A Trade War
WITH
No Winners

Inside
New Incoterms® Rules and Seminars  5
Business for Sustainable Development  6
Digital Services Tax  12
Achieving the SDGs Means Engaging and Mobilizing the Private Sector

As the world looks toward 2030 as the target date to deliver economic, social and environmental commitments under the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, it has become clear that the international community is not on track. What will it take to accelerate the pace and reach of needed actions?

As USCIB has just been accorded NGO Special Consultative Status to the UN Economic and Social Council – the first U.S. business group to receive this access – we are giving this question our full attention, in consultation with our members and with the global business organizations for which we serve as U.S. affiliate: the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Organization of Employers (IOE), and Business at OECD (BIAC).

In our view, more than ever, business must serve as a collaborative partner for governments in offering solutions, real world experience, innovative resources in the multilateral system. This is an all-hands-on-deck situation in which all business sectors will not only have to tackle near-term challenges, such as climate change, decent work, economic growth, or advancement of human rights, they will also need to put in place a long-term vision that goes beyond profit and quarterly shareholder returns.

We see increasing evidence of companies recognizing this – for example, in the Business Roundtable’s recent statement on broadening the stakeholder set beyond shareholders, in corporate and institutional pledges to attain the 1.5-degree (C.) target on climate change, and in the G7’s 2019 Business for Inclusive Growth pledge.

Super-charging the SDGs

USCIB is offering thought leadership in this global discussion. For example, in July, as global leaders gathered in New York for the annual United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), USCIB partnered with Deloitte and the IOE to unveil a new study demonstrating the critical role the private sector plays in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.

For those not up on their UN nomenclature, SDG 8 is one of the 17 SDGs, and it calls for promoting “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.” Some have called SDG 8 the “Super SDG” that intersects with and enables the overall SDG agenda. This is understandable given that work, and especially Decent Work, underpins all of the collective efforts from the varied people and disciplines that will be needed to achieve each of the 17 SDGs, although some (including myself) might argue that SDG 16, which addresses the need for strong institutions and governance, is the real Super SDG.

At the July event – attended by Fortune 500 corporate leaders and SME executives, as well as senior UN and government officials, and at which we also launched the Business Partnership for Sustainable Development (see page 6) – I joined with IOE leaders to map a path to increase private-sector investment in SDG 8 targets. The report, Reaching SDG 8: Challenges, Opportunities and Risks, provides detailed data analysis on current progress towards meeting the targets of this goal.

In discussing the report, Patricia Buckley, managing director for economics at Deloitte U.S., highlighted “how little progress has been made on most of the SDG 8 targets – targets which called for a variety of improvements ranging from increasing skills and reducing informal employment to improving resource efficiency and expanding access to financial services for all.”

Time is of the essence to achieve SDG 8, and our joint report makes a number of recommendations, most urgently regarding needed actions from government. IOC President Erol Kiresi underscored that the global community needs to “bridge the gap between the aspirational and actions on the ground.”

In so doing, Kiresi noted, “employer and business member organizations can play a pivotal role,” because they “have long and deep experience in translating development agendas into corporate strategies and frameworks.”

Multiple fronts going forward

How can business help and take part in the evolution of the multilateral system to become more inclusive and partnership-oriented, and in so doing, to enhance its impact for people, planet and prosperity through meaningful business engagement?

USCIB’s, our members, and global business stand ready to do our part, as we demonstrated most recently in June of this year through our key role supporting the adoption of a new ILO global standard on violence & harassment in the world of work. Violence and harassment are unacceptable anywhere, and the new ILO Convention importantly clarifies that in this shared global effort, the responsibilities for a company must be commensurate with its reasonable degree of control.

Based on our decades of experience and involvement in the UN system as the voice of American business, our commitment is clear, but we need the right institutional interfaces. On September 11, USCIB will convene a Conference on Inclusive Multilateralism, SDGs and Business in New York. The multilateral system has to evolve new and inclusive models that engage business and other non-state actors as equal partners with government. These new inclusive partnership models must embrace innovation, mobilize resources and expertise, and create shared accountability and value. In this regard, USCIB’s All In Iniative has sparked a global conversation on ways to do this, through Roundtables on Inclusive Multilateralism, SDGs and Business in Geneva, Bangkok and New York, on how to promote shared value and spread the scale and pace of public-private action toward the SDGs.

We expect the September conference to provide recommendations and launch initiatives and actions to enhance and update the multilateral system, especially the United Nations, so that it both meets SDG commitments and evolves to new realities and expectations. Enhanced and transparent strong institutions and governance, is the real Super SDG.

USCIB Urges Ongoing US-China Negotiations

Responding to President Trump’s announcement on August 13 to delay implementation of a temporary tariff on imports from China, USCIB issued a press release urging the United States and China to continue negotiations toward a comprehensive agreement.

“Simply delaying harmful tariffs on a select number of particularly impacted products from September 1 to December 15 is not a solution,” said USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson. “It is crucial for the U.S. and China to engage in continuous discussions in order to reach a negotiated outcome with the goal of removing these tariffs and eliminating market barriers and discrimination.”

