



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

DRAFT ABU DHABI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

H.E. Dr. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme (Botswana)

Addendum

INTRODUCTION

This draft Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration in [WT/MIN\(24\)/W/12](#) is presented under my own responsibility. It is without prejudice to Members' positions and proposals and to the final outcome. The end result depends on the full Membership. The textual suggestions submitted by Members, as well as the discussions we had since November 2023, were the main inputs to this draft Declaration.

The draft contains placeholders for Dispute Settlement Reform, WTO Negotiations and WTO Regular Work – whose content will depend on the outcomes of respective ongoing processes. This addendum provides a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the draft Declaration. The second section – "Additional Textual Proposals from Members as Reflected in the Annex", provides a high-level state of play of the discussions for Members' suggested paragraphs where consensus is yet to be reached and more work is required. The current state of the texts discussed in these areas appears in the annexed matrix.

In considering this draft text, I appeal to Ministers to take into account the delicate balance struck. In addition, the hard work and extensive negotiations of your delegations has enabled the texts annexed to this addendum under the titles "Additional Textual Proposals from Members as Reflected in the Annex" to further advance. I hope that this draft Declaration and this explanatory note will be useful as Members finalize the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration

Excellencies, the importance that we all attach to sending a strong, meaningful, and responsive political message from Ministers is evident – particularly given the difficult period we are currently living in. Let us all keep in mind what is at stake as we finalize the Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration. Let me thank all Members for their constructive engagement throughout this process.

DRAFT ABU DHABI MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**EXPLANATIONS****PARAGRAPH 1**

Paragraph 1 is about reaffirming the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, in particular – in the context of the WTO's 30th anniversary when MC13 will occur. What is presented is a clean paragraph. In addition, a delegation suggested adding the reaffirmation of the value of taking decisions through a "Member-driven" and "consensus-based" process. Other delegations, while acknowledging the importance of a consensus-based, Member-driven decision-making process, wished to balance the proposed addition with the qualifiers "flexible", "constructive", and "responsible" to ensure that these principles were not used to hinder Members from advancing on different issues of interest.

PARAGRAPH 2

Paragraph 2 acknowledges that WTO Members, since the establishment of the WTO 30 years ago, have sought to fulfil the WTO's objectives consistent with Members' respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development. Important progress has been made and Ministers express their resolve to further strengthen the multilateral trading system to provide meaningful impetus to address global challenges.

PARAGRAPH 3

Paragraph 3 refers to the importance of the implementation of WTO agreements, Ministerial Decisions and Declarations. In doing so, Minister would take note of progress and instruct relevant WTO Bodies to expedite further work. A was proposed to be included regarding the non-fulfilment of past mandates and agreements. This was subsequently withdrew with the understanding that the term "some issues" encompassed this.

PARAGRAPH 4

Paragraph 4 reaffirms Ministers' commitment on WTO Reform enshrined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the MC12 outcome document. It acknowledges that progress has been made – which includes tabling several proposals, advancing "reform by doing" work as reflected in the Secretariat Report in [WT/MIN\(24\)/7](#) and WTO Members' engagement in reform discussions organized under the auspices of the General Council on 10 November 2022 focused on General WTO Reform, 2-3 February 2023 focused on Development, 16 June 2023 focused on Deliberative Function and Institutional Matters and 25-26 September 2023 focused on Trade and Industrial Policy, respectively. In noting and valuing the work done to improve the daily functioning of WTO Bodies, Ministers would instruct the General Council and its subsidiary bodies to continue this work and report progress, as appropriate, to the next Ministerial Conference.

PARAGRAPH 5

Paragraph 5 is a placeholder for Dispute Settlement Reform.

PARAGRAPH 6

Paragraph 6 reiterates Ministers' resolve from MC12 to preserve and strengthen the ability of the multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its core, to respond to contemporary trade challenges, taking advantage of available opportunities, and ensuring the WTO's proper functioning. It acknowledges that Members have engaged in the informal meetings on WTO Reform under the auspices of General Council –as detailed in the explanation under paragraph 4 – as well as at the Senior Officials Meeting on 23-24 October 2023. It recognises the need to deepen such dialogue in a focused manner. As Members have suggested, the aim of this deepened dialogue is to have a better understanding of these issues. The final sentence of this paragraph was bracketed by a delegation subject to the paragraphs that would follow which it believed qualify the term "some of these issues" that Members had "engaged on" and "explored" – and where there would be a need to deepen dialogue. Others delegations clarified that the term "some of these issues" does not refer

to the succeeding paragraphs but relates to "current trade challenges", "available opportunities" and those concerning the "WTO's proper functioning" – which have been mentioned on the first sentence of this paragraph.

