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G90 MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

SPECIAL & DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

The following communication, dated 1 March 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of South Africa on behalf of the G90.

We, the Ministers representing the Group of Ninety (G90) share the following views:

Our groupings and countries represent a significant proportion of the developing country membership in the WTO. At this critical juncture in the multilateral trading system, we reiterate that our primary objective is to advance and support outcomes that achieve our development. This has been reflected in the submissions and proposals made by our groupings and the countries we represent since the establishment of the WTO.

In recognition of the various global challenges facing Members due to uncertainties confronting the global economy, we reiterate that for us, the essence of our interests in the WTO lies in the substance of the agreements and rules that facilitate development in our countries. One of these includes the role that special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions have in our ability to maintain policy flexibility both in existing and future WTO agreements. We fully support outcomes that address our interests and objectives which must translate into positive outcomes for our trade, improvement in production and supply capacity, improvement in living standards and increased employment and incomes of our people.

We welcome the efforts being made by Members to support these objectives, notably on S&DT in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session. It is regrettable that our longstanding requests have not received the same attention as other negotiating areas and that the discussions towards proposed outcomes on these critical issues are not directly aligned with our requests over the last twenty years.

We reiterate our proposals as captured in previous submissions and reaffirm that all 10 agreement specific proposals remain of high and equal priority.

We therefore reiterate our commitment to fulfilling the letter and spirit of paragraph 44 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration and Decision adopted by the General Council on 1 August 2004, that all Special and Differential Treatment provisions be reviewed with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, on the basis of our submissions.

We are willing to work with all Members to deliver substantive and meaningful results and look forward to more positive engagement with our partners at MC13 and beyond, including in the CTD SS and on the basis of the mandate and our Agreement Specific Proposals.
