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### INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs

#### DRAFT [RECOMMENDATION] [ALTERNATIVE: DECLARATION] ON [THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION PROVISIONS FROM MSMEs' PERSPECTIVE] [ALTERNATIVE: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION FROM MSMEs' PERSPECTIVE]

##### *Revision*

The following communication, dated 12 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs.

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*Recalling* the Declaration on the Establishment of a WTO Informal Work Programme for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) (WT/MIN(17)/58);

*Welcoming* the focus of WTO Members on trade facilitation and the work done in the context of the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation;

*Recognizing* that while the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) establishes horizontal and non-discriminatory rules, the benefits of its implementation accrue particularly to MSMEs;

*Desiring* to better support MSMEs through implementation of the TFA;

We, the members of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs:

1. *Call on* WTO Members to fully implement the TFA, in accordance with their commitments, including transparency measures;
  2. *Recommend* that WTO Members engage with stakeholders including MSMEs located within their territories when conducting consultations in accordance with the TFA on the design of trade facilitation measures;
  3. *Encourage* WTO Members, when sharing their TFA implementation experiences in the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation, to illustrate, as appropriate, how the interests of MSMEs are taken into account in order to identify and promote good practices for the implementation of the TFA in a MSME-friendly manner.
  4. *Invite* WTO Members, the WTO Secretariat and donor organizations to work together in order to design and provide capacity building and technical assistance that considers the trade needs and challenges of MSMEs on the implementation of the TFA.
  5. [*Call upon* the constructive cooperation of transit countries for the effective and early application of trade facilitation disciplines that contribute to reducing transit time and costs for MSMEs, simplifying procedures and enhancing certainty in cross-border trade, in order to mitigate the adverse development impact of lack of access to the sea. [Paraguay]]
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