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**DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF THE GROUP OF SMALL AND VULNERABLE
ECONOMIES (SVES) TO THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

The following communication, dated 14 June 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Small and Vulnerable Economies.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Group of Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs):

Reiterate, pursuant to Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of continued work for a fair, equitable, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system.

Reaffirm the centrality of development in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Emphasize that effective special and differential treatment, a key principle of multilateralism, must not be undermined.

Reaffirm the importance of the Work Programme on Small Economies contained in Paragraph 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and Paragraph 41 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

Note the progress achieved on SVEs priorities, especially the work conducted in the CTD's Dedicated Session including the reduction of trade costs, investment attraction, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SVEs; and the impact of natural disasters on small economies.

Welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Decision on the Work Programme on Small Economies and **look forward** on the results of the work on integrating small economies into the post COVID-19 economy: effects of the pandemic, challenges and opportunities.

Further **reiterate** the need for Members to continue to address in a substantive and meaningful manner, the needs of small, vulnerable economies, and to adopt specific measures that will facilitate their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system.

Urge Members to commit to preserve the flexibilities that have already been identified and recognized in the process of the trade negotiations including in Agriculture and NAMA, and provide enhanced flexibilities for SVEs in other negotiating areas in view of their special needs and circumstances, as part of any future outcome.

Call for Members' commitment to continue to address in all areas of WTO work, in a substantive and meaningful manner, the needs of small, vulnerable economies (SVEs) and to favourably consider the adoption of such measures that would facilitate our economies' fuller integration into the multilateral trading system.

Reaffirm the need for special consideration and targeted assistance to be given to SVEs, *inter alia*, in the areas of Aid for Trade, Trade and Transfer of Technology; Trade Facilitation, Trade Finance and Development Assistance which are priorities for special consideration by the WTO and anticipate

that the appropriate attention will continue to be paid to these issues in the on-going work of the WTO.

Emphasize the necessity for the continued inclusion of SVEs in the consultations held within the regular bodies and the negotiating groups on issues relating to the work of the Organization.

Stress the importance of continuing the constructive engagement to find concrete and appropriate solutions to respond to the trade-related issues of Small, Vulnerable Economies.
