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is home to some of the largest traders in the global economy. This is only reinforced when you consider the opportunities that Internet services create for more traditional businesses that would otherwise not exist. Online marketplaces like eBay, Rakuten and Mercado Libre, for example, underpin SME trade internationally every year, and that trade is growing," he added.

According to Abu-Ghazaleh : "The providers of digital services have created something as special as any physical good or service. And, if we protect the latter through the World Trade Organization (WTO), for example, then logic would dictate that we also extend the same protection to the former."

Abu-Ghazaleh suggested a new official WTO free trade agreement that governs Internet services saying: " My proposal is that the WTO negotiates an Internet Free Trade Agreement (Internet FTA); one supported by clear, predictable rules; and one that would fall under the purview of the dispute settlement body."

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He added: "Absolute trust may never be achievable but users need to be confident that their online activities are as secure as their offline equivalents."

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According to Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh who is a member of the WTO Panel on Defining the Future of Trade, the Internet-related policies should be crafted with the input of business, government, civil society, international organizations, and technical expertise.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh concluded by saying:" I would like to see the international community, led by the WTO, commit itself to an incremental process towards achieving an Internet FTA."

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<http://www.ameinfo.com/abu-ghazaleh-leads-level-panel-21st-century-344687>

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<http://en.finanzen.net/news/stocks/Abu-Ghazaleh-leads-high-level-panel-on-21st-century-visions-on-Global-Services-Economy-2479553>

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<http://www.arabherald.com/index.php/sid/215073749/scat/a9fba0694eef4824>



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<http://www.newshour24.com/middleeast/74vvh5cgz/Abughazaleh-Leads-High-Level-Panel-On-21st-Century-Visions-On-Global-Services-Economy.htm>

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<http://www.i4u.com/2013/06/china/role-trade-partnerships-abu-ghazaleh-policy-implications-tackles-highlights>