PARAGRAPH 7

Paragraph 7 about on Global Supply Chains. In this regard, Ministers would underscore the importance of open, inclusive, resilient, sustainable, diversified, and reliable global supply chains, and their role in ensuring that production and trade can more easily recover from crisis and disruptions. Ministers would also note the work being done in WTO bodies, especially on transparency including information sharing, and welcome efforts to promote the resilience of global supply chains.

PARAGRAPH 8

Paragraph 8 is on development. Ministers would reiterate the centrality of the development dimension in the work of the WTO and recognise that the full integration of developing Members including LDC Members in the multilateral trading system is important for their economic development. In this regard, Ministers would stress the need to make positive efforts so that the gains from trade benefit them in accordance with the Marrakesh Agreement.

PARAGRAPH 9

Paragraphs 9 is specific to LDCs – with Ministers recognizing the particular vulnerability and special needs of LDCs and underscoring that their interests should be given due priority for them to secure meaningful integration into the multilateral trading system.

PARAGRAPH 10

Paragraph 10 is on LDC Graduation and recalls the MC12 outcome document on this matter. It then welcomes the Decision adopted by the General Council in [WT/L/1172](#). A placeholder was suggested to reflect the progress of the current work and provide a forward-looking message on Annex 2 of the LDC Graduation proposal in document [WT/GC/W/807/Rev.2](#).

PARAGRAPH 11

Paragraph 11 is on Aid for Trade. Ministers would recognise the importance of this initiative for developing Members in particular LDCs for trade-related capacity building and look forward to the outcomes of the 9th Global Review and recognise the continuing need for this Initiative.

PARAGRAPH 12

Paragraph 12 is on Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs). Ministers would reaffirm their commitment to the Work Programme on Small Economies and to facilitate the integration of SVEs into the multilateral trading system.

PARAGRAPH 13

Paragraph 13 relates to Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). Building on Paragraph 9 of the MC12 outcome document, this paragraph acknowledges the importance of the dedicated sessions on transit at the Committee on Trade Facilitation, and instructs the Committee on Trade and Development to hold focused sessions to assess trade-related challenges identified for the fuller integration of LLDCs into the multilateral trading system and to report to the General Council, and propose recommendations, if any, to the next Ministerial Conference.

PARAGRAPH 14

Paragraph 14 is about Trade and Sustainable Development. Ministers would underscore the importance of trade and sustainable development in its three pillars – economic, social, and environmental – recalling the objectives in the Marrakesh Agreement and recognizing the role that the multilateral trading system can play in contributing towards the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in so far as they relate to the WTO mandate.

PARAGRAPH 15

Paragraph 15 concerns Trade and Inclusion. Ministers would recognise the importance of an inclusive and equitable multilateral trading system that enhances WTO Members' relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour with a view to supporting development and raising standards of living, including for developing Members and LDCs, and contributes to ensuring the gains of trade benefit all. A Member added the word "Members" to refine the scope. Others sought the deletion of this word as in their view, this addition would alter the message that they intended this paragraph to convey – that is gains of trade, within and amongst Members. In an effort to bridge convergence – by accommodating the insertion of the term "Members" without altering the intended message, drawing on SDG 10 – the suggestion was made to add the term "within and among" to qualify "Members". This paragraph also recognises work already underway and welcomes further work by Members to hold thematic discussions on improving trade inclusiveness under the overall supervision of the General Council, which should report, as appropriate, to the next Ministerial Conference. Concerns remain about the term "trade inclusiveness" and the concept of having thematic discussions as proposed in the text. A suggestion was made to add the phrase "insofar as they relate to Members concerning their multilateral trade relations" after "trade and inclusiveness" to clarify the scope of the thematic discussions. Similar to the issue on adding the term "Members", it was thought that this suggestion would alter the scope and purpose of such discussions.

