

**International meeting on services value-added in exports:
Services and trade policies for diversification and upgrading**
Brasília, 22-23 October 2019

**Draft inputs to the closing statement by Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton
Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD**
23 October 2019, Wednesday, 12:45 – 13:00

Dear friends and colleagues,

It was gratifying to have shared the last day and a half with you. We heard, in panels and in debates, distinguished experts from several countries and regions, international and regional organizations, government, academia and private sector.

It was a privilege to witness the efforts of uniting our different views to a common goal: providing options to use services value-added in exports to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Something that is clear from this meeting is that the development potential of services value-added is significant.

Services are at the service of the whole economy, increasing productivity, strengthening productive and export capacity, and enabling diversification and upgrading strategies.

Harvesting the benefits of this potential is not automatic. The risks for asymmetries and exclusion are real. Best-fit policy and regulatory action is required. Coherence and effectiveness on trade and services policies should be pursued by a collaborative multi-stakeholder governance strategy including government, academia and private sector.

Also, as called for in SDGs, policies need to rely on data.

We have seen in this meeting that this is still a challenge on trade in services. We hope that UNCTAD's guidebook on the methodology to measure services value-added, launched yesterday, will be a useful tool for many countries.

Above all, policies are for people and depend on people: skills development remains at the core of services' development strategies. It will determine much of the ability to pursue and benefit from diversification and upgrading through services.

We have examined these and other options and, thanks to all of you, this international meeting on services value-added in exports has produced a wealth of information that can be used by countries as a tool to decide on their trade and services policies.

UNCTAD's analysis of trade and services policies in Brazil, the draft of which was presented to you yesterday, will be enriched with the results of our work in this meeting. This will help to provide policy recommendations as informed as possible to enable Brazil to maximise its potential in services value-added in trade.

You will be able to find the results of this meeting, the policy analysis and UNCTAD's guidebook on the methodology to measure services value-added in our website. We will incorporate these lessons in our technical assistance on services. It is part of our mandate and we stand ready to continue to support countries in their policies for services and services trade. This includes assisting with services policy reviews, an assessment and advisory exercise that we have done for several countries and regions.

As I have mentioned in the opening, this meeting will be followed by UNCTAD's Global Services Forum in October 2020, which we hope will be held in the context of the 15th quadrennial conference of UNCTAD in Barbados. I hope that you can also be there and that we can resume these discussions.

Thank you!