Robinson noted that American business continues to have major problems with China’s commercial policies and urged the Trump administration to work more closely with U.S. trading partners and with the business community to address serious Chinese trade abuses, including reiterating U.S. complaints to the World Trade Organization.

USCIB members are particularly concerned that proposed tariffs on essentially all Chinese imports will stifle the U.S. economy and will not achieve the Administration’s goal of changing China’s behavior related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation.

“While China’s forced technology transfer requirements, state interventions, and other unfair trade practices harm many U.S. companies, workers, consumers, and competitors, these tariffs can also similarly endanger U.S. companies,” warned USCIB’s China lead Eva Hampl. “Specifically, this proposed list now includes categories of products that only impact U.S. companies, and not their global competitors. Ceding market share to competitors is not weakening the Chinese economy, it is merely weakening the U.S. market.”

Earlier in August, USCIB also supported a Tariffs Hurt the Heartland coalition statement. The coalition is a nationwide campaign against tariffs supported by over 150 of America’s largest trade organizations representing retail, tech, manufacturing and agriculture. The statement noted: “The administration is doubling down on a failing strategy. Nobody wins in a trade war, and raising tariffs further on American businesses and consumers will only result in slower economic growth, more farm bankruptcies, fewer jobs and higher prices. These new tariffs will target the products American families buy every day, ranging from shoes and apparel to toys and electronics.”

“Raising tariffs on American businesses and consumers will only result in slower economic growth, more farm bankruptcies, fewer jobs and higher prices. These new tariffs will target the products American families buy every day, ranging from shoes and apparel to toys and electronics.”

– Eva Hampl

Business Doubles Up on Advocacy in Support of USMCA

USCIB joined the effort of the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) Coalition in its most recent Congressional Lobby Days just ahead of August recess, reaching more than 100 House offices. USCIB Senior Director for Trade, Investment and Financial Services Eva Hampl (joined a group that met exclusively with House Democratic offices July 24-25. According to Hampl, representatives noted that they understood the importance of USMCA for the economic future of the U.S.

The Coalition referenced a July 23 letter signed by over 600 business associations across the country in pushing for urgent Congressional approval of USMCA.

According to Hampl, there was a keen interest in the USMCA working group of House Democrats, which was established in June by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to address some Democrats’ lingering concerns about issues in the agreement, specifically on labor, environment, enforcement and pharmaceutical pricing. While there were varying views on the substance of those discussions, there was general approval of the process.

“The Coalition emphasized the urgent need for action to move the agreement through Congress,” said Hampl. Hampl also noted that approval will depend on a collaborative approach.

Hampl also spoke on a panel in May entitled Trade & Tariffs – Today & Tomorrow at the annual MLP & Energy Infrastructure Conference (MEIC 2019) in Las Vegas. The panel, which also included Colin Bird from the Embassy of Canada and Karen Antebi from the Embassy of Mexico, provided a macro perspective on current trade issues. The discussion focused on the importance of the U.S. trade relationship with Mexico and Canada, including the USMCA.

“One of the positive developments included the U.S. administration’s announcement that they would be removing Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs currently imposed on Mexico and Canada, removing one of the remaining obstacles to Congressional approval of USMCA,” said Hampl.

Eva Hampl, “Specifical ly, this proposed list now includes categories of products that only impact U.S. companies, and not their global competitors. Ceding market share to competitors is not weakening the Chinese economy, it is merely weakening the U.S. market.”
APEC Advances Cross-Border Privacy, Welcomes Philippines

APEC’s Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) wrapped up four days of meetings on August 21 in Puerto Varas, Chile, as part of the third Senior Officials Meeting (SOM3). USCIB Vice-President for ICT Policy Barbara Wanner attended these meetings and reported from the field.

According to Wanner, highlights of this meeting included an announcement by the Philippines of its intent to participate in the Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) System, which, upon approval, would make it the 9th APEC member economy to participate in the regional privacy system. An important priority for USCIB, the CBPR is a high-standard and enforceable privacy code of conduct that facilitates cross-border trade and ensures strong privacy protection of personal information. Philippines joins Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Singapore and the United States in participating in the system.

Providing a boost to U.S. company participation in the CBPR, the United States secured the approval of Schellman & Co., LLC as its second Accountability Agent (AA). Schellman will join TrustArc, which hereafter serves as the only agent to independently assess and certify the compliance of U.S. companies under the CBPR and related APEC Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP).

Singapore also was pleased to announced the appointment of Infocomm Media Development Authority as its Accountability Agent, joining the United States and Japan, whose JIPDEC serves as its AA.

“A key takeaway from a U.S. government-organized workshop on August 18 focused on fostering AA participation was that the dearth of national AAs has hampered broader company participation in the CBPR,” noted Wanner.

Another important action item was that the same of the CBPR’s 50 program requirements, approved in 2011, need to be revised to better align with global privacy regimes.

