



ILEAP | INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS AND
ECONOMISTS AGAINST POVERTY

Formation of a Coalition of Service Industries in Uganda

Aide Memoire

29-30 September 2009

Imperial Royale Hotel – Kampala, Uganda

Background

Services constitute the most dynamic area of international trade, offering significant opportunities both in terms of increased exports and imports, aimed together at enhancing competitiveness, stimulating economic development and reducing poverty. At the same time services reforms and negotiations remain understandably contentious due to their potential to expose vulnerable stakeholders to a variety of risks.

Part of the difficulty in harnessing services reforms and negotiations to promote development results from the expansive nature of the sector. In reality there is no single 'services sector' to speak of, but rather a collection of sectors covering significant swathes of economic activity and impacting a diverse range of stakeholders. Coordinating such views and employing them to promote and develop the various sectors has proven challenging, both for governments and the private sector.

In light of this, firms in a number of sectors (notably in professional services) have tended to group themselves into industry associations. Such associations can play a myriad of roles. Externally, they often advocate on behalf of the sector, especially with governments, regarding policy reforms, trade barriers, negotiating positions and strategies for enhancing exports in their sector more generally. Internally, roles include raising awareness on the impact/relevance of services negotiations, basic information and knowledge sharing amongst members, and facilitating coordination and harmonization on standards, qualifications and licensing. Responsibilities can also include self-regulation (with vested authority to confer specific qualifications), as is often the case in a number of qualified professions, such as lawyers. Being adequately situated in the country's/region's broader institutional decision-making framework is an essential ingredient for success.

Such sectoral associations also operate at different levels. This can include national (or sub-national) representation, regional groupings, as well as participation in international bodies. Over the past decade, there has also been a move to pool together a range of cross-sectoral associations, bodies and firms into national and regional services coalitions, themselves often associated with global bodies, such as the Global Services Network (GSN).¹ Such national and regional (and global) groupings can lend additional weight to positions being taken and help further promote private sectors interests in services reforms in the region and at varying national levels.

Objective

Despite the acknowledged role such coalitions can and should play in harnessing services for development, their existence in Africa is virtually non-existent (including in East Africa). As such, the broader objective of this workshop is to help create awareness about the role of services coalitions in pursuing services reforms and negotiations, as well as to promote information and knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders of national/regional experiences with services associations. Building consensus for such coalitions is thus a key expected outcome. By helping to elaborate on how such coalitions can be properly situated within the existing institutional landscape, the ultimate aim is to help catalyze the formation of Uganda services coalition.

Organisation and participants

The meeting is being organised by the Ugandan Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI) and the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU), in collaboration with International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP). Participants will be chosen from selected sectors, covering national private sector professionals and association representatives, as well as relevant public sector ministry and regulatory agency representatives. A select number of non-EAC representatives will also be in attendance, both to share experiences and act as advisors.

As such, target participants will include:

- Private sector operators and representatives of services associations;
- Government officials from relevant ministries and regulatory bodies involved in the development of services export strategies and/or services negotiations; and
- Researchers in academia, think tanks and regional research networks concerned with trade and regulatory policies, as well as export development and promotion.

¹ The Global Services Network is an informal, private sector-led, forum which gathers the global services community of business people, government officials, academics, and others who are committed to increased trade and investment in services, and a rules-based, multilateral trading system.

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Agenda

8:45 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 10:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gabriel Hatega, Executive Director, PSFU• David Primack, Acting Executive Director, ILEAP• Ambassador Julius Onen, Permanent Secretary, MTTI
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:30	Session I: The role of services coalitions in international trade <p>This session will provide an overview of the role of service coalitions, focussing in particular on the different needs between larger firms in advanced countries and relatively smaller firms in developing countries. A case study of the Barbados Coalition of Service Industries (BCSI) will be offered.</p> Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The potential role of services coalitions in advancing services reforms and negotiations: theory and practise, Ramesh Chaitoo, Advisor, ILEAP Q&A
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch

13:30 - 15:30	<p>Session II: A proposed Uganda Coalition of Services Industries</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of preliminary research on the formation of a Ugandan Coalition of Service Industries. It will also discuss how this body could co-exist under the umbrella of existing apex private sector associations and complement their broad mandate, with a specialised focus on trade in services.</p> <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Cummins, Trade Policy Analyst, MTTI <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoffrey Bakunda, Senior Lecturer, Makerere University • Kassim Omar, UCFITA <p>Q&A</p>
15:30 - 15:45	<p>Coffee break</p>
15:45 - 17:30	<p>Session III: Breakout – Options for a Uganda Coalition of Services Industries (UCSI)</p> <p>This session is aimed at delving further into stakeholder views on the formation of a Uganda services coalition. Participants will be broken into groups and asked to respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there agreement on the need for a services coalition? • What is viewed as the preferred institutional location for the coalition? • How soon should a coalition be established? • Should the coalition be strictly private sector or a public-private-partnership? • What role is envisaged for the government? • What role is envisaged for the private sector? <p>Q & A</p>
17:30	<p>Adjournment / Closing Session</p>