

WSC Summaries and Conclusions

Professional Services and Movement of People

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1. Greater attention should be given to mutual recognition and harmonization of licensing requirements of the professions. In the WTO, regulatory disciplines, under Article VI.4, should be established for all of the professions, building on the principle of whether they are necessary to meet legitimate objectives.
2. The workshop endorses the principles outlined in a proposed model schedule of commitments governing the temporary entry of professional persons. It supports the proposal, outlined in the model schedule, of a GATS visa that would assure more expeditious treatment for professional persons who need to perform work abroad on a temporary basis. The visa should be extended to employees of companies which have offices abroad, as well as companies who do not have affiliated companies, respecting legitimate measures to assure against abuse. It fully supports improved transparency of procedures for obtaining temporary visas, as well as criteria for economic needs tests imposed by countries.