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Page: 1/1

**Ministerial Conference  
Twelfth Session  
Geneva, 12-15 June 2022**

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### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON WTO REFORM**

The following communication, dated 14 June 2022, is being circulated at the request of the African Group (Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe), India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

1. We recognize the institutional challenges that the WTO is facing, including the imbalances in the rules that have impacted Members, particularly developing countries, including least developed countries, from effectively shaping rules, or influencing decision-making in the WTO. We agree that these challenges need to be addressed in a systematic, transparent, and inclusive manner amongst all Members.
2. Taking note of the calls for reforming the WTO, we reiterate our commitment towards developing a common understanding, through multilateral engagement, the institutional challenges that Members seek to address in the dispute settlement function, negotiating function, monitoring and implementation.
3. In this regard, we support the commencement of a review in the General Council to identify the institutional challenges facing the multilateral trading system on the basis of written submissions by Members. The review shall consider measures to facilitate the effective, full, and inclusive participation of developing countries, including least developed countries, in the multilateral trading system and its decision-making processes, and rebalance the inequitable trade rules from the Uruguay Round. It shall also safeguard the necessary policy space needed for developing countries for their structural transformation, industrialization and economic recovery.
4. Reaffirming Article IX:1 of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, we reiterate that the review shall be consistent with the principles and objectives of that Agreement and its multilateral trade agreements.
5. The General Council, through its regular bodies, shall consider the most appropriate institutional arrangements for handling the review, and report on progress to the Thirteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference.