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INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON MSMEs AND THE WTO INTEGRATED DATABASE

Communication from Canada

The following communication, dated 4 December 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Canada.

Recalling the Declaration on the Establishment of a WTO Informal Work Programme for MSMEs (WT/MIN(17)/58);

Considering the role of the WTO Integrated Database (IDB) as the official source of tariff and other trade-related information and its importance in ensuring transparency in the trade policy regimes of Members, including through the dissemination of these data to other international organizations and relevant stakeholders;

Desiring to improve access for MSMEs to reliable and official market access information relevant to their participation in international trade; and

Seeking to ensure that information in the WTO Integrated Database is kept up to date and is as comprehensive as possible;

Recommends that:

1. All WTO Members voluntarily provide to the IDB, to the extent it is readily available, the information set out in paragraph 2 of the Decision on the Modalities and Operation of the Integrated Database (IDB Decision)¹, and in particular the applied preferential tariffs in the context of regional trade agreements.
2. All WTO Members contact the Secretariat to discuss the feasibility of entering into a voluntary agreement with the Secretariat for the automatic electronic transmission of their tariff or trade data to the IDB, as provided for in paragraph 8 of the IDB Decision.

¹ Decision of the Committee on Market Access adopted on 28 May 2019 (G/MA/367).