



Dear Director-General Dr. Okonjo-Iweala,

We the undersigned, representatives of global digitally transformed and technology industries, would like to thank you very much for our meeting on 8th June 2021. We would like to express as well our warm regards to your team, who has been essential in making this meeting a success. We hope that this meeting has created the momentum to set in place a continuous exchange between the WTO leadership and the representatives of the global digitally transformed and technology industries.

Throughout our meeting we highly appreciated that we could exchange views on a number of key issues impacting not only the ICT sector, but all sectors it empowers as they are going through digital transformation, notably on:

- How digital trade has mitigated the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; any trade and health initiatives should include language on essential services that keep our countries running during emergencies, including industries that support our digital economy;
- How digital trade benefits all;
- Industry's priorities in the JSI on eCommerce, in particular we support a compelling narrative on areas pivotal to an ambitious outcome, such as strong commitments on data free flow with trust (DFFT) and source code protection. We also encourage broad commitment to a successful outcome;
- Industry's priorities and support for further expansion of the ITA: industry applauds the WTO initiative of the ITA Workshop in September, and encourages the WTO to generate momentum toward launching ITA3 negotiations and to promote expansion of ITA geographic membership. We are convinced that the policy goals for further ITA expansion should address issues such as countering epidemics and climate change, as these goals should be beneficial for developing countries as well;
- Digital trade and climate – twin priorities;
- Support for WTO reform, and in particular, the negotiating function of the WTO. MC12 shall deliver plurilateral results like the disciplines on Services Domestic Regulation, and a clear road towards rules on eCommerce;
- How industry can further contribute to WTO's work.

We were inspired by your leadership and determination to drive a concrete and forward-looking agenda for the WTO. Your key message during our meeting really resonated with us when you mentioned that "...we need to altogether, address and close the digital divide and ensure digital inclusion."

Going forward, it will be our honor and pleasure to continue having an opportunity to exchange views with you and we stand ready to support you and your team in your important work. As 60% of global GDP is forecasted to be digitized by 2022, we firmly believe that involving our industry in WTO initiatives, such as the JSI and the ITA, is key in ensuring success and relevance for all stakeholders. Therefore, we would welcome an opportunity to exchange with you in person next time in Geneva, on follow-ups of the above key topics and also to update you on blockchain and bitcoin topics as per your kind request.

Yours sincerely,



Victoria A. Espinel
President and CEO,
BSA | The Software Alliance



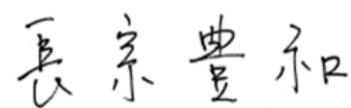
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