

Plurilateral Request for Computer and Related Services

1. Objectives

Further to paragraphs 25 through 27 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, and in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 11 (b) of Annex C of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, the Mission of Chile is pleased to present the delegation of [recipient Member] with a collective request in Computer and Related Services on behalf of the following interested Members: *Australia, Canada, Chile, the European Communities, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Singapore, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and the United States*

This request identifies specific objectives for Computer and Related Services liberalization, while recognizing the flexibilities provided for individual developing country Members in accordance with Article XIX.2 of the GATS. The aforementioned interested Members are also deemed to be recipients of this request.

In accordance with paragraph 7 of Annex C of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, this collective request is intended to complement, and not supersede the bilateral request-offer negotiations and the specificity of bilateral requests.

The Mission of Chile has the further pleasure to invite [recipient Member] to participate in a plurilateral discussion of this request, which will be organized in Geneva during the Services cluster taking place from 27 March to 7 April, 2006.

Please note that [number] other Members have received collective requests in Computer and Related Services from the aforementioned group of interested Members, and have also been invited to this plurilateral meeting.

The aforementioned interested Members reserve the right to modify the content of this request. Additional interested Members may also be identified in the future.

Any comments regarding this request, including written questions of a technical nature in advance of the plurilateral meeting, may be addressed to:

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2. Significance of Liberalization in Computer and Related Services

In recent years, the computer and related services sector has experienced enormous growth and has become one of the central driving forces in the development of a knowledge-based economy. Computer and related services represent a fundamental sector for economic activity. These services are frequently considered as a tool for economic development because of their role in building infrastructure. Moreover, the rapid growth of the computer services sector market has led to employment creation in both developing and developed countries. Finally, the liberalization of this sector helps economies to expand existing market activities and to develop new export market.

In order to promote effective liberalization in this sector, considering the rapid technological advancement and possibilities for creation of new business model, we urge requested Members to schedule commitments at the highest level possible (i.e. two digit CPC 84). Full commitments at the highest level will ensure the openness of this sector to the benefit of all Members making such commitments and further ensure that developments in this area remain robust and dynamic.

3.Plurilateral request

Coverage and Commitments

Mode 1-3

Full market access and national treatment commitments in modes 1- 3 for the sector as a whole (CPC84, 2-digit based), with no limitations.

Mode 4¹

Commitments in accordance with Paragraph 1(d) of Annex C of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. No exclusion of CRS services from horizontal Mode 4 commitments. No additional limitations beyond horizontal limitations.

The model schedule attached to this plurilateral request may be useful for scheduling of commitments.

¹ For this element, the United States is not a requesting Member, but shall be deemed a recipient.

MODEL SCHEDULE

COMPUTER AND RELATED SERVICES

Modes of supply: (1) Cross-border (2) Consumption abroad (3) Commercial presence (4) Presence of natural persons

Sector or Sub-sector	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment	Additional Commitments
B. <u>Computer and Related Services</u> (CPC 84)	1) None 2) None 3) None 4) Unbound except as indicated in the horizontal section.*	1) None. 2) None 3) None 4) Unbound except as indicated in the horizontal section.*	

* No exclusion of Computer and Related Services from horizontal Mode 4 commitments + commitments in accordance with Paragraph 1(d) of Annex C of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.