USCIB Praises ILO Framework to Abolish Violence, Harassment in World of Work

In addition to marking the International Labor Organization’s ILO Centenary Anniversary, this year’s International Labor Conference (ILC) focused on the adoption of a new ILO Centenary Declaration and a new ILO Convention and Recommendation on Violence & Harassment in the World of Work. USCIB, represented by USCIB’s Barbara Wanner, participated in the CBPR and related discussions, and was particularly pleased to be part of the successful adoption of the new Convention on Violence and Harassment. “Both the Convention and Recommendation and a new ILO Centenary Declaration also clarify that for public and private employers to effectively give effect to the provisions within any new ILO convention. This will be a commonplace on these deceptive websites and do not reflect the official position of IIC.

Incoterms® rules facilitate billions of dollars in global trade each year and are a commonly accepted set of definitions and rules governing commercial trade activity.

Nearly a century ago, following a series of studies conducted in the 1920s, the Paris-based IIC concluded that there was a need for the creation of a common protocol for importers and exporters everywhere. The first set of Incoterms® rules was published by IIC in 1936. Since then, IIC has periodically revised the Incoterms® rules to reflect changes in the international trade system. USCIB’s training seminars will be led by renowned Incoterms® expert Frank Reynolds, CEO of International Projects Inc., who represented the United States in the IIC working group that drafted the 2020 revision.

“As America’s foremost Incoterms® authority, Frank is uniquely qualified to explain these rules as they apply to U.S. trade practice,” said USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson. “Frank brings over 50 years of hands-on practical expertise to IIC’s Incoterms® 2020 revision, and he has provided essential instruction to users on several previous revisions.”

Visit www.incotermsfor-americans.com for the full list of upcoming U.S. Incoterms® 2020 training seminars, and to register. To pre-order digital or print copies of the Incoterms® 2020 rules, visit the USCIB International Business Bookstore. IIC’s official worldwide launch of Incoterms® 2020 is set for mid-September.

Go to uscib.org/about/incoterms-2020 for all the latest developments surrounding the introduction of Incoterms® 2020.

continued on page 14

USCIB Launches Incoterms® 2020 Training Seminars Nationwide

With the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) set to publish the latest update is to its essential Incoterms® rules for cross-border trade, USCIB announced plans on August 13 for a nationwide series of seminars to train users in Incoterms® 2020.

Facilitating trillions of dollars in global trade each year, the “international commercial terms,” or Incoterms®, rules are a commonly accepted set of definitions and rules governing commercial trade activity. Updated approximately every ten years, the latest Incoterms® 2020 revision will be released worldwide in September 2019.

Incoterms® rules facilitate trillions of dollars in global trade each year and are a commonly accepted set of definitions and rules governing commercial trade activity.

Nearly a century ago, following a series of studies conducted in the 1920s, the Paris-based IIC concluded that there was a need for the creation of a common protocol for importers and exporters everywhere. The first set of Incoterms® rules was published by IIC in 1936. Since then, IIC has periodically revised the Incoterms® rules to reflect changes in the international trade system. USCIB’s training seminars will be led by renowned Incoterms® expert Frank Reynolds, CEO of International Projects Inc., who represented the United States in the IIC working group that drafted the 2020 revision.

“As America’s foremost Incoterms® authority, Frank is uniquely qualified to explain these rules as they apply to U.S. trade practice,” said USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson. “Frank brings over 50 years of hands-on practical expertise to IIC’s Incoterms® 2020 revision, and he has provided essential instruction to users on several previous revisions.”

Visit www.incotermsfor-americans.com for the full list of upcoming U.S. Incoterms® 2020 training seminars, and to register. To pre-order digital or print copies of the Incoterms® 2020 rules, visit the USCIB International Business Bookstore. IIC’s official worldwide launch of Incoterms® 2020 is set for mid-September.

Go to uscib.org/about/incoterms-2020 for all the latest developments surrounding the introduction of Incoterms® 2020.

continued on page 14
A delegation of USCIB members joined USCIB’s second annual Geneva Week May 6 – 9 to highlight U.S. business priority issues, underscore USCIB’s commitment to engage constructively in the multilateral system and to advance U.S. innovation and partnership for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). USCIB also held its public launch of the ‘All In’ Initiative (see sidebar article) in Geneva on May 8, with a discussion on inclusive multilateralism, SDGs and business.

Geneva Week provided an opportunity to discuss with diplomatic missions and UN entities enhanced access to intergovernmental organizations and to foster increased engagement between the public and private sectors. Geneva Week included meetings with representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as bilateral meetings with a range of national missions, including the United States, Brazil, Ethiopia and Japan. The USCIB delegation was welcomed by the Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Francis Gurry and took part in a series of thematic briefings and discussions with other WPO officials.

USCIB’s delegation included representatives from AB InBev, Bayer, BoI, Corghi, The Coca-Cola Company, Ferrero, Mastercard and PepsiCo. USCIB’s Vice Presidents: Norine Kennedy, Mike Michener and Alison Hoem supported the group.

Members also joined a Geneva Business Dialogue at the World Trade Organization (WTO), hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), ICC Switzerland and USCIB. Joining a panel of speakers from the government of Switzerland and the EU Mission were private sector representatives from Nestle, Novartis and Ab InBev highlighting opportunities to create shared value using the SDGs as a framework.

Senior Vice President of Ferrero U.S.A. Gerald Kunde, who also chaired the delegation, was pleased with the outcome. “The USCIB team did an amazing job organizing and executing Geneva Week and the ‘All In Roundtable,’ he said. “Relationships are at the heart of our business. This year’s program advanced existing relationships, established new ones and greatly enhanced the private sector’s commitment to inclusive multilateralism.”

“Connecting members to key multilateral leaders and representatives of member states in important UN cities like Geneva is a fundamental part of USCIB’s policy work,” said Michener. “We are very satisfied with both the level and content of our engagement this week, and grateful to our members for their interest and active participation.”

USCIB partnered with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Organization of Employers (IOE) to convene the first ‘All In’ Roundtable on Inclusive Multilateralism, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Business in Geneva on May 8.

USCIB’s ‘All In’ Initiative is a global conversation on how to strengthen dialogue, partnership and engagement with business to advance implementation of 2015 outcomes. Over fifty participants from Geneva-based diplomatic missions, UN bodies, NGOs and business joined the event, including UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet. Charge d’affaires, ad Interim, U.S. Mission to the UN and other International Organizations Mark Cassayre, Secretary General, International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder, Secretary General, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Mukhisa Kituyi and UK Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Julian Braithwaite.

Expert panelists from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UNICEF, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the UN Global Compact and the Partnering Initiative reflected on two themes raised in ‘All In’ discussion papers:

• Public Private Partnerships with the UN – Designing for SDG impact
• Leveraging public sector cooperation on technical and scientific knowledge for targeted SDG implementation

“The event highlighted the diverse variety of working arrangements to engage with non-state actors on the private sector,” said USCIB Vice President for Strategic International Engagement, Environment and Energy Norine Kennedy. “Through the ‘All In’ Initiative USCIB will draw on its experience in the multilateral system to highlight what has worked well and to flag areas where further partnership, improvement and strengthening are needed to spend up and scale SDG impact.”

Further ‘All In’ roundtables are planned for Bangkok and other UN cities, on additional themes, including metrics for impact, infrastructure investment for SDG action and economic empowerment and inclusion. Based on this series of discussions throughout 2019, ‘All In’ will develop a 2020 Action Plan for Inclusive Multilateralism.

A delegation of leaders assembled in New York for the United Nations’ annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, USCIB and its global network were on the scene, making the case for inclusive multilateralism and celebrating the hundredth anniversary of a key pillar of global cooperation, the International Labor Organization (ILO).

USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson helped ring the closing bell at the Nasdaq stock exchange on July 11, joined by officials from the ILO, the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

“It was an honor to help celebrate the ILO’s centennial in such auspicious surroundings, and in a bipartisan way,” said Robinson, who also serves as the ILO’s regional vice president for North America. “Here’s to another hundred years of growth, opportunity and success for workers, employers and the societies they continue to help build.”

Robinson also took part in UN meetings around the HLPF, including appearing alongside ILO Deputy Secretary General Matthias Thorns at a panel discussion on “Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality.”

During his remarks at the UN, Robinson emphasized three key elements that will provide an enabling environment allowing business to contribute the most:

1. Improved governance and rule of law: Some of the areas of the world in most need of business infusion are ones with big enough governance gaps that business has little incentive to invest; and trying to get business to shoulder the responsibilities that are primarily governmental in nature will be a further disincentive.

2. “Inclusive Multilateralism”: Intergovernmental organizations must ensure that all voices are heard and, in particular, must ensure that all business sectors have a seat at the table and prevent the arbitrary exclusion of interests—everyone has a role to play in solving societal challenges, and some of the sectors that many are most critical of, are in fact, developing new and innovative approaches to furthering SDGs, such as those related to health and climate.

3. Governments need to facilitate public private partnerships: Since many institutions are not yet adequately structured or resourced to support the needed scale of working toward the SDGs, there is an urgent need to develop new and inclusive partnership models that engage business and other non-state actors as equal partners with government. This model will embrace innovation, mobilize resources and expertise, and create shared accountability and value.

New Business Partnership for Sustainable Development

The USCIB Foundation Launches BPSD to Support UN SDGs

In support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), The USCIB Foundation, Inc., an educational and research foundation affiliated with USCIB, announced the launch of Business Partners for Sustainable Development (BPSD) on July 17. BPSD’s mission is to create new international public-private partnerships and provide a framework for government, business and civil society to share information, resources, activities and capabilities, and work in collaboration to achieve objectives that sectors cannot achieve independently.

BPSD will facilitate partnerships, identify creative solutions, leverage proven strategies, measure progress and report results. All BPSD initiatives will be based on four pillars of partnership: inclusion, innovation, influence, and impact.

“We want BPSD to be an important step forward in facilitating successful and impactful public private partnerships to achieve the SDGs,” said Michael Michener, USCIB’s vice president for product policy and innovation.

Dr. Scott Ratzan will serve as executive director of BPSD, developing the strategic priorities for the center, directing its initial activities and advancing the visibility of the BPSD within multilateral organizations and the U.S. government.

“I am honored to join in a leadership capacity to advance this important mission,” said Ratzan. BPSD will be a leader and an innovator in advancing successful and impactful public private partnerships to achieve the SDGs,” he added.

