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**Ministerial Conference  
Thirteenth Session  
Abu Dhabi, 26-29 February 2024**

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**DECLARATION ON THE PRECISE, EFFECTIVE AND OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF  
SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE  
APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AND  
THE AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE**

DRAFT

The following communication, dated 29 February 2024, is being circulated on behalf of the Minister Facilitator on Development, H.E. The Hon. Mr Kerrie Symmonds, M.P. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados.

*The Ministerial Conference,*

*Recalling* that the provisions for special and differential treatment (S&DT) remain an integral part of WTO agreements and that S&DT in WTO agreements should be precise, effective and operational;

*Welcoming* the ongoing work to address some of the challenges highlighted in the Agreement Specific Proposals on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session (CTD SS);

*Acknowledging* the important role of technical assistance, training, and capacity building to developing Members, including least developed countries (LDCs), to support them in the effective implementation of the SPS and TBT Agreements;

*Recalling* that the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures has agreed on a procedure to be used to enhance transparency of special and differential treatment in favour of developing country Members (Decision of 29 October 2009, [G/SPS/33/Rev.1](#));

*Taking note* of G90 Agreement Specific Proposals listed in [JOB/TN/CTD/2](#);

*Decides* to:

1. Request improvements in training and technical assistance provided under the WTO Technical Assistance and Training Plan to assist developing Members, including LDCs, to overcome the challenges they face in timely engagement on SPS and TBT matters.
2. Request improvements to the existing compilation of comment periods given by Members in their notifications with respect to SPS and TBT measures, including providing any available information, in collaboration with Members, about extensions to comment periods.
3. Instruct officials to continue work in the CTD SS, the SPS Committee and the TBT Committee, towards enhancing the implementation of S&DT for developing Members, including LDCs, in the SPS and TBT Agreements and report on any progress by December 2024.

4. Instruct officials to continue to work on improving the application of S&DT in the CTD SS and other relevant venues in the WTO, as agreed and report on progress to the General Council before MC14.

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