

services. The agreement would be based on a commitment to transparency of practices and the resolution of problems through consultation. Procedures would also be established for the negotiation of commitments dealing with the reduction of trade barriers, including provisions laying out the nature of these commitments.

In the U.S. view, the general agreement on services should be complemented by negotiations aimed at the removal of barriers in individual service industries. The United States also foresees negotiations in functional areas, such as standards, as well as the development of an understanding dealing with investment issues in services. As well, the U.S. maintains that priority should be given to developing a multilateral agreement on international information flows.

The most advanced U.S. bilateral initiative is the recently concluded Declaration on Trade in Services with Israel. This is a statement of general principles calling for a legally binding agreement to be negotiated during the next 18 months. It is a comprehensive document covering key service sectors and setting out the principles (such as national treatment and transparency)