

UNCTAD14: The Global Services Forum

Nairobi, July 21, 2016

Questions:

1. What are the elements that could facilitate trade in services?
 2. What can be done in the WTO and regional trade agreement to facilitate trade in services?
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1. The WTO was created in an Internet-free world.
 2. No one anticipated the Tsunami of the ICT revolution. (Attachment No. 1)
 3. On the Internet: nobody knows I am a dog! (Attachment No. 2)
 4. Welcome to the Exponential Age. (Attachment No. 3)
 5. The Internet's role in propelling trade in services. ((Attachment No. 4)
 6. My estimate of the dominance of trade in services (in value added terms) is as follows:
 1. In 1980 – trade in services represented:
30% of international trade
70% of the GDP of countries
 2. In 2016 – it represents:
50% of international trade
70% of the GDP of countries
 3. In 2040 - it will represent:
70% OF BOTH.
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7. Capturing the enabling power of ICT, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property became the leading global provider of IPR services. (www.agip.com)
 8. While serving on the panel of WTO Experts on Defining the Future of Trade, I submitted my report on the Imperative of a WTO Reform Agenda in 2013 (http://media.tagorg.com/uploadfiles/2015/reports/wto-report-5-3-2013_en.pdf)
 9. In my report, I emphasized the need for negotiating an INTERNET ECONOMY AGREEMENT. (Attachment No. 5)
 10. We need to adapt and develop trade agreements to meet the dictates of “THE INTERNET OF ALL THINGS”. (Netherlands become first country with nationwide Internet of Things).
 11. We also need to recognize the need for a fifth mode of trade: trade in digital products (e.g. Google's products). A third party (the advertiser) pays for the goods (we) buy.
- CONCLUSION: I RECOMMEND THAT UNCTAD ESTABLISH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER “TRADE IN SERVICES ON THE INTERNET ADVISORY BOARD”, TO ADDRESS THE TWO QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO ME.**

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh