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Global Industry Presses for Conclusion of ITA Expansion by APEC Leaders' Meeting in Beijing

Industry associations from around the world strongly support conclusion of the negotiations to significantly expand product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) before the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies meet in Beijing November 10-11.

These negotiations have been in suspension for nearly a year. The time is now to finally conclude this critically important tariff-elimination initiative.

APEC ties with the ITA run deep. APEC ministers meeting in Manila in 1996 played a critical role in helping to establish the ITA. And for the past several years, APEC leaders have repeatedly called for swift conclusion of a balanced and commercially significant outcome to these negotiations, which would help restore confidence in the World Trade Organization at a pivotal time.

APEC economies can again play a decisive role in the future of the ITA by driving the effort to conclude these negotiations in time for the APEC leaders to celebrate what would represent an historic achievement for global trade when they meet in Beijing.

Product expansion of the ITA, as well as expansion of geographic scope of the agreement would yield immediate and substantial benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products. ITA expansion would bolster innovation, accelerate productivity, create jobs, lower consumer prices, and bridge communities across the globe in ways unimagined 18 years ago when the agreement was established.

We urge all the parties to this negotiation to seize this moment in time, exercise strong leadership, embrace the long-term benefits of ITA expansion, and limit product sensitivities so an ambitious result can be achieved before the APEC Leaders' Meeting in November.

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.