



## Global Industry Statement on the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions

The undersigned associations urge WTO members to support continuation of the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions at the WTO's Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13).

Allowing the Moratorium to expire would be a historic setback for the WTO, representing an unprecedented termination of a multilateral agreement in place nearly since the WTO's inception – an agreement that has allowed the digital economy to take root and grow. All WTO members have a stake in the organization's continued institutional credibility and resilience, as well as its relevance at a time of unprecedented digital transformation.

Continuation of the Moratorium is critical to the ongoing COVID-19 recovery. As detailed by the United Nations, the World Bank, the OECD, and many other organizations, the cross-border exchange of knowledge, technical know-how, and scientific and commercial information across transnational IT networks, as well as access to digital tools and global market opportunities have helped sustain economies, expand education, and raise global living standards.

Continuation of the Moratorium is also important to supply chain resilience for manufacturing and services industries. Manufacturers – both large and small, and across a range of industrial sectors – rely on the constant flow of research, design, and process data and software to enable their production flows and supply chains for critical products.

The Moratorium is particularly beneficial to Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), whose ability to access and leverage digital tools has allowed them to stay in business amidst physical restrictions and lockdowns. Failure to renew the Moratorium will jeopardize these benefits, as customs restrictions that interrupt cross-border access to knowledge and digital tools will harm MSMEs and the global supply chain – increasing digital fragmentation. As [UNCTAD](#) has explained, such fragmentation “reduces market opportunities for domestic MSMEs to reach worldwide markets, [and] ... reduces opportunities for digital innovation, including various missed opportunities for inclusive development that can be facilitated by engaging in data-sharing through strong international cooperation. ... [M]ost small, developing economies will lose opportunities for raising their digital competitiveness.”

The risks of ending the Moratorium have been discussed in recent publications by the [International Monetary Fund](#), [OECD](#), [World Bank](#), [United Nations](#), and [WTO](#), and by think-tanks in [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Switzerland](#), [Belgium](#), and [around the world](#). As the [OECD](#) has explained, “[t]he overall revenue implications of the Moratorium are small..., [t]ariffs on electronic transmissions would hit low-income country trade the most... Smaller and women-owned firms could be most impacted...” [Other reports](#) predict greater GDP losses due to potential implementation of retaliatory duties and note that goods and services taxes (GST) / value added taxes (VAT) are preferable to tariffs both from the perspectives of revenue collection, economic efficiency, and administrability. Countries that impose such duties also face longer-term harms due to a less predictable investment climate, reduced foreign direct investment, and reduced access to knowledge, information, and digital tools needed by local workers, artists, patients, students, consumers, and other constituents.

Finally, at a time when [the G20](#), seeking to establish “a more stable and fairer international tax system,” has formally endorsed the [OECD Inclusive Framework's Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy](#), it seems unnecessarily disruptive for the WTO membership to abandon a foundational quarter-century old agreement regarding the treatment of electronic transmissions. We also note in this regard the [G7 Digital Trade Principles](#), which state that “[e]lectronic transmissions – including the transmitted content – should be free of customs duties, in accordance with the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions.”

We therefore urge all WTO members to show strong leadership and support of the digital economy by supporting continuation of the WTO Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions.

Sincerely,



1. ACEA – European Automobile Manufacturers Association
2. ACTI - Asociación Chilena de Empresas de Tecnologías de Información
3. AdvaMed
4. Advertising Association
5. Africa Cloud Association
6. Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA)
7. AINAKI - Indonesia Animation Industry Association
8. Alianza del Pacifico
9. Allied for Startups
10. American Chamber of Commerce in Australia
11. American Chamber of Commerce in Brazil
12. American Chamber of Commerce in Chile
13. American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia
14. American Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia
15. American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand
16. American Chamber of Commerce in Peru
17. American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore
18. American Chamber of Commerce in Spain
19. American Chamber of Commerce to the EU
20. American Chemistry Council
21. AMETIC La Voz de la Industria Digital
22. ACT | The App Association
23. APPLiA
24. Asia Business Trade Association
25. Asia Cloud Computing Association
26. Asia Internet Coalition
27. Asia Pacific MSME Trade Coalition (AMTC)
28. Asia Pacific Services Coalition
29. Asociación de Internet MX
30. Asociación Latinoamericana de Exportadores de Servicios
31. Associação Brasileira das Empresas de Software
32. Association of American Publishers (AAP)
33. Association of Competitive Telecom Operators (India)
34. Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
35. AusFilm
36. Australasian Performing Rights Association / Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Association
37. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
38. Australian Information Industry Association
39. Australian Industry Group
40. Australian Services Roundtable
41. Autos Drive America
42. BDI – Federation of German Industries
43. Belize Coalition of Service Providers (BCSP)
44. BIO – Biotechnology Innovation Organization
45. Bitkom e.V.
46. Brazilian National Confederation of Industry
47. British Chamber of Commerce Kenya
48. Broadband India Forum (BIF)
49. BSA | The Software Alliance
50. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization
51. Business Council of Canada
52. Business Europe
53. Business NZ
54. Business Roundtable
55. Business South Africa (BUSA)
56. Business Leadership South Africa (BLSA)
57. CAINCO - Cámara De Industria, Comercio, Servicios Y Turismo De Santa Cruz – Bolivia
58. Câmara Brasileira da Economia Digital
59. Cámara Colombiana de Comercio Electrónico
60. Canadian Chamber of Commerce
61. Cámara de Comercio de Lima - CCL
62. Cámara de Industrias de Costa Rica
63. Cámara de Infocomunicación y Tecnología (INFOCOM)
64. Canadian Services Coalition (CSC)
65. Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry [S. Africa]
66. Caribbean Network of Services Coalition
67. Center for International Economic Collaboration (CFIEC)
68. The Chambers of Commerce of Ireland
69. Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut & Mount Lebanon
70. Chamber of Digital Industry and Services of National Business Association of Colombia – ANDI
71. Chamber of Progress
72. China Council for Promotion of Int'l Trade
73. China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA)
74. City of London Corporation
75. Coalition for Digital Prosperity for Asia
76. Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
77. Coalition to Reduce Cyber Risk (CR2)
78. Computer and Communications Industry Association
79. Confederation of Danish Industry (DI)
80. Confederation of Finnish Industry (EK)
81. Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
82. Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)
83. Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
84. Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
85. Copyright Overseas Promotion Association (COA)
86. Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CANTIC)
87. Danish Chamber of Commerce / Dansk Erhverv
88. DIGITALEUROPE
89. Digital Trade Network
90. Dominican Republic Services Association
91. Ecommerce Forum Africa