A delegation of leaders assembled in New York for the United Nations’ annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, USCIB and its global network were on the scene, making the case for inclusive multilateralism and celebrating the hundredth anniversary of a key pillar of global cooperation, the International Labor Organization (ILO).
ICC Honors USCIB’s Business for 2030 Platform

The Business for 2030 initiative, launched by USCIB in 2015 as a platform to showcase private-sector efforts aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, was honored at the ICC in May.

At a meeting of ICC National Committees in Paris, Business for 2030 took third place in the Americas region in the “IC Initiative of the Year” competition for 2018-2019. USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson accepted on behalf of USCIB and the Business for 2030 team.

Business for 2030 showcases past and ongoing contributions by companies and business organizations to sustainable development, through the lens of the SDGs. It currently features projects in over 150 countries, which can be viewed by specific SDGs, by company and by country.

ICC Celebrates 100 Years, Sets Out Vision for Next Century

ICC celebrated its centennial at a gala event in Paris on May 28. USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson and Vice President Norine Kennedy were among the hundreds of attendees. The world business organization was founded in 1919, out of the ashes of World War One, under a commitment by international business to build bridges through cross-border trade and investment and to serve as “merchants of peace.”

On behalf of its 45 million companies worldwide, ICC issued a declaration setting out a vision to shape the future of global business for the next century. Mirroring the call by ICC’s founders, the declaration sets out guiding principles for ICC as a purpose-driven international organization, working with renewed purpose to “make business work for everyone, everyday, everywhere.”

“Faced with pressing global challenges in the 21st century, ICC and the global business community can—and must—do more as a force for good in the world,” said ICC Secretary General John W.H. Denton. “We will respond to this imperative with brave and bold action to meet the ambition of our renewed purpose.”

Business Engages on Digital Transformation at OECD

A delegation of global business leaders participated in the 2019 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (May 22-23), stressing the need for integrated policies that will enable business to fully deliver on the potential from the digital transformation for economies and societies.

This pivotal exchange platform allowed global members and corporate leaders affiliated with Business at OECD to convey what business needs from international collaboration to promote both economic growth and inclusion. The high-level dialogue featured multiple interactions with ministers of economy, trade, foreign affairs and finance from 36 OECD countries and key non-member economies. Senior business leaders—including Peter Robinson, USCIB’s president and CEO, Alexandre Ricard, CEO of Pernod Ricard, BMW Vice-Chair Charles Johnstone, managing director of global government affairs with Citi and a USCIB board member, and Saori Dubourg, board member from BASF—formally addressed ministers during the program.

BAC members also convened for the 5th occasion the current G20 and B20 presidencies to share business recommendations to G20 leaders. The event featured the participation of the Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Shinaya Katozaka, president and CEO of ANA Holdings, and the OECD’s leadership. Business speakers from BAC’s French and German national members MEDEF and BDI, its Argentinean observer UAB, and from Accenture also debated views with G20 sherpas and senior government officials. In this meeting, Business at OECD Chair Phil O’Reilly affirmed the importance of ensuring continuity and frank exchanges across presidencies to achieve tangible outcomes in G20 declarations and implementation actions.

Earlier, the Business at OECD Annual General Assembly brought together BAC’s executive board, leadership from national organizations from 30 OECD and non-OECD countries, and associate expert groups to discuss strategic priorities for global governance and national challenges.

“While global leaders met in New York for the annual United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, USCIB partnered with IOE and Deloitte to launch a new study showing the critical role the private sector will play in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, which calls for promoting "sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

According to some experts, the success of the entire SDG agenda depends to a large extent on achieving SDG 8.

The event was attended by corporate leaders from Fortune 500 companies, small business company executives, top UN officials and the heads of USCIB and IOE to map out the path to increase private sector investment in SDG 8 targets. The report, “Getting the private sector to act: A call to action for achieving SDG 8” is available here.

According to the report, “the findings are discouraging, as the rate of global progress has, so far, not kept pace with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.”

IOE President Eri Kiresepi, who attended the launch event, also provided his insight in a recent blog post, in which he warns that the global blog community has just over a decade to ratify action or run the risk of failing to achieve this ambitious development agenda with devastating consequences. “To bridge the gap between the aspirational and actions on the ground, employer and business members organizations can play a pivotal role,” writes Kiresepi. “Employer organizations worldwide have long and deep experience in translating development agendas into corporate strategies and frameworks.”

USCIB, IOE, Deloitte Launch Report on Scaling Investment for Sustainable Development

While global leaders met in New York for the annual United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, USCIB partnered with IOE and Deloitte to launch a new study showing the critical role the private sector will play in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, which calls for promoting “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

The event was attended by corporate leaders from Fortune 500 companies, small business company executives, top UN officials and the heads of USCIB and IOE to map out the path to increase private sector investment in SDG 8 targets. The report, “Getting the private sector to act: A call to action for achieving SDG 8” is available here.

According to some experts, the success of the entire SDG agenda depends to a large extent on achieving SDG 8.

The event was attended by corporate leaders from Fortune 500 companies, small business company executives, top UN officials and the heads of USCIB and IOE to map out the path to increase private sector investment in SDG 8 targets. The report, “Getting the private sector to act: A call to action for achieving SDG 8” is available here.

