

Call for a global services community

Joint communiqué from the co-organizers of the Global Services Forum 2021

Post-pandemic recovery requires increasing the transformative potential of services for diversification

We affirm the critical importance of services to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We note with concern the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies across the globe, particularly those countries whose exports are concentrated in few sectors. We stress the urgency for economic diversification in post-pandemic recovery and, in this regard, stress the role of services.

We recognize the potential of digitization in transforming services, including creative services, and services trade. In this context, we note with concern the relatively small share of developing countries in the global digital services trade. We call for international cooperation in bridging the digital divides and in assisting developing countries to harness the opportunities and mitigating the risks arising from the digitization trends.

To this end, we invite UNCTAD to provide a platform within the Global Services Forum to promote dialogue, and partnership opportunities and other initiatives among the global services community.

This platform will serve to:

- Disseminate the latest trends in service trade with a view to identifying opportunities and challenges for developing countries.
- Promote global dialogues on trade, services, including creative services, and development, and promote the sharing of experiences.
- Identify partnership opportunities to support countries and regions in their efforts to formulate and enact service policies that are in line with their overall development strategies.

Co-organizers of the Global Services Forum 2021

United Nations co-organizers:

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Other co-organizers:

- Barbados Coalition of Service Industries (BCSI)
- Caribbean Export Development Agency
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Regional Program ADELA (KAS)
- Latin American and Caribbean Network of Researchers and Policy Makers on Services (REDLAS)
- Latin American Association of Services Exporters (ALES)
- Sound Diplomacy
- The University of the West Indies (UWI)

United Nations co-organizers