PARAGRAPH 16

Paragraph 16 is about Women's Economic Empowerment. There is broad support in recognising that women's economic empowerment and women's participation in trade contribute to economic growth and sustainable development. Ministers would also take note of work undertaken in this regard. To address a concern raised regarding the nature of this work, similar to MC12, a footnote stating that "These are general messages on cross-cutting issues that do not change the rights or obligations of WTO Members and do not relate to any Joint Statement Initiatives" was suggested to be added. The agreement to this paragraph by few Members with concerns hinges upon the agreement to the insertion of this footnote. The footnote was however requested to be bracketed given that the paragraph had been significantly streamlined to address concerns raised earlier regarding the level of specificity and that the reference to the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender had already been deleted from this paragraph.

PARAGRAPH 17

Paragraph 17 is about Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). There is broad support in recognising the important role that MSMEs play in economic growth, sustainable development, and poverty reduction in all WTO Members, while noting the differences in context, challenges, and capabilities of MSMEs among Members. Ministers would also take note of work in this regard. Similar to the previous paragraph, to address a concern raised regarding the nature of this work undertaken, a footnote from the MC12 outcome document stating that "These are general messages on cross-cutting issues that do not change the rights or obligations of WTO Members and do not relate to any Joint Statement Initiatives" was suggested to be added. The footnote was however requested to be bracketed given that the paragraph had been significantly streamlined to address concerns raised earlier regarding the level of specificity and that the reference to the Informal Working Group on MSMEs had already been deleted from this paragraph.

PARAGRAPH 18

Paragraph 18 covers Trade in Services. This paragraph builds on the MC12 outcome document with Ministers recognising the role and importance of services to the global economy and in providing a stable environment for economic growth and development and tackling global challenges. Ministers would then acknowledge the need to facilitate the increased participation of developing Members, including LDCs, in global services trade and the work undertaken in the Council for Trade in Services (in regular and special session) and its subsidiary bodies and commit to reinvigorate work in this regard. Given the importance attached by a delegation to the phrase "within the mandate of the GATS and other existing mandates" and its concerns regarding the phrase "including through further thematic, evidence-based discussions", the last line of this paragraph has been bracketed. Other delegations thought that the phrase was not necessary since the work of the Council for Trade in Services is within the mandate of the GATS and other mandates. At the same time, such addition would unnecessarily restrict discussions – including on topics where there is contention about

whether they fall within the GATS mandate such as the one proposed by the delegation who raised concern. In an attempt to bridge gaps, a proposal was made to insert the term "their" before "work on trade in services" – to clearly qualify that the work reinvigorated is that of the Council for Trade in Services which operates within the mandate of the GATS and other mandates.

PARAGRAPH 19

Paragraph 19 contains a placeholder for WTO Negotiations – that is, agriculture, fisheries subsidies and S&DT which are subject to ongoing negotiations – as well as a catch all messaging on other negotiating areas in Negotiating Groups.

PARAGRAPH 20

Paragraph 20 talks about celebrating WTO Accessions – particularly the successful completion of the accession procedures of two LDCs – Comoros and Timor-Leste. Additional text was proposed to reaffirm commitments made at MC12 to facilitate the conclusion of ongoing accessions, especially for the LDCs, and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, including in the post-accession phase. Given the political sensitivities on the matter, and since this additional text was generally lifted from the MC12 outcome document, the phrase "recall our commitments at our Twelfth Session" at the end of Paragraph 27 was thought to be sufficient.

PARAGRAPH 21

Paragraph 21 concerns Article XII Members and their levelling the playing field issue. This language has been lifted from previous Ministerial Declarations.

PARAGRAPH 22

Paragraph 22 is on Trade and Crisis Response. Ministers will recognise the short-term challenges faced by Members, in particular developing Members, including LDCs, confronting global and domestic crises including disasters caused by natural hazards and encourage relevant WTO Bodies to continue work to support resilience and preparedness. This paragraph also includes an instruction to present a report of work undertaken and any recommendations, as appropriate, for future action, based on Member's suggestions, to the General Council ahead of the next Ministerial Conference.

