



## Coalición Mexicana de Servicios

### Global Services Coalition Media Release

The Global Services Coalition congratulates UNCTAD, along with its co-sponsors, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organisation (TAG-Org) on hosting a Global Services Forum as a pre-event under the auspices of UNCTAD XIII in Doha.

The Forum witnessed and supported the foundation meeting of the Arab Coalition of Services Industries, convened by H.E. Mr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Senator and Chairman and CEO of TAG-Org and a member of the newly appointed WTO Panel on Defining the Future of Trade. The GSC welcomes and applauds this vital new step for business in the Arab region and looks forward to working in association with this new industry organisation.

The Forum also saw the launch of valuable new UNCTAD publications on Services, Trade and Development which provide important case study evidence of the relationship between services trade policy-making and development challenges, including regulatory and institutional dimensions. International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) also distributed an insightful new Background and Guide on Services Coalitions in Africa and the Caribbean. Recent World Bank work confirms the importance of active services industry stakeholder groups for services competitiveness.

UNCTAD XIII is being held at a time when the world economy clearly needs an immediate boost and the global trading system needs urgent reinforcement. To provide the stimulus required, business looks to Ministers meeting in Doha to focus more closely on the need for services-centred development.

The Global Services Coalition (GSC) supports the informal work underway in the WTO “Really Good Friends of Services” to explore fresh approaches to rekindling progress in global negotiations on services. The GSC calls on all WTO members to activate the existing negotiating mandate and launch early negotiations for a new international services agreement.

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