

Sixth meeting of the informal working group on data for services, trade and development policies

23 November 2026 | 09.00-10.30 (CET)
Online

Background

The [fifth meeting of the Informal Working Group](#) examined how services can act as shock absorbers or bottlenecks, and what linked firm-level and administrative data can reveal about resilience. It highlighted that exposure does not necessarily imply vulnerability: outcomes also depend on factors such as supplier concentration, substitutability and customization.

The sixth meeting will take this discussion from the firm level to the economy-wide level. Input-output (IO) and multi-regional input-output (MRIO) data can show how services are used directly and indirectly in production, where foreign services inputs enter production networks, and how much exposure is hidden upstream rather than visible in direct trade statistics.

The meeting will focus on what such data can reveal about services exposure and the scope for substitution, where their limits lie, and which related indicators are also useful for describing a country's services trade and servicification.

Objectives

The meeting aims to

- discuss which IO/MRIO indicators are most useful for identifying direct and indirect foreign services exposure and how it can inform policy making
- consider how far available data can help distinguish exposure from dependency or vulnerability, including what can be learned about substitutability and where more granular data are needed; and
- consider which indicators are most suitable for country-level analysis of services trade and servicification

Programme

Monday 23 November 2026, 09.00-10.30 (CET)

09.00-09.10 am	Opening
Opening remarks	Ms. Luz María de la Mora, Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
09.10-09.50 am	Services trade in production networks: measuring exposure and substitutability <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Peter Lunenborg, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade in Services and Development (UNCTAD)
Speakers	Mr. Christopher Findlay , Honorary Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University Mr. Richard Baldwin , Professor of International Economics, IMD Business School Mr. Mattia Cai , Economist, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD Ms. Nomundari Baatar , Senior Researcher, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, Asian Development Bank
Guiding questions	• Which IO/MRIO indicators are most informative for identifying direct and indirect exposure to foreign services inputs? • How far can existing data distinguish exposure from dependence or vulnerability? • How comparable are these measures across international databases? • Which indicators are useful for country-level analysis of services trade and servicification?
Open discussion 09.50-10.25 am	Feedback and discussions by participants
Synthesis: 10.25am-10.30 am	Mr. Christopher Findlay , Honorary Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
	Closing remarks

