

SERVICES

Ministers instructed their negotiators to seek to complete the development of a comprehensive framework on trade in services by October. It is now time to decide on how the universal coverage of an agreement on services can be achieved through the negotiation of sectoral annotations, and limited, multilaterally agreed derogations.

APEC countries are prepared to begin negotiations of trade liberalizing commitments as soon as the coverage and procedures are determined.

Recognizing the disparity in levels of development of services industries among APEC countries, Ministers agreed that the framework should promote the broadest possible participation by developing countries.