

Global Business Statement: Revitalising the Multilateral Trading System at MC14

We, the undersigned business organisations from across the world, urge Ministers at the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to adopt a reform plan to revitalise the global trading system.

For 30 years, the WTO has provided the stability and predictability that enable businesses of all sizes to trade, invest, and create jobs around the globe. Its 166 Members represent 98% of global trade, and its rules underpin everything from customs procedures and product standards to intellectual property. Businesses rely on this framework every day to facilitate cross border flows of goods and services and operate with predictability in global markets.¹

Today, that foundation is under unprecedented strain. The rise of unilateralism, protectionism, and the inability of the WTO to address the challenges of the 21st century and level the playing field have undermined confidence in the global trading system. Analysis by Oxford Economics commissioned by ICC shows that the loss of a functioning WTO could permanently reduce developing economy GDP by over 5 percent. No country would be spared.²

Fragmentation is already a reality. The proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements has created a “spaghetti bowl” of overlapping rules that raise costs and uncertainty for business, particularly for MSMEs. These agreements facilitate commerce among subsets of countries, but they cannot replace a coherent and interoperable global trading system. International business needs a strong, reformed WTO to ensure the consistency and scale needed for trade to work for everyone.

MC14 offers a historic opportunity to meet this demand. We call on Ministers to **launch a time-bound reform round** of negotiations that restores the WTO’s capacity to negotiate, deliberate, and settle disputes, ensuring the global system remains relevant to twenty-first-century trade realities. If consensus is elusive, a coalition of willing Members should lead the way forward. Such reform must deliver tangible economic benefits: restoring business confidence, encouraging investment, strengthening competitiveness and creating jobs. Reform must allow plurilateral coalitions of WTO members to negotiate and implement agreements on new issues. It must also ensure structured private sector engagement as an integral part of the reform process, leveraging the expertise of businesses as the end users of the trading system. Above all, it must ensure that micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the backbone of every economy, can trade and grow under stable, predictable, and transparent global rules.

As an immediate confidence-building step, we also urge WTO Members to commit to a standstill, refraining from any restrictive trade measures during reform negotiations and **renew the Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions**. Allowing the

¹ [ICC \(2025\), The WTO's hidden value How the multilateral trading system delivers for business beyond tariffs](#)

² [ICC-Oxford Economics \(2025\), The impact on developing economies of WTO dissolution](#)

moratorium to lapse would inject new uncertainty into global markets and risk fragmenting digital trade just as e-commerce is enabling MSMEs to reach new markets.

Business stands ready to support governments in building a stronger, more transparent, and more predictable trading system, one that empowers enterprises to invest, creates employment, and drives prosperity in every economy.

Now is the time for leadership to revitalise the system that safeguards opportunity, jobs, and growth worldwide.

Sincerely,

1. International Chamber of Commerce
2. American Chamber of Commerce - Qatar
3. Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry
4. Antalya Commodity Exchange
5. Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services
6. Association for Competitive Technology
7. Associazione Italiana Commercio Estero - Italian Association of Foreign Trade (AICE)
8. Associazione Nazionale Centri di Assistenza Doganale (ASSOCAD)
9. Athlone Chamber of Commerce
10. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11. Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ)
12. Aydın Chamber of Industry
13. Aydın ticaret odası
14. Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
15. Ballyhaunis Chamber
16. Bandirma Ticaret Borsası
17. Bangladesh Association of Banks
18. Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)
19. Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Navigation
20. Batman Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
21. Belgian Chambers
22. Borderless Alliance
23. Bremen Chamber of Commerce - CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven
24. British Chambers of Commerce
25. CAINCO Cámara de Industria Comercio Servicios y Turismo
26. Cámara de Comercio Exterior de Santa Fe
27. Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura di Genova
28. Canadian Chamber of Commerce
29. Çarşamba Ticaret Borsası
30. CCI Aix Marseille Provence
31. Çerkezköy Chamber of Commerce and Industry
32. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin
33. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden
34. Coalition of Services Industries
35. Computer & Communications Industry Association

