



# MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON

## **Trade, Services and Development**

### 9th session

4–6 July 2022, Hybrid (online and Palais des Nations, Room XVII), 2.30–4.30 p.m. CEST

Session 1. **Services trade, economic diversification and resilience to economic shocks**

**Statement by Dominican Republic**



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

\*The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



Misión Permanente de la República Dominicana ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) en Ginebra, Suiza

UNCTAD's ninth Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development:  
Statement by ambassador Dr José R. Sánchez-Fung, 4 July 2022  
*Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the WTO & UNCTAD*

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Secretary-General of UNCTAD Ms. Rebeca Grynspan,  
Chairperson Ambassador Kiruthu (Kenya),  
Officer-in-Charge of the Division on International Trade and Commodities Ms. Miho Shirotori,  
Experts, Colleagues,

1. The world economy has benefited from increasingly larger volumes of trade for almost a century. The trend has been mainly driven by trade in goods. But the share of services trade in global flows is growing and the prospects are positive.
2. What are the challenges for continuing progress in services trade? The key problem is that further advance involves 'deep integration' versus the 'shallow integration' demanded by goods trade.
3. Please also allow me to illustrate using recent empirical research on the topic. A paper published by Hoekman and Shepherd in the *World Trade Review* in 2021 produces a Services Policy Index for a selected sample of countries. The investigation uses the index to calculate *ad valorem* equivalent rates, and shows that services policies are more restrictive than tariffs on goods.
4. UNCTAD's contribution to this important topic is valuable -in fact, ongoing since UNCTAD XIII. Today we meet in the context of the organization's ninth session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development. The event continues the series of successful meetings -outlined in UNCTAD's document 'The evolving landscape of digital trade in services'.
5. This year's session will be focusing on the impact of digitalization on services trade. Without doubt, much can be learned about digitalization's potential to aid developing countries in gaining from services trade. A key theme is digitalization's impact on diversification and sustainable development, and both are relevant for making progress on the Bridgetown Covenant.
6. Services are an important part of the Dominican Republic's economy. For that reason, the country's *2030 Digital Agenda* seeks to contribute to digitalization's increasing role in services trade. Please allow me to thank UNCTAD for agreeing to provide technical assistance to strengthen the Dominican Republic's capacity in ICT services. The assistance will be valuable in our effort towards diversifying the economy and achieving sustainable development. This event will also contribute in that direction.

Thank you.