4.

LIBERALISING TRADE IN SERVICES INCREASES ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

The WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) improves access to online education. The ITA lowers prices for hardware systems, computers, mobile phones and other devices which underpin the digitalisation of educational services.

At the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, trade ministers agreed to continue the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. The extension of the moratorium provides certainty to the trading environment for digital trade and contributes to the online, cross-border supply of educational services.

Some WTO members are exploring means to create a transparent and predictable environment for global digital trade. Through the Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce, these members seek to increase access to cross-border digital educational services where physical access is difficult.