Discussion Policy With State Department Leaders

USCIB President and CEO Peter Robinson had three successful senior-level meetings at the U.S. Department of State in early August. Robinson and USCIB Vice President for Trade and Financial Services Shaun Donnelly met Ambassador Kevin Moley, who serves as assistant secretary for International Organization (IO) Affairs, for a tour d’honore shared interests across a wide range of UN and other international organizations. IO Deputy Assistant Secretary Nerissa Cook joined the meeting. Much of the meeting focused on the shared objective of USCIB and the U.S. government of ensuring maximum access to and participation in international organizations for American and international business.

On August 6, Robinson, accompanied by Donnelly and USCIB Senior Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs Rob Mulligan, followed up with a wide-ranging meeting with the new Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Keith Krach, along with his new leadership team in the Undersecretary’s office. Finally, the three met with Acting Assistant Secretary for Customs and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (IOE) Ambassador Marcia Bernicat to discuss climate change and other important environmental issues.

USCIB Engages With Departments of Justice and Cybersecurity

The June 13 meeting of the ICT Policy Committee featured discussions with Department of Justice officials about efforts currently underway to negotiate an additional protocol to the so-called Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. The changes are aimed at bringing the Convention up to date with developments in the digital economy, improve on the current Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) approach, and generally expand international cooperation to pursue various computer crimes. An important over-arching theme was that cybersecurity (e.g. fraud and other crimes involving computers) should not be conflated with cybersecurity, the latter of which centers on the protection of networks.

Complementing the cybersecurity discussion, USCIB members explored with key State Department officials the latest developments in the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications (GGE), which enjoys U.S. support. The GGE is structured to convene regular institutional dialogue on cybersecurity issues as well as bilateral and regional discussions that feed into the UN General Assembly.

USCIB, U.S. Chamber Hold WCO e-Commerce Industry Day Meeting

USCIB members, along with many U.S. government agency partners including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Trade Representative and the Departments of State and Treasury came together in May to discuss the World Customs Organization (WCO) e-Commerce Framework of Standards. Non-member associations working on customs issues (the World Road Transport Organization, U.S. Fashion Industry Association, and the American Association of Importers and Exporters) also joined the meeting.

The meeting was led by Christa Bronzowski of DHS, and USCIB members in trade facilitation Committee Chair, Jerry Cook of Hanesbrand.
Modest Progress at G20 Osaka Summit Welcomed

USCIB responded with cautious optimism to the modest progress made at this year’s Group of 20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, and at the meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, where the two leaders agreed to continue working toward a resolution of their bilateral trade disputes.

“We encouraged both parties to move swiftly toward resolution of their disputes,” said USCIB Senior Vice President Rob Mulligan. “The existing tariffs have already had a negative impact on American exports and could threaten U.S. jobs as well as our broader competitiveness.”

Mulligan welcomed the G20 leaders’ endorsement of recent OECD blueprints for cooperation on global tax measures, as well as on a “human-centric” approach to the deployment of artificial intelligence – both areas where USCIB members have provided active input to international policy deliberations.

In their communiqué, G20 leaders warned of growing risks to the global economy but stopped short of denouncing protectionism, mainly due to push-back from the United States. While leaders made only passing mention of efforts to modernize the World Trade Organization (WTO), several voiced renewed support for the recently launched plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce taking place under the WTO’s aegis.

President Trump and leaders from China, Japan and the EU joined the WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo in welcoming the Osaka Declaration on the Digital Economy, which commits signatories to promote efforts on international rule-making in this area and urges further progress on e-commerce at the WTO.

“A fragmentation of the digital economy would hurt us all,” said Azevêdo. “It would mean higher costs and higher barriers to entry, affecting developing countries and smaller businesses the most. The 20th century showed that a fractured global trade order was not sustainable – that’s why we created the WTO. The same is true today. You may well be working on a constitution for the economy of the 21st century.”

ICANN Moves Forward on a Privacy-Compliant Access Mechanism

ICANN 65 wrapped up on June 27 in Marrakesh, Morocco, advancing discussions about the design of a model that would enable access to nonpublic domain name system registration data for legitimate purposes that would comply with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other privacy regimes. USCIB’s lead for ICT policy Barbara Wanner was on the ground in her capacity as the Business Constituency’s (BC) representative to the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG).

“The ICANN community acknowledged that it still lacks critical information and advice from the EU Data Protection Authorities (DPAs) to properly inform the development of a GDPR-compliant uniform access model (UAM),” said Wanner.

Business users of the domain names system, which include many USCIB members, need access to DNS registration data (commonly known as WHOIS) for purposes of brand and trademark protection, to implement consumer protections, and to undertake cybersecurity mitigation. Law enforcement officials around the world also need WHOIS access to combat cyber-crime.

According to Wanner, ICANN’s Business Constituency, which includes USCIB and several members, distinguished itself by stepping up to offer reinforcement to ICANN senior management efforts to engage EU lawmakers and regulators to realize legal clarity.

Wanner’s position on the CSG has enabled greater input to policy discussions at the executive committee-level on behalf of USCIB members and facilitated important meetings with senior ICANN officials and other key constituencies.

