

JOINT BUSINESS CHARTER FOR CANCÚN

BUSINESS IS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THE WTO MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

We, business organisations representing companies from developing and developed countries are united in wanting to make the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference a success. In September in Cancún, we look to the 147 WTO Members to take important steps towards a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations by 1 January 2005.

A successful Cancún Conference will:

- **send a confidence-boosting signal to investors, traders and consumers at a time of great economic uncertainty;**
- **bolster the rules-based multilateral trading system and foster international cooperation;**
- **clear the way for the final phase of the DDA negotiations.**

We therefore call on WTO Members to intensify their efforts to overcome differences and divisions, in a cooperative and constructive spirit. Solutions which take into account the various interests at stake can be found for all issues on the Doha Development Agenda. Trade and investment liberalisation are essential for global economic growth, job creation, and consumer choice in developed and developing countries.

Business is the key driver of the global trading system. Through national and international trade and investment activities, business creates employment and the wealth necessary to raise living standards and environmental protection around the world. In this capacity, we present the following business charter for Cancún. It engages its signatories, but is open to all horizontal and representative business organisations that share our approach and objectives.

- 1. We are fully committed to the WTO multilateral trading system which is key for global economic governance. Further trade and investment liberalisation is vital for global economic growth:**

We support the ambitious and forward-looking DDA negotiations, aimed at accommodating all countries at various levels of development. All issues on the DDA should be addressed on their own merits and progress in parallel. For business, the following issues are essential:

- **substantially improved market access commitments for agricultural and non-agricultural goods;**
- **further liberalisation of trade in services;**
- **simplification and harmonisation of international trade procedures (trade facilitation);**
- **a framework of rules for international investment;**
- **more transparency in public procurement markets;**
- **clarification and improvement of the WTO anti-dumping rules and of other rules-related agreements, where appropriate, to ensure effective, non-discriminatory and impartial operation;**
- **further improvement of the Dispute Settlement Understanding including greater transparency.**

We underline the crucial importance of the agricultural negotiations, especially for many developing countries that depend heavily on this sector for their export earnings or for their economic growth. In addition, a lack of substantive progress in this area risks derailing the other items on the DDA which are vital for future economic growth, employment and development. It is time for all WTO members to engage seriously and realistically in the agriculture negotiations and to contribute to the liberalisation process by making meaningful and balanced commitments in the three pillars of the DDA negotiations, market access, export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic support, while also taking into account the specificity of agriculture and concerns of developing countries.

2. We look for the Cancún Ministerial Conference to:

- ⇒ renew a strong commitment to the multilateral process with a road map for the conclusion of the negotiations by January 2005;
- ⇒ keep the DDA on track and facilitate progress in all areas of the negotiations. We call on WTO Members particularly to agree on:
 - **the conditions to move agriculture negotiations forward;**
 - **modalities for non-agriculture market access negotiations combining tariff and non-tariff measures;**
 - **the basis for starting negotiations, without prejudice to the eventual outcome, on the Singapore issues;**
 - **clear guidelines and significant progress on special and differential treatment for developing countries and least developed countries;**
 - **renewed commitment for further services liberalisation across the four modes of delivery.**

3. We fully support the development objectives of the DDA and firmly believe that an open and rules-based multilateral trading system advances key development goals. We pledge to ensure fulfilment of these objectives along the following lines:

The WTO contributes to development and growth in all countries through improved market access for goods and services and by establishing clear rules for economic actors. The Doha Development Agenda will further integrate developing and especially least developed countries in the global marketplace and enable them to reap more fully the benefits of trade and investment liberalisation. We firmly support strengthened and effective technical assistance, capacity building and other needed structural reforms in developing countries as integral to achieving the full benefits of trade liberalisation.

We look for time-bound progress on issues of most importance to developing countries including implementation issues and special and differential treatment. For the phasing-in of new WTO obligations, we support granting flexibility to developing countries according to their different levels of economic development and competitiveness. Meaningful special and differential treatment should be granted to least developed countries.

