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Services Trade and Negotiations Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R.G. Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

Sent by Email to: services.negotiations@dfat.gov.au

Re: Plurilateral services agreement negotiations in Geneva:

IBM Australia hereby provides its support by this submission for the need for Australia to play a leadership role in the upcoming negotiations regarding the development of a plurilateral services agreement in Geneva

We note that Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data reflects that services represent around 80 per cent of the Australian economy by GVA and 85 per cent of employment, including 93 per cent of graduates.

Further, over the past decade, employment in services has grown by 2.3 million jobs compared with negative growth in manufacturing and agricultural jobs and minor growth in resources jobs.

Growth in trade and investment for Australia's services sector is critical to the nation's future prosperity and IBM believes that the development of a Services Plurilateral Agreement offers the potential to be a highly significant catalyst to that growth.

IBM Australia urges the Australian Government to provide deep and well-resourced contributions to the services plurilateral process and encourages a strong related two-way communications process with local industry. IBM would be happy to play an active participation role in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaaren Koomen', with a decorative flourish at the end.

Kaaren Koomen
Director Government Relations
IBM Australia/New Zealand