure services? ▪ How does growth in trade in services affect national policies, regulations and institutions governing the services sectors? ▪ What challenges and opportunities lie ahead for developing countries in devising and implementing policies and regulatory approaches that are best fit to national contexts and priorities? ▪ What are the major regulatory and standards-related issues, including competition policy aspects, affecting the development of specific services sectors? ▪ How can the potential of the services economy and trade be maximized in finding inclusive and sustainable solution to post-2015 development challenges? <p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Kevin McKinley, Deputy Secretary-General, International Organization for Standardization

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Raymond Torres, Director, Research Department of the International Labour Organization ▪ Mr. Nick Ashton Hart, Executive Director, Internet and Digital Ecosystem Alliance ▪ Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University ▪ Mr. Aaditya Mattoo, Research Manager, Trade and Integration, World Bank (VC) <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<p>3–6 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 2: Evolving interface between trade liberalization in services and regulations</p> <p><i>Regulations and institutions are essential in harnessing far-reaching and multifaceted benefits of services. The ongoing multilateral (General Agreement on Trade in Services), plurilateral (Trade in Services Agreement) and regional trade negotiations and integration initiatives have a strong bearing on national efforts to effectively regulate services sectors. Effective coordination and sequencing between national regulatory efforts and participation in international trade negotiations has proved to be important for all countries. The session will examine some major issues lying at the interface between regulation and trade as they relate to services (for example, policy space and the right to regulate), and will draw policy implications for developing countries, including LDCs.</i></p> <p><i>Issues for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What have been the implications of the changing regulatory landscape, particularly in infrastructure services, for approaches to services trade liberalization, integration and cooperation, including under negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the Trade in Services Agreement? ▪ What is the potential of preferential market access in services for LDCs and regulatory aspects? ▪ What are the major challenges faced by developing countries in negotiating new-generation services trade agreements in North–South and South–South contexts? ▪ What are the effects of North–North regional trade agreements on developing countries? What are the effects of emerging mega-regional trade agreements on national regulatory efforts, including through provisions on regulatory coherence, State-owned enterprises and investor–State disputes? ▪ What lessons can be learned to identify best-fit practices in securing coherence between services regulations and services trade negotiations? <p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Gabriel Duque, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the World Trade Organization ▪ Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva ▪ Mr. Fabien Gehl, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organization ▪ Ms. Dorothée Rouzet, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ▪ Mr. Hamid Mamdouh, Director, Division of Trade in Services, World Trade Organization <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, 12 May 2015</p>	
<p>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 3: Towards best-fit policies and regulations: The case of financial services</p> <p><i>Financial services play a catalytic role in the efficient allocation of productive resources, thereby contributing to the real economy. Recent regulatory efforts have focused on re-regulation of overly</i></p>

deregulated financial markets. The session will examine various country experiences and lessons learned in the identification of best-fit practices with regard to financial services regulations. It will review some of the major regulatory reforms undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to draw lessons for developing countries in meeting a variety of regulatory objectives, including macroeconomic stability, financial deepening and financial inclusion.

Issues for discussion

- How can the contribution of financial services to the real economy be maximized, bearing in mind that both market and government failures have marked recent regulatory efforts?
- Are integrated financial markets beneficial for developing countries? What regulatory mechanisms and policies are needed to ensure its beneficial effects?
- How to ensure coherence and coordination between trade policy objectives and macroprudential regulations in financial services?
- What lessons can be learned in the identification of best-fit practices in ensuring prudential regulation, financial stability and financial inclusion, particularly in developing countries?

Panellists

- **Mr. Ugo Panizza**, Professor, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva
- **Mr. Ruiming Bai**, Vice Secretary-General, China Banking Association, China
- **Mr. Massimo Cirasino**, Practice Manager, Financial Infrastructure and Access, World Bank (tbc)
- **Mr. Daniel Mwirigi M’Amanja**, Assistant Director, Central Bank of Kenya
- **Mr. Kern Alexander**, Professor, Chair for Law and Finance, University of Zurich

Interactive debate

3–6 p.m.

