



台灣服務業聯盟
Taiwan Coalition of Service Industries

Coalition of Services Industries and Taiwan Coalition of Service Industries Joint Statement

October 31, 2013

The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) and the Taiwan Coalition of Service Industries (TWCSI) recognize the critical role the services sector plays in their respective economies. Services account for 80 percent of U.S. GDP and close to 70 percent of GDP in Taiwan. The sector generates four out of five U.S. jobs, and three out of five jobs in Taiwan. The services sector also promotes economic growth and job creation in all sectors of the economy, including in the manufacturing, agriculture and energy sectors.

Trade in services is critical to economic growth in both the United States and Taiwan. For this reason, the U.S. and Taiwan are cooperating closely in the Geneva-based Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) negotiations. These talks, among a group of 50 interested countries, seek to negotiate a high-standard and ambitious international agreement on trade in services to improve market access and provide non-discriminatory treatment for as much as 70 percent of global services trade. CSI and TWCSI strongly support the TISA negotiations as a means to update the international rules governing trade in services. In particular, we urge the negotiators to ensure the free movement of cross border data, prohibit data localization mandates and other performance requirements, and develop rules for fair competition by state-owned and state-sponsored enterprises offering commercial services. In this way, services will be able to contribute to renewed global economic growth.

The United States and Taiwan have highly complementary economies, led by services. The U.S. has a strong, competitive and diversified services industry, while Taiwan has a strong manufacturing base and plays a key role in the operation of global supply chains. The United States and Taiwan should leverage this existing synergy by exploring ways to give investors in both economies greater assurances that the capital they are putting at risk in each other's market will be adequately protected, including through a possible Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA). Such an agreement could extend important investment protections to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), a key business segment and source of economic growth in both economies.