PARAGRAPH 23

Paragraph 23 concerns follow up work regarding the MC12 Declaration on the "WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics". Ministers will take note of work done in relevant WTO Council and Committees in this regard – as reflected in [WT/MIN\(24\)/8](#) and encourage these WTO Bodies to continue this work. Ministers will also note the work of the WTO Secretariat in this area and encourage it to continue to do so, as appropriate.

PARAGRAPH 24

Paragraph 24 contains a placeholder for WTO Regular Work including on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, the Moratorium on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints, the Work Programme on Small Economies, LDC Graduation – Annex 2, and TRIPS Waiver Extension - among others.

ADDITIONAL TEXTUAL PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS AS REFLECTED IN THE ANNEX**EXPLANATIONS****TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

This text relates to the establishment of a temporary Working Party on Trade and Industrial Policy. It provides a description of the functions of this temporary Working Party as a forum for Members to share and discuss factual analysis and contains a non-exhaustive list of topics that could be examined. This also includes reporting instructions to the next Ministerial Conference and provides for a possibility to propose initiatives, concrete actions, or recommendations for future work, as appropriate. Significant efforts were exerted to bridge gaps and address concerns raised during the discussions. The text however remains blue and in square brackets since issues remain to be resolved. These include whether there is a need to establish a separate Working Party, clarification of the scope of "trade and industrial policy", and how to ensure that discussions in the temporary Working Party are conducted in a neutral and objective manner. During the drafting process, the view was expressed that this text is closely linked to the one on Policy Space for Industrial Development. While it clear that these two paragraphs are separate, the view was expressed that they were linked given that they addressed the same subject matter – that is, industrial policy. As such, this text reflects efforts to find balance between the approach to post MC13 discussions on Trade and Industrial Policy and on Policy Space for Industrial Development. However, other Members expressed the view that these are different things and should be treated separately. In their view, Policy Space for Industrial Development focuses on existing WTO agreements while Trade and Industrial Policy is more forward-looking.

POLICY SPACE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

This text resolves to examine the effect of WTO agreements on the industrialization, economic diversification and structural transformation of developing Members, including LDCs. It contains a non-exhaustive list of work to be undertaken in this regard which would focus on existing needs of Members, be based on submissions by Members and be conducted in relevant subsidiary bodies, including in dedicated sessions as needed. This also includes instructions to the General Council to oversee this work and provide a report, including any recommendations, by the next Ministerial Conference. As mentioned above, this text has been part of the same convergence-building outreach as Trade and Industrial Policy. Consequently, the text reflects the efforts to find balance between the two. This text has evolved since it was first tabled to address concerns previously raised. No specific issues were raised about this paragraph at the final drafting session on 15 February in Geneva.

SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT (S&DT)

In the proposed text, Ministers would reaffirm the provisions of special and differential treatment for developing Members, including LDCs, as an integral part of WTO Agreements. In this regard, Ministers would note the progress, encourage the continuation of this work, and look forward to a report on any progress. Proponents of this text reiterated that they awaited the results of ongoing negotiations on Special and Differential Treatment before engaging any further on this text. In this regard, others requested that this text be bracketed while waiting for further clarity on the work to be taken note of and of which Members would be encouraged to continue.

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AS FOCAL POINT

This text is about the need for effective coordination of development work in the WTO and recalls the CTD's role as a focal point of this work. The language in the second line was taken from the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Trade and Development in document [WT/L/46](#). The entire text remains bracketed given concerns raised about its value addition – especially in light of preceding texts tasking other bodies to work on development matters. In an effort to build convergence, it was suggested to merge the phrase "We recognise the need for effective coordination of development work in the WTO" with the text on S&DT and delete the rest of the paragraph.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This text is about establishing a dedicated dialogue on sustainable agriculture. This dialogue will provide a forum for discussions on sustainable agriculture production, productivity, and trade, as well as on resilient and sustainable food systems in recognition of Members' unique agricultural conditions, circumstances, practices, and common concerns related to the environment and climate. This also includes instructions to the General Council to hold a retreat in 2024 to identify priority, appoint a facilitator, oversee this work and report on progress, including any recommendations, to the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference. While garnering support from Members, several issues remain outstanding. Questions raised include whether the General Council is the appropriate forum for this dialogue – even if a facilitator would be appointed, the relation between these discussions and those in the Committee in Agriculture, and the level of specificity in terms of the conduct of these discussions. Several delegations also noted that they need time to discuss this text with capital.

TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

This text acknowledges the importance of trade and transfer of technology in responding to global challenges and building economic resilience and prosperity for all WTO Members. In doing so, Minister will reinvigorate the work in the Working Group on Trade and Technology Transfer (WGTTT) including by continuing to work with other relevant international organizations. This text has been subjected to extensive discussions – originating from two detailed proposals with different ways of looking at technology transfer within the WTO context. The fate of the text rests on the reflection of the bracketed phrase "on voluntary and mutually agreed terms" which is a must for several delegations to agree to its inclusion in the draft declaration. The insertion of this phrase is however a redline for others. The term "facilitating" was also suggested to replace "coordinating" with regard to the WGTTT's role in discussions on this matter in the WTO. One delegation questioned the utility of this paragraph given the existence of the WGTTT. Technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms was important this delegation who wished to reflect its concerns on forced technology transfer.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

This text originated from extensive discussions in the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). Given that convergence could not be achieved in the CTE, its Chairperson, presented the text in the matrix under his own responsibility. A facilitator was appointed by the General Council Chairperson to try and build convergence and three options of the text emerged. In a bid to move Members to converge, the Director-General suggested to merge the first sentence of one of the options of the facilitator's draft with the last two sentences. The deletion of the middle part was suggested to avoid reflecting contentious issues and prevent opening up another polarizing debate – given the deep divergences in this regard. However, some noted that this suggestion could set them back from the work already done since MC12. Delegations were nonetheless willing to consult with their capitals on this suggestion to see how best to reach convergence on this text on this important issue.

ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK (EIF)

This text acknowledges the contributions of EIF, urges the immediate launch of a well-endowed future programme of EIF, and recommends the continuation of prioritising the programmes identified by the LDCs. The proponents attach great importance to EIF which Members, including donors, recognise. At the same time, concerns were raised about the need to reference EIF in the Ministerial Declaration especially given the political sensitivities of the current situation and the ongoing review of the programme. Other delegations also questioned the singling out of EIF amongst other capacity building and technical assistance initiatives, frameworks and funds – which are not mentioned in the draft Declaration.

ONGOING ACCESSIONS

This text reaffirms the commitments made at MC12 to facilitate the conclusion of ongoing accessions and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, including in the post-accession phase. While the Membership recognises the importance attached to (i) assisting ongoing accessions advance and conclude their respective processes, and (ii) the provision of technical assistance in this regard as well as during the post-accession phase, political sensitivities exist in explicitly mentioning them in

the current draft Declaration. There is reference to recalling commitments made at MC12. However, others still wish to have an explicit mention of the phrases from MC12 as reflected in the matrix table and have said that this is important given that as acceding governments will be participating at MC13. Given the differences, the phrase "and recall our commitments at our Twelfth Session" was bracketed in Paragraph 20.

CROSS-BORDER TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

This text focuses on recognising the critical role played by cross-border telemedicine services and building a pool of globally recognised health professionals to effectively respond to natural disasters and pandemics as well as to contribute to fulfilling SDGs. This includes an instruction to relevant WTO bodies to continue work on these matters and report progress to the General Council. While reference to the discussions in the General Council and the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) on the proposals on cross-border telemedicine services and building a pool of globally recognised health professionals were made in the factual report prepared by the WTO Secretariat on pandemic response and preparedness ([WT/MIN\(24\)/8](#)), the proponent stressed that the importance of these two matters merits their reflection in the draft Declaration. Others noted that Paragraph 23 of the draft Declaration strikes the right balance by reflecting all the work done since MC12 on pandemic response and preparedness in a general manner, including discussions on these two issues as referenced in the factual report, without listing any specific matters – which would otherwise open the door for privileging some topics over others.

