

Minister of International Trade and  
Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway



Ministre du Commerce international et  
ministre de la porte d'entrée de l'Asie-Pacifique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

- 9 JUIL 2013

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh  
Chairman and Founder  
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization  
P.O. Box 921951  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
AMMAN

Dear Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh:

Thank you for your letter and enclosed report entitled *WTO at the Crossroads: A Report on the Imperative of a WTO Reform Agenda*.

As Canada is a medium-size trade-dependent country, the WTO is a central pillar of Canadian trade policy. In our view, it is essential to maintain the vitality of this institution, and to support a strong rules-based multilateral trading system.

Your report is very timely. Its recommendations are insightful and are clearly the product of much thought and broad consultation. I am certain that you are aware that a few of the recommendations in the report touch upon fundamental tenets of the organization. Nonetheless, now is the time for members to reflect on ideas like yours to ensure that the WTO remains at the forefront of trade governance. I have forwarded your recommendations to the appropriate officials within my department for further study and analysis.

As you note, the WTO is at an important juncture. The election of a new director-general and the upcoming Ministerial Conference are milestones at which members should reflect on the direction of the organization. Fresh ideas are needed for the multilateral system to maintain its relevance, credibility and effectiveness in this dynamic global economy. Your report is a helpful contribution to our collective efforts to strengthen and renew the WTO.

Once again, thank you for the courtesy of sending me this worthwhile report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ed Fast', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Ed Fast, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

Canada