92. eco – Association of the Internet Industry
93. economiesuisse
94. E-Merchants Trade Council (EMTC)
95. Emerging Business Factory (Morocco)
96. ENGINE
97. Entertainment Software Association
98. EU-ASEAN Business Council
99. Eurochambres
100. EuroCommerce
101. European Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia
102. European Chamber of Commerce in Thailand
103. European Games Developer Federation (EGDF)
104. European Roundtable for Industry (ERT)
105. European Services Forum (ESF)
106. European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)
107. Express Association of America (EAA)
108. Federation of Hellenic ICT Enterprises
109. Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII)
110. Forum for Internet Retailers, Sellers & Traders of India
111. German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)
112. German electro and digital industry association (ZVEI)
113. German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce
114. Global Data Alliance
115. Global Express Association
116. Global Innovation Forum
117. Global Trade Solutions (South Africa)
118. Grenada Coalition of Service Industries (GCSI)
119. Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
120. Hong Kong Coalition of Services Industries
121. India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA)
122. INDIA SME FORUM
123. Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA)
124. Indonesia Services Dialogue (ISD)
125. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
126. Interactive Games and Entertainment Association
127. The International Association of Scholarly, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)
128. International Apparel Federation (IAF)
129. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
130. International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA)
131. International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA)
132. IP Federation (United Kingdom)
133. Japan Association of New Economy (JANE)
134. Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE)
135. Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)
136. Japan Information Technology Service Industry Association (JISA)
137. Japan Machinery Center for Trade and Investment (JMC)
138. Japan Semiconductor Industry Association (JSIA)
139. Japan Services Network (JSN)
140. Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI)
141. Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand
142. Kenya Private Sector Alliance
143. Korea International Trade Association
144. Korea Semiconductor Industry Association
145. Korean Broadcasters Association
146. Korean Film Digital Distribution Association
147. La Chambre de Commerce d'Industrie et d'Agriculture de Saint-Louis (Sénégal)
148. La Conférence permanente des chambres consulaires et organisations intermédiaires africaines et francophones
149. Malaysian Service Providers Confederation (MSPC)
150. Malaysia Semiconductor Industry Association
151. MedTech Europe
152. Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology
153. Mexican Chamber of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies (CANIETI)
154. Motion Picture Association (MPA)
155. Motion Picture Distributors Association of Australia
156. Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan
157. National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
158. National Association of Cinema Operators – Australasia
159. National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Assn of America
160. National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
161. National Retail Federation
162. New Zealand International Business Forum
163. Philippine Exporters Confederation (PHILEXPORT)
164. Professional & Business Services Council
165. Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce & Industry
166. Payments Leadership Council
167. Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
168. Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)
169. Saint Lucia Coalition of Services Industries (SLCSI)
170. Saint Kitts & Nevis Coalition of Services Industries
171. scienceindustries
172. Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines
173. SEMI
174. Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
175. Screen Producers Australia (SPA)
176. SGTECH
177. Sindicato Nacional dos Editores de Livros (SNEL) (Brazil)
178. Singapore Business Federation
179. Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association
180. Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council
181. SPADA NZ–The Screen Production & Development Association
182. Sociedad de Comercio Exterior del Perú (ComexPerú)
183. Sociedad de Fomento Fabril (SOFOFA)
184. Taiwan Coalition of Services Industries (TWCSI)
185. Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (TSIA)
186. TechNet
187. techUK
188. TECHNATION Canada
189. Technical Service Providers Association of South Africa
190. Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
191. Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
192. TheCityUK
193. Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries
194. Unión Costarricense de Cámaras y Asociaciones del Sector Empresarial Privado (UCCAEP)
195. Uruguay: National Chamber of Commerce and Services
196. US-ASEAN Business Council
197. US-Bangladesh Business Council
198. US Chamber of Commerce
199. US Council for International Business
200. US-India Business Council
201. US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)
202. US-Pakistan Business Council
203. US-South Africa Business Council
204. US Information Technology Office (China)
205. Video Games Europe
206. Vietnam E-commerce Association (VECOM)
207. World Information Technology and Services Alliance