COST OF REMITTANCES

This text recognises (i) the contribution of cross-border remittances towards development and financial inclusion and the achievement of the SDGs, and (ii) the need to reduce cost of remittances. This includes an instruction to the Committee on trade in Financial Services (CTFS) to establish a work programme in this regard and explore ways on how the WTO, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, can address the challenges in this sector. The Membership, particularly the developing Members, including LDCs, have recognised the importance of this issue. Many have expressed their support on referencing this in the draft declaration. At the same time, concerns were raised on (i) how the proposal was formulated – focusing on the issue of cost of remittances instead of financial inclusion, (ii) the need for a work programme given that such discussion can already take place in the CTFS and (iii) the appropriateness of such a text given that there would be an upcoming seminar on this topic in the CTFS in March 2024. To address these concerns, an alternative and additional texts were proposed.

TRIPS MATTERS

This text talks about two TRIPS-related matters instructing the TRIPS Council: (i) to undertake and finalize its first review under Article 71 on the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement and (ii) to expedite its ongoing work to examine the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This includes the instruction to produce a document for each matter and make recommendations to Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference. At the final drafting session, several Members took the floor to support this text – which is a merger of two proposals. At the same time, concerns were reiterated. In particular, they noted that these topics have been taken up in the TRIPS Council as part of its agenda, but they have not yet resolved these matters given the deep divergences in Members' longstanding positions. Specifically on CBD, reference was made to the diplomatic conference in WIPO in May regarding this matter and that the WTO should not pre-empt or duplicate such efforts that the proposed text might suggest.

TRADE AND DEBT

This text acknowledges that increasing levels of debt and global financial crises constitute significant challenges for developing Members, including LDCs, and hinders their capacity to integrate effectively in the multilateral trading framework and achieve sustainable development. This includes an encouragement to discuss trade-related approach that could contribute to mitigate these challenges and promote trade finance, including in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, and to report on progress at the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference. Concerns mainly related to whether this topic is within the sole competency of the WTO and whether the WTO is the appropriate forum for such a discussion. Proponents ran out of time to engage further on this issue.

COHERENCE

This text is an additional proposal to Paragraph 23 on pandemic response and preparedness. This underscores the importance of ensuring coherence of international trade agreements with WTO rules and suggests a discussion on short track procedures aimed at facilitating market access for supplies needed to deal with pandemic and other emergencies. Similar to the proposal on cross-border telemedicine services, it was noted that Paragraph 23 already strikes the right balance between reflecting all the work done since MC12 on pandemic response and preparedness without listing any specific matters – which could otherwise open the door for privileging one topic over another. The proponent stressed that this proposal aims to complement and further enrich Paragraph 23. However, the view was expressed that this paragraph should not be re-opened given that it had already reached convergence among all Members.

ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH

This text was offered to take account of the views expressed regarding informal discussions in the WTO and the pursuance of positive efforts towards improving the framework for the conduct of international trade. It was noted that this text is from previous WTO Ministerial Declarations and Decisions. Others expressed their reservations on the text.

ANNEX**ADDITIONAL TEXTUAL PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS**

Colour codes used in the table reflect the following: **Blue texts** indicate areas where convergence has not yet been achieved. **Orange texts** indicate an alternative to blue texts or suggested additions.

Paragraph	Proposed Paragraphs or Additional Textual Proposals from Members
Addition to Paragraph 1	[We reaffirm the value of [our consistent practice of] taking decisions through a [[flexible] [constructive,] [responsible]] consensus-based, Member-driven process].
Trade and Industrial Policy	[We agree to establish a temporary Working Party to organise regular dedicated discussions on trade and industrial policy. The Working Party will provide a forum for Members to share and discuss factual analysis and could examine, inter alia, (a) the different types of policy tools or measures being used by Members and their impact on global trade and investment; (b) how to better support transparency; (c) whether WTO rules need to be improved or developed; and, (d) the challenges faced by Members, particularly developing Members, including LDCs. The Working Party will provide a factual report on these discussions no later than the next Ministerial Conference and may also, as appropriate, propose initiatives, concrete actions, or recommendations for future work.]
Policy Space for Industrial Development	[We resolve to examine the effect of WTO agreements on the industrialization, economic diversification and structural transformation of developing Members, including LDCs. To this end, this work will, inter alia, (a) assess any relevant challenges presented by WTO rules and consider how to address them, (b) take account of any relevant opportunities presented by WTO rules and ways to enhance them, and (c) consider how WTO agreements can better facilitate industrialization and contribute to building resilience to global challenges. The work shall focus on existing needs of Members, be based on submissions by Members and be conducted in relevant subsidiary bodies, including in dedicated sessions as needed. The General Council shall oversee and provide a report on this work, including any recommendations, by the 14th Ministerial Conference.]
Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)	[We reaffirm the provisions of special and differential treatment for developing Members, including LDCs, as an integral part of the WTO [and its] agreements. We note the progress and encourage the continuation of work in the CTD SS and other relevant bodies of the WTO to improve the application of special and differential treatment and look forward to a report on any progress to the General Council and subsequently to the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference.]
Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) as a Focal Point	[We recognise the need for effective coordination of development work in the WTO and recall the role of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) to serve as a focal point for consideration and coordination of work on development in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its relationship to development-related activities in other multilateral agencies.]

