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**JOINT MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY
AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WITHIN TRADE
12TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

This Declaration is being issued at the request of Afghanistan; Albania; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Barbados; Benin; Botswana; Brazil; Burundi; Cambodia; Canada; Chad; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Eswatini; European Union; Fiji; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Iceland; Indonesia; Israel; Jamaica; Japan; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liberia; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova, Republic of; Mongolia; Montenegro; Myanmar; Namibia; New Zealand; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Samoa; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tajikistan; Togo; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Viet Nam and Zambia.

Reaffirming the objectives of the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment launched in the margins of the 2017 WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires;

Acknowledging and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and other instruments supporting gender equality;

Acknowledging the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Declaration and the work of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on Trade and Gender, as described in document INF/TGE/R/1 and based on four pillars: reviewing analytical work undertaken; experience sharing; considering the concept and scope for a "gender lens"; and contributing to the Aid-for-Trade Work Programme;

Recognizing that women can benefit from trade; that they constitute an economic force globally, that increasing their participation in the labour market to the same level as men's and ensuring full recognition of women's economic rights will raise Members' GDP; and that the WTO can provide a venue to engage on trade and gender to positively impact women's economic empowerment and to achieve sustainable economic growth;

Recalling that women continue to face disproportionate barriers exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly of unpaid care and domestic work, that prevent them from fully engaging in and benefiting from international trade, and acknowledging that various economic and trade instruments, policies, programmes and agreements could address these barriers;

Noting that the IWG on Trade and Gender, assisted by international organizations, initiated its technical work on better understanding the nexus between trade and gender and the efforts of Members to afford opportunities for women workers and entrepreneurs to share their views and how to take these into consideration in developing their national and trade policies;

Building on the work done by the IWG on Trade and Gender, and the information gathered and shared by the WTO Secretariat and other international organizations, we, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations, agree to:

1. Continue to review, develop and improve national and/or regional collection of gender-disaggregated data that is comparable to the extent possible and analysis on trade and gender, to provide the basis for informed gender-responsive policies;
2. Utilize research initiatives to inform trade policy instruments and programmes to support women's economic empowerment and increase their participation and leadership in international trade to promote gender equality;
3. Explore and analyse a gender perspective and women's economic empowerment issues in the work of the WTO; and
4. Promote and highlight the collaboration on trade and gender between international and regional organizations, and our respective development and other relevant authorities with the aim of mainstreaming a gender equality perspective into Aid for Trade.

We instruct our officials to continue work on trade and gender and build a two-year work plan that includes concrete action points towards the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) and review the work plan after one year of implementation and thereafter inform the General Council periodically on its progress;

We instruct the IWG on Trade and Gender to continue to discuss the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and explore avenues that build an inclusive recovery and strengthen women's economic resilience using improved data collection to advance gender equality and equity as appropriate.
