



# Joint Statement Initiative on Services Domestic Regulation

**Civil Society Dialogue, 7 March 2023**

# How it started

- **Joint Statement** of Buenos Aires 2017: 59 members
- Ca. 40 rounds of negotiations
- Plurilateral negotiations
  - **open, transparent, inclusive**

# What is the outcome

- December 2021: Declaration on the **conclusion of negotiations**
- 67 Members representing **90% of world trade** (now 69+ 1 observer)
- **Reference Paper** on Services Domestic Regulation
- **Set of disciplines:**
  - Transparency
  - Legal certainty and predictability
  - Regulatory quality and facilitation

# Why it is important

- Milestone for the WTO
- Reduces red tape & increases transparency
- Significant economic impact
- Positive effect on MSMEs and women entrepreneurs

# What is next

## Giving **legal effect** to the disciplines

- Members to incorporate reference paper in their schedule of commitments
- WTO certification procedure
- **Objections** from two WTO members, consultations to take place