



## Beijing Communiqué CIFTIS- GSF

Heads of State and Government, Ministers, high level representatives of International Organizations and business leaders met on 29 May 2013 in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, People's Republic of China, at the occasion of the China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) and the Global Services Forum: Beijing Summit.

Hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, and permanently based in Beijing since 2012, CIFTIS is the first comprehensive fair specializing in the trade in services around the world covering all the twelve sectors of trade in services.

The Global Services Forum is a unique platform launched by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2012, at the thirteenth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar. It helps services stakeholders to meet and exchange ideas, experiences and lessons learned, in search for innovative policies, new partnerships and best-fit practices.

CIFTIS and the Global Services Forum: Beijing Summit:

**Highlighted** that the services sector has played an important role in income generation and job creation, including for women and youth, and has therefore contributed to economic growth, innovation, knowledge creation and diffusion for all economies.

**Emphasized** that the opportunities created by the services economy are enormous, since services constitute the backbone of the economy and key inputs to all economic activities.

**Underscored** that essential services such as water, sanitation, health, energy and education are key enablers for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and post-2015 development challenges.

**Recognized** that the services sector is matured in developed countries but represents a new frontier for many developing countries since they face the challenge of building competitive, productive, export, regulatory and institutional capacities.

**Called for** international solidarity and resources to be mobilized to address such critical capacity constraints

**Acknowledged** that the services economy presents a viable avenue for many developing countries in special needs to overcome their specific trade and development challenges due to their particular geographical, physical and locational conditions, such as for least developed, land-locked and small island countries.

**Recommended** that partnerships be established and fostered, since such collaboration and networking is at the core of success in all sectors and the exchange of experiences and effective policies and practices in promoting services, is required.

**Welcomed** the launching of the Services Vision Council as an informal and open framework for government and business leaders, to provide guidance and insights into the identifications of themes and ahead-of-the-curve issues for the Global Services Forum.

**Expressed** support for UNCTAD's comprehensive and long-standing work on services and greeted the initiative to enhance data and statistics on international trade in services in developing countries in particular in Least Developed Countries.

**Thanked** Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality for its warm hospitality and applauded both the CIFTIS and UNCTAD's Global Services Forum for its leadership and comprehensive work in the promotion of the services economy and the international trade in services.

Beijing, 29 May 2013