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Committee on Rules of Origin

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**UPDATE ABOUT THE "ORIGIN FACILITATOR", A JOINT INITIATIVE BY THE WTO, ITC
AND WCO – STATEMENT BY THE WTO AND THE ITC SECRETARIATS**

STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The following submission¹, dated 5 March 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation.

"The transparency is one of the key principles of WTO system which is implemented through publication of trade regulations and its submission to the Secretariat. Such notified information facilitates predictable trade conditions and reciprocal access between Members to the information on trade regulations.

The analysis of notifications submitted by Members under the framework of the Committee on Rules of Origin and Committee on Trade Facilitation shows that there is a connection, which to our view, should not be disregarded in order to enhance transparency, predictability and reciprocity. In the framework of our analysis we identified certain issues connected with notifications related to the rules of origin submitted to the Committee on Rules of origin and the Committee on TFA.

Firstly, there are discrepancies in the notification of documents to these WTO bodies in terms of up-to-date information.

Secondly, there is a problem with the web-links provided by Members in their notifications – certain links often present an issue for us not being able to get the needed information or simply don't work.

Thirdly, certain trade regulations notified by WTO Members to the Committee on Rules of origin are not up-to-date which results in differences between the provided links and official documents.

Therefore, Members should consider the necessity of compliance of notification discipline, its correlation between the work of WTO bodies, maintenance of the notified information up-to-date.

We would like to provide examples on the status of notifications in numbers.

According to the TFA database 90 Members out of 149 Members have notified the legislation on rules of origin by providing mainly the Internet link as it is stipulated in the Article 1.4 of the Agreement on TFA.

At the same time, according to the 25th Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement on Rules of Origin (G/RO/N/90), only 50 Members have notified to the Secretariat that they apply non-preferential rules of origin, 59 Members have informed about not applying any non-preferential rules of origin, while the rest notifications are still missing.

If we trace 50 notifications on applying non-preferential rules of origin over the last 25 years, we will notice that 18 of them were provided between 1995 and 2000, 11 of them between 2001 and 2010, and only 21 notification after 2011.

¹ Statement delivered at the Formal Meeting of the Committee on Rules of Origin, 5 March 2020.

Therefore, the majority of notifications submitted within the framework of the Committee on Rules of origin have neither been updated nor contain the link to the legislation notified under TFA.

In the absence of the correlation between what was notified by certain Members under TFA and ARO it is unclear whether the trade regulations stayed unchanged. Moreover, we are of the opinion that such situation impedes the collection of respective data for the Rules of Origin Facilitator launched in 2019.

The Russian Federation calls upon Members to verify the information on rules of origin submitted to the Secretariat under TFA and ARO and if necessary, to provide the Secretariat with updates on the status of notifications within this Committee.

This work would contribute to the collection of information on non-preferential rules of origin for the Facilitator within the framework of this Committee."