Technical assistance should focus on capacity building and facilitating the full participation of developing, least developed countries and small developing economies in the negotiating process. Efforts should also be pursued to increase synergies and efficiency between the existing assistance programmes.

4. We note the acceleration and intensification of bilateral and regional trade initiatives:

While regionalism/bilateralism can be a useful means for liberalisation, multilateral liberalisation is our end goal. Therefore, we call on WTO members to allocate all the priority and necessary resources to the ongoing DDA negotiations so that they can be successfully concluded by the agreed 1 January 2005 deadline. A strengthened multilateral framework will ensure that bilateral and regional trade initiatives provide benefits to the entire global economy.

Time is short but the promise of the DDA can still be achieved.

SIGNATORIES (AS OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2003)

Africa



**PANAFRICAN CONFEDERATION
OF EMPLOYERS**

PanAfrican Confederation of Employers (PEC)

The Pan-African Employers' Confederation was founded in 1986 and groups more than 30 national employers' organisations of the continent. It is the voice of employers and the private sector in Africa

Australia



**Australian Services
Roundtable**

www.servicesaustralia.org.au

Australian Services Roundtable

The Australian Services Roundtable is the peak business body for the services industries in Australia. Sectors represented include financial services, professional services, health, education, environmental services, energy services, logistics, tourism, information technology, telecommunications, transport and distribution, standards and conformance, audio-visual, media, entertainment, cultural and other business services.



**Australian Chamber of
Commerce and Industry**

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is the peak council of Australian business associations. Its member network has over 350,000 businesses represented through Chambers of Commerce in each State and Territory, and a nationwide network of industry associations. ACCI is the largest and most representative business association in Australia

Brazil



Confederação Nacional da Indústria
<http://www.cni.org.br>

National Confederation of Industry (CNI)

CNI was established in 1938 as the chief institutional representative of Brazilian industry. The CNI co-ordinates a system comprising 27 Federations of Industry in all States and the Federal District - with a membership of some 1,016 employers' unions. CNI focuses on improving the competitiveness of Brazilian industry and integrating it to the world economy

Chile



**CONFEDERACION DE
LA PRODUCCION
Y DEL COMERCIO**

www.cpc.cl

Production and Commerce Confederation (CPC)

CPC is the Chilean umbrella business association, which brings together the country's main productive sectors. CPC, founded in 1935, is constituted by the following six branches: industry; commerce, services and tourism; mining; agriculture; construction; and banks and financial institutions.

Egypt



Federation of Egyptian Industries

www.fei.or.eg

Federation of Egyptian Industries

The Federation of Egyptian Industries is made up of 14 sectoral Chambers of Industry, which together group approximately 18,000 enterprises of private, co-operative, public or mixed ownership

Europe



www.unice.org
<http://wto.unice.org>

Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE)

UNICE represents 35 central industrial and employers federations from 28 European countries, including the 15 EU Member States, acceding countries and other candidate and EFTA countries. It is the voice of business in Europe.

Europe



European Services Forum
www.esf.be

European Services Forum (ESF)

ESF represents 43 major European services companies and 38 European service federations, representing 22 sectors. It represents the very large majority of the European service industries that have a direct interest in supplying international services.

Japan



www.keidanren.or.jp

Nippon Keidanren – Japan Business Federation

Nippon Keidanren-Japan Business Federation is the representative organisation for Japanese business. With 1,584 members it encompasses private sector companies, industrial associations and nationwide economic organizations.

Mexico



www.coparmex.org.mx

Mexican Confederation of Employers – COPARMEX

COPARMEX is a business organization that represents more than 35,000 enterprises from all sectors within Mexico. COPARMEX strives, through the union and representation of enterprises, for excellence in free enterprise, the full establishment of a market economy with social responsibility and citizen participation in order to secure the building of a more just, free and prosperous Mexico.

Morocco



Confédération Générale des
Entreprises du Maroc
www.cgem.ma

Confederation Generale des Entreprises du Maroc (CGEM)

CGEM is the promoter of free enterprise in Morocco. It guides, informs and assists Moroccan companies to improve quality, productivity and to build partnerships.