Session 4: Towards best-fit policies and regulations: The case of telecommunications and information and communications technology-related services

The exponential growth in telecommunications- and information and communications technology (ICT)-related services has revolutionized modern society, creating enormous opportunities, including in developing countries. This has accentuated the importance of policies and regulatory frameworks in catalyzing healthy development of the sector. This session will review the recent development of the telecommunications- and ICT-related services sector and its multifaceted potential. It will examine various country experiences and lessons learned in reaping effective benefits from the sector for inclusive and sustainable development.

Issues for discussion

- What characteristics can be observed in recent trends in the telecommunications- and ICT-related services sector, particularly in developing countries?
- What role has national policy and regulatory efforts played in the current state of telecommunications- and ICT-related services in different countries?
- How can the potential of the sectors be maximized to finding inclusive and sustainable solutions to major development challenges in the post-2015 development framework?
- What lessons can be learned from national experiences in building productive capacities and enhancing competitiveness in the sector, including in bridging the digital divide?

Panellists

- **Ms. Nancy Sundberg**, Senior Programme Officer, Telecommunication Development Bureau, Regulatory Market and Environment Division, International Telecommunication Union
- **Mr. Olutunmbi Idowu**, Head, Compliance and Risk Control, Solution Area, M-Commerce, Business Unit Support Solutions, Ericsson
- **Mr. René Dönni**, Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Communications and Head of Telecommunication Services and Post, Switzerland

- **Mr. Jongbong Park**, Director, Standards Promotion Department, Telecommunications Technology Association, Republic of Korea

Interactive debate

Wednesday, 13 May 2015

10 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

Session 5: UNCTAD services policy reviews

Devising adequate policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that are best fit to national circumstances and priorities is a critical challenge for Governments. This process requires a thorough assessment of services sector performance and the regulatory and institutional frameworks conditioning such performance. UNCTAD services policy reviews are a useful tool to assist countries in meeting this challenge. The session will consider the main findings of such reviews and exchange country experiences in devising an appropriate policy mix to improve services sector performance.

Issues for discussion

- How best can the process of national assessment of services economy and trade be designed and implemented?
- What lessons can be drawn from the experiences of services policy reviews in conducting a critical assessment of the services economy and trade?
- What challenges and opportunities have been identified in developing countries, and how have they been addressed?
- What follow-up actions are needed nationally and internationally in multiplying the effect of policy and regulatory improvements and institutional reforms?

Panellists

- **Ms. Karina Tejada**, Services Negotiator, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Peru
- **Mr. Laurean Bategana**, Principle Commercial Officer, Ministry of Trade, Uganda
- **Mr. Nesar Ahmed**, Director, World Trade Organization Cell, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Secretariat, Bangladesh
- **Ms. Margarita Peña Concha**, Director General of Trade Services, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Paraguay
- **Ms. Teboho Tsekoa**, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Cooperatives and Marketing, Lesotho

Interactive debate

3–5.45 p.m.

Session 6: Possible elements of toolkit for identifying best-fit practices

This session will consider the possible elements of a toolkit for identifying some best-fit practices. Various country experiences, including those obtained through the services policy review exercise, point to possible lessons that can be learned towards the identification of best-fit practices for harnessing the services economy and trade for sustainable development. Such lessons can be useful in helping developing countries assess, formulate and implement their own policies, regulations and institutions.

Issues for discussion:

- What lessons can be drawn from cumulating evidence of county experiences in designing and implementing best-fit services policies and regulations?
- How should commonalities and specificities across countries and sectors be taken into account in policy and regulatory approaches to services sector development?
- What is the role of institutional capacity, settings and arrangements in enabling the effective regulation of services sectors? What is the role of coalitions of services

	<p>industries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What tools are available or can usefully be developed to help countries identify best-fit policy mixes, regulations and institutional frameworks? What is the role of UNCTAD in this regard? <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University ▪ Ms. Aude Le Tellier, Deputy Director, International Affairs Department, Commission de Régulation de l'Energie, France ▪ Mr. Sebastián Sáez, Senior Trade Economist, World Bank ▪ Mr. César A. Hidalgo, Associate Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (VC) (tbc) ▪ Mr. Ted Kury, Director of Energy Studies, Public Utility Research Center, University of Florida (VC) ▪ Mr. Bilel Jamoussi, Chief, Study Group Department, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union <p><i>Interactive debate</i></p>
5.45–6 p.m.	Way forward and concluding remarks