Global Industry Strongly Urges Negotiators to Conclude ITA Expansion in July

Over 80 industry associations from around the world call on all the parties negotiating expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) to finally conclude a strong tariff-elimination agreement during the next round of talks scheduled to resume the week of July 13 in Geneva.

After a tremendous multi-year effort by all parties to advance the negotiations, the talks failed to conclude last December. Too many benefits from ITA expansion have been left on hold for too long. The moment has arrived for the negotiating parties to finally wrap up an ambitious deal that would represent an historic triumph for global trade and demonstrate the World Trade Organization’s ability to deliver negotiating results that lead to tangible market opening.

Product expansion of the ITA -- and expansion of its geographic scope -- would yield immediate and substantial benefits. Removal of tariffs on a vast array of tech products would bolster innovation, accelerate productivity, create countless jobs, lower consumer prices, and help bridge communities across the globe in ways unimagined 18 years ago when the agreement came into being.

We therefore urge all the parties to this negotiation to exercise strong leadership and embrace the immediate and long-term benefits of the ITA expansion so that agreement on a product list can be achieved in Geneva later this month.
We continue to be deeply committed to working closely with our governments to achieve a swift and ambitious outcome that will expand trade, stimulate growth, increase jobs, spur innovation, and promote prosperity around the world.