Paragraph	Proposed Paragraphs or Additional Textual Proposals from Members
Sustainable Agriculture	[We agree to establish a dedicated dialogue on sustainable agriculture, taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The dialogue will provide a forum for discussions on sustainable agriculture production, productivity, and trade, as well as on resilient and sustainable food systems, in recognition of Members' unique agricultural conditions, circumstances, practices, and common concerns related to the environment and climate. We instruct the General Council to organize a retreat in 2024 to identify priorities. The General Council shall appoint a facilitator for the dialogue, oversee its work, and, as a result of the discussions, report on this work, including any recommendations for future multilateral work, at the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference.]
Trade and Transfer of Technology	[We acknowledge the importance of the relationship between trade and technology transfer [, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms] in responding to global challenges and building economic resilience and prosperity for all WTO Members, in particular developing Members, including LDCs. We recognise the role of the Working Group on Trade and Technology Transfer in coordinating discussions within the WTO and encourage their continuation, including by continuing to work with other relevant international organizations.]
Trade and Environment	[We reaffirm the importance of the contribution that the multilateral trading system can make to addressing the global environmental challenges and promoting the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its three dimensions, insofar as they relate to WTO mandates and in a manner consistent with the Members' respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development. In this regard, we will promote cooperation on environmental aspects of trade, innovation, and technology transfer, particularly to developing Members, including LDCs. Recalling the 1994 Marrakesh Ministerial Decision and subsequent ministerial decisions on trade and environment, the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) must continue to promote Member's engagement on its agenda, including by fostering transparency and structured dialogue on trade-related aspects of environmental measures as well as their effects on market access, organizing the sharing of Members' practices and experiences, identifying trade policy tools that facilitate trade while contributing to addressing global environmental challenges, revitalizing its procedures, and collaborating with other WTO bodies as appropriate. We recognise the ongoing efforts of the CTE, including hosting Thematic Sessions to allow Members to deepen discussions and explore new topics with inclusivity and transparency, reaching out to the secretariats of international organizations, and learning views from external stakeholders. The CTE will provide a factual report on its activities to the General Council towards the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference, offering recommendations, if needed, that reflect the discussions among Members.]

Paragraph	Proposed Paragraphs or Additional Textual Proposals from Members
	<p><u>Alternative from the Director-General</u></p> <p>[We reaffirm the importance of the contribution that the multilateral trading system can make to addressing global environmental challenges, including climate change and related natural disasters, loss of biodiversity and pollution, and promoting the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, insofar as they relate to WTO mandates and in a manner consistent with the Members' respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development. We recognise the ongoing efforts of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), including hosting Thematic Sessions to allow Members to deepen discussions, including on the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures. The CTE will provide a factual report on its activities to the General Council before the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference, including possible recommendations.]</p>
<p>Addition to Paragraph 10</p>	<p>[Placeholder on the progress of current work and forward-looking message on Annex 2.]</p>
<p>EIF</p>	<p>[We acknowledge the contribution of Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in building trade capacity of LDCs and we urge the launch of a well-endowed future programme of EIF immediately after the end of second phase to avoid disruption of support in the context of impending conclusion of the EIF Phase II, and we recommend it continues to prioritise the programmes identified by LDCs.]</p>
<p>Ongoing Accessions</p>	<p>[We reaffirm our commitments made at the Twelfth Session to facilitate the conclusion of ongoing accessions, especially for the LDCs, and provide technical assistance, where appropriate, including in the post-accession phase.]</p>
<p>Cross-border Telemedicine Services</p>	<p>[We recall the Declaration at our Twelfth Session on the "WTO response to COVID-19 pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics" and take note of the work done in relevant WTO Councils and Committees. In this regard, [cross-border telemedicine services and building a pool of globally recognised health – professionals have a critical role to enable Members to effectively respond to natural disasters and pandemics and to promote the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals] in so far as they relate to the WTO mandate. [We instruct the relevant WTO bodies including CTS to continue to work on these areas based on Member's submissions, in accordance with the Declaration, and report progress to General Council every year.]]</p>

