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QATAR – CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING GOODS FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The following communication, dated 8 August 2019, from the delegation of the United Arab Emirates to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body and the Director of Legal Affairs Division, is circulated at the request of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates.

I write to inform you that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) no longer considers it necessary to pursue its complaint in DS576. This is due to Qatar's public withdrawal of the measures in question. Accordingly, there is no need to compose the Panel, and I kindly request that the matter now be concluded.

The UAE initiated this dispute against directives imposed by Qatar barring all UAE goods and pharmaceuticals from sale in Qatar. While Qatar maintained that it instituted these directives for purposes of public health and consumer safety, the application of the ban to all UAE goods clearly indicated that these reasons were pretexts. Qatar did not offer an adequate or lawful explanation under the WTO rules for why it took this action, and did not engage the WTO's security exceptions.

In the present dispute, Qatar has now publicly declared, including to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), that it has withdrawn the measures challenged by the UAE. Accordingly, the UAE is willing to consider that this dispute has been sufficiently resolved, and the matter should be concluded.

In concluding this matter, the UAE notes that it will not hesitate to bring a new complaint if Qatar adopts or maintains any measures that are non-compliant with the WTO rules. The UAE will continue in DS526 to defend its action to terminate relations with Qatar to protect its essential security interests. The UAE is confident that it has acted, and continues to act, in full conformity with WTO rules and security exceptions.

The UAE thanks you and the Secretariat for the assistance provided in this matter. The UAE kindly requests that this communication be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body.
