

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 Advertising Association
- 3 Africa ICT Alliance - AfICTA
- 4 Ajman Chamber
- 5 Alaşehir Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
- 6 Alberta Chambers of Commerce
- 7 American Chamber of Commerce - Qatar
- 8 Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 9 Antalya Commodity Exchange
- 10 Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services
- 11 Asociación Costarricense de la Cámara de Comercio Internacional
- 12 Association for Competitive Technology
- 13 Association of South African Chambers
- 14 Associazione Italiana Commercio Estero - Italian Association of Foreign Trade (AICE)
- 15 Associazione Nazionale Centri di Assistenza Doganale (ASSOCAD)
- 16 Athlone Chamber of Commerce
- 17 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 18 Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ)
- 19 Aydin Chamber of Industry
- 20 Aydin Commodity Exchange
- 21 Aydın ticaret odası
- 22 Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 23 Ballyhaunis Chamber
- 24 Bandırma Ticaret Borsası
- 25 Bangladesh Association of Banks
- 26 Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)
- 27 Barcelona Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Services and Navigation
- 28 Batman Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
- 29 Belgian Chambers
- 30 Board of Trade of Thailand
- 31 Border-Kei Chamber of Business
- 32 Borderless Alliance

- 33 Bremen Chamber of Commerce - CCI for Bremen and Bremerhaven
- 34 British Chambers of Commerce
- 35 BusinessEurope
- 36 CAINCO Cámara de Industria Comercio Servicios y Turismo
- 37 Cámara de Comercio Exterior de Santa Fe
- 38 Cámara Nacional de Comercio, Servicios y Turismo de la Ciudad de México
- 39 Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura di Genova
- 40 Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato e Agricoltura Riviere di Liguria
- 41 Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- 42 Çarşamba Ticaret Borsası
- 43 CCI Aix Marseille Provence
- 44 Çerkezköy Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 45 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin
- 46 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Southern Sweden
- 47 Chambre de commerce et d'industrie Paris Île-de-France
- 48 Circle of Global Business Women
- 49 Coalition of Services Industries
- 50 Computer & Communications Industry Association
- 51 Confederation of Danish Industry
- 52 Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations
- 53 Confederation of Swedish Enterprise
- 54 Confederazione Generale Italiana dei Trasporti e della Logistica (CONFETRA)
- 55 Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
- 56 Çorlu Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 57 Çorlu Ticaret Borsası
- 58 Council of Polish Global Entrepreneurs
- 59 County Carlow Chamber of Commerce
- 60 County Tipperary Chamber
- 61 County Wexford Chamber
- 62 Credimpex Italia
- 63 Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts
- 64 CropLife International
- 65 Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 66 Denizli Chamber of Industry
- 67 Denizli Commodity Exchange
- 68 Drogheda and District Chamber
- 69 Dublin Chamber, Ireland
- 70 Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber
- 71 Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 72 East Sweden Chamber of Commerce / Östsvenska handelskammaren
- 73 Emirdağ Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
- 74 European Services Forum