Paragraph	Proposed Paragraphs or Additional Textual Proposals from Members
<p>Cost of Remittances</p>	<p>[We recognise the significant contribution of cross border remittances towards development and financial inclusion, particularly in developing Members, including LDCs, as well as to promote achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, we recognise the need to reduce the cost of these remittances in advancing financial inclusion. We instruct the Committee on Trade in Financial Services to establish a work programme to develop understanding on factors contributing to the cost of remittance services and explore ways on how WTO, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, can address the challenges in this sector.]</p> <p><u>Alternative Suggestion</u></p> <p>[We take note of the work done to date in the Council on Trade in Financial Services. We recognise that improving the financial empowerment of women and other financially underserved groups is critical to inclusive development. In this regard, we recognise that trade in financial services contributes to expanding access to and use of financial services. We welcome Members' proposals in the Committee on Trade in Financial Services aimed at advancing our understanding of various aspects of financial inclusion. We recognise the contribution of cross border remittances towards development and financial inclusion, particularly in developing Members, including LDCs. In this regard, we welcome the upcoming seminar on cross border remittances in March 2024 and encourage further discussions towards advancing our understanding of financial inclusion.]</p> <p><u>Additional Suggestion</u></p> <p>[We recognise that improving the financial empowerment of women and other financially underserved groups, including indigenous and rural communities, is critical to inclusive development. In this regard, we recognise that trade in financial services contributes to expanding access to and use of financial services. We instruct the Committee on Trade in Financial Services to further discuss how trade in financial services and financial services trade policy can be leveraged to financially empower women and other financially underserved groups.]</p>
<p>TRIPS Matters</p>	<p>[Keeping in mind the upcoming 30th anniversary of the TRIPS Agreement, we the Ministers instruct the TRIPS Council to undertake and finalize its first review under Article 71 on the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement; further, we instruct the Council to expedite its ongoing work to examine the relationship between TRIPS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore, including in cooperation with the WIPO and other relevant international organizations; in order to produce a document for each and make recommendations to the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference. In undertaking this work, the TRIPS Council shall be guided by the objectives and principles set out in Articles 7 and 8 of the TRIPS Agreement and shall take fully into account the development dimension.]</p>

Paragraph	Proposed Paragraphs or Additional Textual Proposals from Members
Trade and Debt	[We acknowledge that increasing levels of debt and global financial crises constitute significant challenges for developing Members, including LDCs, and hinders their capacity to integrate effectively in the multilateral trading framework and achieve sustainable development. We encourage Members to discuss, based on Members' submissions, trade-related approach that could contribute to mitigate these challenges and promote trade finance, including in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, and to report to ministers in the Fourteenth Session of the Ministerial Conference on progress made.]
Coherence	[We underscore the importance of ensuring the coherency of international trade arrangements developed in various international trade-related organizations and in the WTO. With that in mind, we, as participants of such international organizations, will take appropriate steps to ensure that such arrangements are consistent with the WTO rules. We intend to discuss short track procedures aimed at facilitating market access for supplies needed to deal with pandemics and other emergencies.]
Additional Paragraph	[We note the importance of transparent, accessible, and inclusive discussions and recognise that many participants view informal discussions as a particularly important component of developing and building convergence towards multilateral solutions on key issues. We reaffirm that no Member should be prevented from pursuing positive efforts towards improving the framework for the conduct of international trade. Accordingly, this document shall not be used in a manner that would undermine positive efforts among Members to build convergence with a view to improving the framework for the conduct of international trade.]