



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

USCIB Global Trade and Investment Agenda 2013

The United States Council for International Business is committed to opening global markets to its member companies by eliminating barriers to trade and investment. In 2013 we see many opportunities for promoting market led economic growth through an ambitious USCIB Trade and Investment agenda focused on completing trade agreements in Asia and Europe, moving forward with Bilateral Investment Treaties, revitalizing work in the WTO, and addressing new emerging regulatory challenges.

While we will actively engage U.S. policymakers on the USCIB Agenda, our members see a growing need to also engage policymakers in other countries on the issues they are confronting in global markets. USCIB will seek to more effectively leverage its unique network of relationships with business groups in other countries that are best placed to influence the policymakers in their countries. As the U.S. industry representative to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), and the International Organization of Employers (IOE), we already work closely with the foreign business groups in these organizations but will look to expand the scope of our cooperation in addressing the key trade and regulatory challenges that impede the global competitiveness of our members.

The USCIB Trade and Investment Agenda also proposes to tackle the growing impact of many regulatory policies on global trade flows by drawing on its deep expertise in areas such as environment, information and communications technology, customs, intellectual property, and labor in developing policy responses that recognize the cross-cutting impact of these regulatory barriers.

Growing trade and investment can provide much needed economic growth and job creation in the United States and around the world if policymakers take the steps needed to open global markets. The USCIB Trade and Investment Agenda sets out a framework for opening markets in 2013.

1. Press for an Ambitious U.S. Trade Agenda that Improves Access to Major Economies and Addresses Emerging Protectionist Policies

- Short Term (6 – 12 months) –
 - Support conclusion of comprehensive, high-standard TPP agreement in 2013.
 - Encourage launch of U.S.-EU negotiation and coordinate with other USCIB policy committees to advance meaningful agreement on a comprehensive transatlantic agenda including investment and regulatory policy convergence.
 - Work with other business groups to get well-designed Trade Promotion Authority enacted by the U.S. Congress.

- Ensure U.S. is addressing through trade negotiations and bilateral engagement several issue areas of growing concern such as: forced localization, cross border data flows, competitive distortions caused by State-Owned Enterprises (competitive neutrality), global value chains, illicit trade, and erosion of IP protection.
 - Support U.S. efforts to move forward in the WTO on trade facilitation, International Services, and ITA expansion agreements. (Agenda item 3 on rebuilding WTO)
- Medium Term (1 – 3 years) –
 - Identify new trade initiatives to follow after completion of TPP and transatlantic negotiations such as expansion of TPP to Pacific Region and/or integration of existing FTAs.
 - Develop broad thinking on future U.S. trade strategy and anticipate changing policy issues resulting from rapid economic and technological changes. Address growing trend of government intervention in markets.
- 2. Promote Investment Policies that Open Markets and Level the Playing Field for U.S. Companies**
- Short Term –
 - Continue leadership role on state-owned enterprise issues in the TPP, at the OECD, in transatlantic negotiations, and possible BITs
 - Press for high-standard Investment chapter in TPP, especially on investor-state dispute settlement; resist efforts to carve out important provisions or sectors.
 - Encourage U.S. to move forward on Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiations with key countries including China and India.
 - Strengthen relationships with business groups from other key countries that are our partners in international affiliate organizations and build global support on key investment issues.
 - Medium Term –
 - Ensure ICC takes helpful and constructive approach to addressing global investment issues.
- 3. Urge WTO to Rebuild Confidence and Credibility Through Concrete Action on Specific Negotiations**
- Short Term – advocate for WTO to restore effective role in liberalizing trade by supporting:
 - Completion of a comprehensive trade facilitation agreement in 2013.
 - Conclusion of an agreement to expand product coverage in the ITA in 2013.
 - Significant progress on an International Services Agreement in 2013.
 - Begin discussions in the WTO on an environmental goods and services agreement that addresses tariff and non-tariff barriers.
 - Engage our business group partners from other countries directly and through our international platforms (BIAC, IOE, ICC) to build consensus views on trade agenda in the WTO.

- Medium Term – work to rebuild consensus in support of multilateral trade negotiations and the WTO.
 - Propose improvements to operation of WTO.
 - Develop paper on changing global economic environment and growing role of large emerging economies. Underscore the importance of a rules-based trading system.

4. Leverage International Platforms to Build Global Business Support for Addressing Key Trade Policy Concerns

- Short Term – utilize ICC, BIAC and IOE where appropriate to raise global awareness on issues and build support of broad international business community. Work through our foreign business association partners to build local advocates. Engage OECD on useful work they could do in these areas. Utilize other platforms such as APEC and G20/B20, as appropriate for addressing issues such as:
 - Forced localization
 - Cross border data flows
 - Regulatory coherence/transparency
 - Illicit trade
 - Competitive neutrality
 - Global value chains
 - Erosion of IP protection
 - Anti Bribery/transparency
- Strengthen our relationships with business groups from other countries that are our partners in international affiliate organizations and build support on key trade issues.
- Medium Term –
 - Address growing concerns that some multilateral institutions are pursuing policies that will restrict international trade rather than promote trade liberalization.
 - Assist the smallest businesses and individual entrepreneurs to engage in international trade by adopting trade policies aimed at improving access to the global marketplace such as removing red tape and simplifying customs clearance procedures.

5. Advance Coordinated USCIB Committee Work on Trade Policy Related and Regulatory Issues

- Short Term – work closely with other USCIB policy committees on issues that intersect with trade policy:
 - Environment Committee – tariff reduction/elimination on environmental goods and services, IP erosion efforts in Climate Change talks, and unilateral environmental policies that become nontariff barriers to trade.
 - Customs Committee – trade facilitation and customs modernization.
 - ICT Committee – forced localization, cross border data flow and privacy.
 - Competition Committee – competitive neutrality.
 - IP Committee – IP erosion in trade negotiations and strengthening protections where appropriate.

- Labor Committee – ensure labor provisions in trade agreements are consistent with member positions in existing agreements.
- Medium Term – identify cross-cutting issues that involve more than one committee and develop coordinated strategies to address these issues.

6. Provide Thought Leadership and Improve Analysis on Trade and Investment Policy to Inform Global Policymaking Activity

- Short Term – educate policymakers by leveraging Slaughter study on global value chains through briefings on Hill, meetings with policymakers, engagement with our international organizations, possible briefing in Brussels, webinars, and other venues. Utilize study throughout the year in pushing for policies that facilitate member company competitiveness.
- Medium Term – identify other issue areas for in-depth research and develop plan for producing one or more reports. Possible issues might include forced localization, challenges of state capitalism, cross border data flows. Work with US Council Foundation to expand study and research capabilities.

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