USCIB member representatives from Amazon, AT&T, BT Americas, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and The Walt Disney Company were present in Marrakesh and actively contributed to all policy discussions.
USCIB Objects to Implementation of Digital Service Taxes by France

Responding to an announcement by France in July to implement a digital service taxes (DIST), USCIB issued a press release urging countries to avoid unilateral measures and instead pursue a consensus-based, comprehensive and income-tax-based solution. USCIB supports the OECD Inclusive Framework process for reaching agreement on these global issues.

The French law will impose a tax of three-percent on certain revenue earned by technology companies including advertising, commissions from digital marketplaces and certain revenue earned by technology companies including advertising, commissions from digital marketplaces and advertising, commissions from digital marketplaces. The French law will impose a tax of three-percent on revenues earned by technology companies including advertising, commissions from digital marketplaces and certain revenue earned by technology companies including advertising, commissions from digital marketplaces.

Carol Doran Klein, USCIB’s Tax Committee chairman, tax policy advisor at Microsoft and counsel, said, “I urge France to focus their energies on reaching a consensus solution within the Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce’s first substantive negotiating round in Geneva, May 13-15. Topics covered included online consumer protection, electronic authentication and electronic signatures, electronic transactions framework, domestic regulation, transparency, non-discriminatory treatment of digital products, and many others.”

According to Klein, the level of engagement was high, the tone constructive and collaborative, and quite a few countries that have not yet tabled proposals said they expect to do so. There was a general view that the service-related elements of the outcome agreement are intended to build upon GATS though it remains an open question what form the agreement will take—not surprising or seen as controversial at the present.

Tax Conference Provides First Look at OECD Roadmap

Global companies are facing potentially seismic shifts in the taxation of their operations, with national tax authorities seeking to keep pace with a rapidly digitalizing business environment. This was the backdrop when more than 250 global tax professionals, government officials and other tax experts gathered in Washington, DC June 3-4 for USCIB’s annual OECD International Tax Conference. This year’s event provided an especially timely window into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s work to develop tax policy recommendations to governments.

The OECD released a work program on May 31 to develop proposals for allocating a company’s profits among countries that re-balance resource and residence taxation and result in a global minimum amount tax paid on earnings. Drawing from the views of nearly 130 jurisdictions (far broader than the OECD’s membership of 36 countries), the OECD roadmap could result in fundamental changes to national tax laws and bilateral tax treaties, including a move to a much more multilateral approach to international corporate taxation.

“Unlike the OECD’s earlier BEPS Base erosion and profit-shifting exercise, this project will reallocate tax revenues among various countries,” said Bill Sample, tax policy advisor at Microsoft and chair of USCIB’s Tax Committee. “It’s a political exercise, requiring compromise and the balancing of many competing interests among governments. One thing parties generally agree on is the need to keep these revenue shifts modest, and to have a predictable, sustainable model for global tax policy going forward.”

The conference was the 14th annual gathering on global tax policy developments convened by USCIB, in cooperation with the OECD and its official private-sector advisory body, Business at OECD.

The G20’s mandate

G20 leaders have tasked the OECD, with a long and distinguished history of work on international tax policies, to lead work on a consensus-based solution to address the impacts of the digitalization of the economy, with a target of developing recommendations by next year. The OECD’s effort represents “a fundamental rethink of the basics of the international tax system,” USCIB Vice President and International Tax Council Chair Carol Doran Klein told Bloomberg News. “The scope could not be broader.”

Economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala’s keynote remarks focused on ways to improve the tax capacity of emerging markets, which are expected to receive a growing share of global private-sector investment in the years ahead.

Governments Actively Engage at WTO e-Commerce Negotiations


At the Peru meeting, which was focused on “south-south” dialogue among developing countries, Goldberg spoke on behalf of the International Organization of Employers (IOE). She said that while the rights-based case for gender equality, women’s empowerment, and equal pay is clear, there is also a robust business case for gender equality.

Companies that commit to and enable gender diversity are realizing clear bottom line benefits, not least through the attraction and retention of talented women. Goldberg also said that the experience of employers indicated that gender pay gaps are not going to magically disappear and eliminating them should not be viewed as a one-time fix.

“Rather, they require specific interventions that will differ according to national circumstances, corporate cultures, available resources, and political will,” she said. “The good news is that the issue is now firmly in the public eye and an increasing number of companies are stepping up to meet the challenge.”

How can you be both the disruptor and the disrupted?

In this transformative age businesses must grasp the upside of disruption today to ensure inclusive growth tomorrow.

ey.com/betterworkingworld #BetterQuestions
World Chambers Congress Tackles Key Development Issues

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) concluded its 11th World Chambers Congress on June 14, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and included three days of engagement among over 1,000 delegates on key issues affecting chambers and their respective business communities. USCIB Senior Vice President and CTO Declan Daly attended the meetings on behalf of USCIB. The Congress focused on four main initiatives, including a sustainable future, skills for the future, financial inclusion and the World Chambers Competition.

