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Global Tech Industry Calls for Another Ambitious Expansion of Information Technology Agreement to Address Sweeping Global Challenges



Tech industry associations from around the world representing millions of workers strongly support another ambitious tariff-elimination initiative to significantly expand product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement, which has been one of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) most successful trade agreements.



An ITA-3 would bring many, important emerging technologies driving the global digital economy under ITA coverage, further bridge the digital divide, promote better remote healthcare solutions and save lives, give a bigger window to the world for students learning remotely, better facilitate remote working, and provide new tools to address climate change. And it would give another strong boost to economic growth. By one estimate, an additional significant expansion of the ITA would add nearly \$800 billion to the global GDP over 10-years.



The ITA-1 and its 2015 expansion, or ITA-2, have increased employment, made innovative tech products more affordable to consumers, empowered workers, driven the digital economy, played a catalytic role in developing global value chains, increased economic growth around the world, and bridged communities across the globe in ways unimagined when the original agreement was launched 25 years ago. More immediately, technologies covered by these agreements have enabled the world to better weather global lockdowns by facilitating remote working and learning and, increased access to vital goods needed to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, including the rapid development of mRNA vaccines.



Another round of ITA product expansion, coupled with expansion of geographic scope of the agreement would yield immediate and sweeping benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products not currently covered,



giving a helpful boost to the WTO, and spreading the benefits of digital innovation around the world to developing and developed economies alike.

While ITA-2 captured an impressive \$1.3 trillion in tech trade in 2015, not a single product has been added to the agreement in the ensuing seven years, even though the tech sector is bursting with innovation and demand for digital technologies is growing exponentially. We therefore call on ITA members to support launching another ambitious new round of negotiations to further expand this critically important agreement and carry forward the robust momentum produced by the original ITA and its 2015 expansion.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



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