36. Confederation of Danish Industry
37. Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations
38. Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
39. Confederazione Generale Italiana dei Trasporti e della Logistica (CONFETRA)
40. Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
41. Çorlu Chamber of Commerce and Industry
42. Çorlu Ticaret Borsasi
43. Council of Polish Global Entrepreneurs
44. County Carlow Chamber of Commerce
45. County Tipperary Chamber
46. County Wexford Chamber
47. Credimpex Italia
48. Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts
49. CropLife International
50. Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
51. Denizli Chamber of Industry
52. Denizli Commodity Exchange
53. Drogheda and District Chamber
54. Dublin Chamber, Ireland
55. Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber
56. East Sweden Chamber of Commerce / Östsvenska handelskammaren
57. Emirdağ Ticaret ve Sanayi Odasi
58. European Services Forum
59. Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce
60. Federation of Small Businesses
61. Fethiye Ticaret ve Sanayi Odasi - Fethiye Chamber of Commerce and Industry
62. Fingal Chamber
63. Finland Chamber of Commerce
64. Fulda Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Fulda)
65. Galway Chamber
66. German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)
67. Handelskammaren Värmland
68. Handelskammer Hamburg - Hamburg Chamber of Commerce
69. IHK Darmstadt Rhein Main Neckar
70. Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Koblenz
71. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
72. Iskenderun Commodity Exchange
73. Italian Chamber of Commerce in Argentina
74. İzmir Chamber of Commerce
75. İzmir Commodity Exchange
76. Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
77. Kayseri Chamber of Industry
78. Kayseri Commodity Exchange
79. Kayseri Ticaret Odasi
80. Keidanren - Japan Business Federation
81. Keşan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

82. Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce
83. Kocaeli Chamber of Commerce
84. Kozan Commodity Of Exchange
85. Krajowe Zrzeszenie Producentów Rzepaku i Roślin Białkowych (KZPRiRB)
86. Kütahya Ticaret Borsası
87. l'Afep (Association of large French companies)
88. Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)
89. Laois Chamber Alliance
90. Leathergoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB)
91. Make UK
92. Malkara Commodity Exchange
93. National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF) of South Africa
94. National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
95. NECA's network of Entrepreneurial Women
96. New Zealand Chambers of Commerce
97. Norrbotten Chamber of Commerce
98. Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
99. Organisation of Women in International Trade
100. Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Ghana
101. Organisation of Women in International Trade (OWIT) Nigeria
102. Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Zimbabwe
103. Organisation of Women in International Trade, UK Chapter
104. Oudtshoorn Business Chamber
105. Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Chamber of Business
106. Polish Chamber of Commerce
107. Polish Confederation Lewiatan
108. Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry
109. Samsun Ticaret Borsası
110. Samsun Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
111. Sanliurfa Chamber of Commerce and Industry
112. Santa Catarina Industry Federation
113. scienceindustries - Swiss Business Association of Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences
114. Scottish Chambers of Commerce
115. Sivas Commodity Exchange
116. Sligo Chamber of Commerce
117. Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry
118. Söke Commodity Exchange
119. South Dublin Chamber
120. Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
121. Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
122. Technology Industries of Sweden
123. Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
124. Tekirdag Ticaret Borsası
125. Tekirdağ Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
126. The Chambers of Commerce of Ireland

127. The Croatian Chamber of Economy
128. The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)
129. The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT)
130. The Netherlands Polish Chamber of Commerce
131. The Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand
132. Trade Partners Sweden
133. Türkiye Odalar ve Borsalar Birliği
134. U.S. Chamber of Commerce
135. Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
136. Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions
137. Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED)
138. US Council for International Business
139. Van Ticaret Borsasi
140. Vasterbotten Chamber of Commerce / Västerbottens Handelskammare
141. Voka Chamber of Commerce MK
142. Waterford Chamber of Commerce
143. West Sweden Chamber of Commerce / Västsvenska Handelskammaren
144. Westport Chamber
145. Zile Ticaret Borsasi