“This year’s event was a huge step forward in engaging the chambers network more actively and cohesively in ICC’s global work – with great buy-in for our five campaigns and a growing interest in how ICC can help chambers redefine their value proposition in a market that is undergoing significant disruption,” said ICC Secretary General John Denton. Denton also highlighted a new initiative as part of ICC’s campaign to “Make Climate Action Everyone’s Business,” the “Chambers Climate Coalition” provides a platform for chambers to visibly demonstrate a commitment to take action, aligning with the Paris Agreement and the latest climate science. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the important role Chambers can play in driving the transition to a cleaner and more resilient planet. More than 450 chambers from six continents have signed-up for the Coalition – with signatories from countries including China, India, South Africa, Nigeria and the United States. The Coalition has received strong support from the United Nations Secretariat General’s team and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The next Congress will be held in Dubai in 2021.

USCIB Helps Shape AI Recommendations at OECD

The OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) met in Paris July 1-2 to discuss critical next step if we want to see the needed changes to eliminate violence and harassment in countries and workplaces around the world.

Still, the passage of the Convention and Recommendation, together with the Centenary Declaration, constitute important steps in tackling issues that have, and will affect governments, employers and workers. Looking to the ILO’s coming 100 years, Herzog stated at the ILC, “We must all continue to respect the value and context of social dialogue and other labor relations systems in helping to navigate change. As the ILO’s founders wisely understood 100 years ago, open and honest bipartite dialogue, based on trust and political will, can be an important tool for finding shared solutions and facilitating the implementation of reforms geared towards the future.”

USCIB Praises ILO Framework to Abolish Violence, Harassment in World of Work

USCIB Director for Customs and Trade Facilitation Megan Giblin traveled to Colombia April 23-25 to attend and present on the ATA Carnet System as part of a broader “Trade Facilitation: Opportunities for Global Economy” forum that was co-hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Colombia, the Bogota Chamber of Commerce, and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

ATA Carnets are international customs documents that allow for duty-free and tax-free temporary import of goods for up to one year and are important tools for international trade facilitation. In addition to its affiliate role of ICC, the International Organization of Employers and Business at OECD, USCIB is the National Guaranteeing Association (NGA) for ATA Carnet. As the NGA, USCIB operates and manages the ATA Carnet system in the United States.

Giblin Promotes Value of ATA Carnet System in Colombia

The event was primarily focused on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its implementation in Colombia through Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation funded projects. In addition, there was a panel on the ATA Carnet System, “ATA Carnet as a Mechanism for Global Commerce.” Giblin linked the temporary admissions provisions of the WTO TFA, which does not specify how they should be implemented, to the global gold standard or global best practice for temporary admissions, the ATA System.

At the event, Giblin, presenting in Spanish, focused on the basics of the ATA System, educating the audience, which consisted of Colombian exporters, on the ATA System and its benefits. Representatives from Colombia Customs (DIAN), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Colombian audiovisual sector and the ICC Colombia attended and presented on the ATA Carnet System, which USCIB has been promoting in Colombia.

“TFA plus implementation, we recommend Colombia become a contact point to the WTO Istanbul Convention with broad scope of coverage and promptly implement the System, which USCIB has been promoting in Latin America alongside ICC WCO,” said Giblin. “We look forward to working with ICC Colombia and the Colombian government, especially Customs, to promote the ATA System and provide guidance as questions, clarifications, or other obstacles related to full adoption arise.”

New USCIB Members

We are delighted to welcome the following companies and organizations as the latest additions to USCIB’s diverse membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accenture</th>
<th>Bank of America Corporation</th>
<th>Palo Alto Networks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andersen Tax</td>
<td>Landmark Public Affairs</td>
<td>Randstad N.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller &amp; Martin</td>
<td>The Tax Foundation</td>
<td>Zamoni &amp; Associates Consulting, LLC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about how USCIB membership can benefit your organization, contact Alison Hoiem (202-682-1291 or ahoiem@uscib.org).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Preparing for the Future of Work: A USCIB Foundation Dialogue, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>USCIB Intellectual Property &amp; Innovation Committee Meeting, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>“All In” Conference on Inclusive Multilateralism, SDGs &amp; Business, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>UN General Assembly Preparatory Meeting &amp; Briefing for USCIB Members, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>11th Annual Engaging Business Forum on Business &amp; Human Rights, Atlanta, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>USCIB ICT Policy Committee Meeting, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-30</td>
<td>74th Annual United Nations General Assembly, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>UN High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>USCIB Corporate Responsibility &amp; Labor Affairs Committee Meeting, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>ICC Commission on Environment &amp; Energy, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>14th Annual ICC New York Conference, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>WTO Public Forum, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ICC Marketing &amp; Advertising Commission, Stockholm, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>FAO Committee on World Food Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>The World Food Prize: 2019 Borlaug Dialogue, Des Moines, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>BSR Conference 2019, San Jose, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-27</td>
<td>8th UN Annual Forum on Business &amp; Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>Internet Governance Forum 2019, Berlin, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-13</td>
<td>UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-25), Santiago, Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Arbitration Annual Leaders Dinner, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Arbitration Annual Meeting &amp; Committee Luncheon, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advertise in International Business

To reach an elite readership of USCIB members and friends, join our growing roster of advertisers. Contact Abby Shapiro (ashapiro@uscib.org) for more information.