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**Ministerial Conference
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**DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION ON IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPARENCY FOR
REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The following communication, dated 8 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation.

Ministers,

Having regard to the transparency provisions of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, the Understanding on the interpretation of Article XXIV of GATT 1994, Article V of GATS, the 1979 Decision of Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries,

Recalling the decision of the Members under paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration of 19 December 2015,

Recognizing, that regional trade agreements have become an important aspect of Members' trade policies and the importance of ensuring the relationship between the Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO rules,

Desiring to further improve and enhance the Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements,

Hereby decide:

To continue the dialogue on improvement of transparency in RTAs within the framework of paragraph 28 of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration of 19 December 2015.

In this regard, to continue discussing systemic implications of RTAs for the multilateral trading system and their relationship with WTO rules and to work towards transformation of the current provisional Transparency Mechanism into a permanent mechanism in accordance with the General Council Decision of 14 December 2006.

The progress made will be examined at the next Ministerial Conference.