- 75 Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce
- 76 Federation of Enterprises in Belgium
- 77 Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (FPCCIA)
- 78 Federation of Small Businesses
- 79 Fethiye Ticaret ve Sanayi Odasi - Fethiye Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 80 Fingal Chamber
- 81 Finland Chamber of Commerce
- 82 Fulda Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Fulda)
- 83 Galway Chamber
- 84 German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)
- 85 Global Shipping Business Network Limited
- 86 Handelskammaren Värmland
- 87 Handelskammer Hamburg - Hamburg Chamber of Commerce
- 88 IHK Darmstadt Rhein Main Neckar
- 89 Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Koblenz
- 90 Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
- 91 Iskenderun Commodity Exchange
- 92 Italian Chamber of Commerce in Argentina
- 93 İzmir Chamber of Commerce
- 94 İzmir Commodity Exchange
- 95 Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 96 Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 97 Kayseri Chamber of Industry
- 98 Kayseri Commodity Exchange
- 99 Kayseri Ticaret Odasi
- 100 Keidanren - Japan Business Federation
- 101 Keşan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 102 Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce
- 103 Kocaeli Chamber of Commerce
- 104 Kocaeli Chamber of Industry
- 105 Kosovo Chamber of Commerce
- 106 Kozan Commodity Of Exchange
- 107 Krajowa Izba Gospodarcza Elektroniki i Telekomunikacji
- 108 Krajowe Zrzeszenie Producentów Rzepaku i Roślin Białkowych (KZPRiRB)
- 109 Kütahya Ticaret Borsası
- 110 l'Afep (Association of large French companies)
- 111 Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)
- 112 Laois Chamber Alliance
- 113 Leathersgoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB)
- 114 Make UK
- 115 Malkara Commodity Exchange
- 116 Middelburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- 117 Morang Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 118 Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF)
- 119 National Association of Business Women Malawi
- 120 National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF) of South Africa
- 121 National Federation of International Freight Forwarding Companies - Fedespedi
- 122 National Federation of Poultry Breeders and Egg Producers
- 123 National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
- 124 National Poultry Council – Chamber of Commerce
- 125 NECA's network of Entrepreneurial Women
- 126 New Zealand Chambers of Commerce
- 127 Norrbotten Chamber of Commerce
- 128 Northern KZN Chamber of Business
- 129 Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 130 Organisation of Women in International Trade
- 131 Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Ghana
- 132 Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Lake Geneva - Switzerland
- 133 Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Lilongwe
- 134 Organisation of Women in International Trade (OWIT) Nigeria
- 135 Organisation of Women In International Trade (OWIT) Zimbabwe
- 136 Organisation of Women in International Trade, UK Chapter
- 137 Organization of Women in International Trade - Ottawa Chapter (OWIT-Ottawa)
- 138 Organization of Women in International Trade Brussels powered by IBA
- 139 Oudtshoorn Business Chamber
- 140 Pacific Basin Economic Council Limited
- 141 Papua New Guinea Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 142 Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Chamber of Business
- 143 Polish Agricultural Federation (Polska Federacja Rolna)
- 144 Polish Association of Beef Cattle Breeders and Producers
- 145 Polish Chamber of Commerce
- 146 Polish Confederation Lewiatan
- 147 Polski Związek Hodowców i Producentów Trzody Chlewnej (POLSUS)
- 148 Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- 149 Samsun Ticaret Borsası
- 150 Samsun Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
- 151 Sanliurfa Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 152 Santa Catarina Industry Federation
- 153 scienceindustries - Swiss Business Association of Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences
- 154 Scottish Chambers of Commerce
- 155 Singapore Business Federation
- 156 Sivas Commodity Exchange
- 157 Sligo Chamber of Commerce
- 158 Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- 159 Söke Commodity Exchange
- 160 South Dublin Chamber
- 161 Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce
- 162 Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
- 163 Tarsus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 164 Technology Industries of Sweden
- 165 Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
- 166 Tekirdag Ticaret Borsasi
- 167 Tekirdağ Ticaret ve Sanayi Odası
- 168 The Chambers of Commerce of Ireland
- 169 The Croatian Chamber of Economy
- 170 The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)
- 171 The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT)
- 172 The National Association of Employers – Pig Producers POLPIG
- 173 The Netherlands Polish Chamber of Commerce
- 174 The Thai Chamber of Commerce
- 175 Trade Partners Sweden
- 176 Türkiye Odalar ve Borsalar Birliği
- 177 U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- 178 Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 179 Union of African Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions
- 180 Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (BUSINESSMED)
- 181 US Council for International Business
- 182 Van Ticaret Borsasi
- 183 Vasterbotten Chamber of Commerce / Västerbottens Handelskammare
- 184 Voka Chamber of Commerce MK
- 185 Waterford Chamber of Commerce
- 186 West Sweden Chamber of Commerce / Västsvenska Handelskammaren
- 187 Westport Chamber
- 188 Zile Ticaret Borsasi
- 189 Związek Pracodawców Business Centre Club