



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Abu Dhabi Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
25 February 2024

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, with the support of the Federal National Council of the UAE, in connection with the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13)

Preliminary draft outcome document

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Parliaments are invited to submit their amendments to this preliminary draft in writing to the IPU Secretariat by 26 January 2024. The Conference Steering Committee will review the proposed amendments at its pre-Conference session on 24 February 2024 and produce a revised draft, to be submitted for adoption by the Conference as a whole at its concluding sitting on 25 February 2024.

We, legislators meeting in Abu Dhabi on 25 February 2024 for our statutory Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, on the occasion of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference,

1. *Restate* the importance of parliamentary engagement, and the inclusion of a parliamentary dimension, in the future of multilateral cooperation on trade issues, considering the determining contribution of trade to the global economy,
2. *Emphasize* the significance of the WTO as a key institution for improving peoples' lives, negotiating trade rules, overseeing agreements, settling disputes and maintaining open trade, none of which can be achieved without parliamentary engagement,
3. *Assert* the need, in light of this critical role, for a sensible WTO reform process to better equip the Organization in addressing the challenges of the 21st century and meeting the growing expectations of the people, including the redefinition of the global trade system, taking into account long-term environmental and social sustainability,
4. *Reiterate* our shared sense of responsibility to establish mechanisms for parliamentary oversight and involvement in trade negotiations and agreements, both upstream and downstream of the process, ensuring transparency and democratic accountability through monitoring and evaluation of the impact of such agreements on local communities,
5. *Affirm* that "re-globalization" or increased trade cooperation is a source of security and peace, a driver of economic prosperity and poverty reduction, and a critical tool for addressing climate change,
6. *Note* the impact of digital trade and e-commerce on global trading systems and regulations, and the role of parliamentarians and the WTO in improving regulations to maintain open, secure, easy and fair trade,
7. *Highlight* the importance, considering the constant change in our societies and the need to adapt to the times, of transitioning to sustainable, eco-friendly and resilient global supply chains and production methods as part of future trade agreements,

8. *Reiterate* the role of parliamentarians in creating legislation that encourages the adoption of green trade practices in all industries and minimizes the negative impact of trade on the environment and vulnerable communities,
9. *Encourage* parliaments and governments to take steps towards greening trade and acknowledge the progress made in the “UAE Consensus” at COP28 in agreeing to transition away from fossil fuels,
10. *Emphasize* the role of parliamentarians in ratifying and overseeing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that encourage global trade in all industries, through appropriate mechanisms,
11. *Stress* the role of parliamentary oversight of trade in modernizing the healthcare sector for the 21st century while ensuring equal distribution of critical medicines, vaccines, and intellectual property rights that ensure equitable access to essential medicines and medical technologies,
12. *Emphasize* the importance of trade in regulating food stockholding and promoting a legislative framework to improve global food security, increase effectiveness in trade measures to promote self-dependency, sustainable agricultural practices and a reduction in food waste,
13. *Acknowledge* the growing inequalities between more and less developed countries; and *stress* the importance of inclusive trade agreements that support developing countries and help them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,
14. *Call on* parliamentarians and governments to join hands in leveraging the positive use of technology and artificial intelligence in trade negotiations, capacity building and technology transfer to less developed countries, noting that technology should aid in addressing data governance and cross-border data flows in the context of global trade,
15. *Call on* parliaments and governments to promote sustainable measures to engage in trade, support vulnerable communities, and ensure no one is left behind, and *call on* the Steering Committee of the PCWTO to regularly review the implementation of our shared commitments and report on progress made,
16. *Call on* governments to more systematically include legislators, women and youth in their official Ministerial Conference delegations to ensure inclusivity and foster the contribution of all components of society,
17. *Express* our belief that the WTO needs a strong and effective parliamentary dimension and as such *commit* to equipping the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO with the tools it needs to deliver its mandate and ensure more robust parliamentary engagement with the WTO,
18. *Extend* our sincere gratitude to the United Arab Emirates and the Federal National Council for hosting this parliamentary meeting and *express* our commitment to continue this constructive dialogue to discuss critical trade challenges and be part of the solution through continuous engagement and effective support.