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**DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION ON INVESTMENT  
FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>**

The following communication, dated 5 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Argentina; Brazil; Chile; China; Colombia; Hong Kong, China; Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Liberia; Mexico; Nigeria; Pakistan; Qatar; and Uruguay.

Ministers,

*Recognizing* the dynamic and growing links between investment, trade, and sustainable development in the global economy;

*Highlighting* the central role that investment and trade will play in achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

*Recognizing* the technical and capacity constraints that developing and especially least developed Members face in attracting and expanding investment;

*Desiring* to expand employment, innovation, and inclusive growth, especially for women and MSMEs;

*Reaffirming* the right of Members to regulate in order to meet their policy objectives;

*Considering* the ongoing work in other international settings on investment facilitation as well as existing investment relations and commitments among Members;

*Recognizing* the recent work done so far, including in the framework of the Informal Dialogue on Investment Facilitation for Development, and the need to institutionalise this process in the WTO framework;

*Acknowledging* the importance of closer international cooperation to creating a more transparent, efficient, and predictable environment for facilitating cross-border investment;

*Decide* as follows:

1. To begin structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation.

2. The structured discussions shall identify and develop the elements of a framework for facilitating foreign direct investments that would: improve the transparency and predictability of investment measures; streamline and speed up administrative procedures and requirements; and enhance international cooperation, information sharing, the exchange of best practices, and relations with relevant stakeholders, including dispute prevention. These discussions shall also

<sup>1</sup> This document was previously circulated as JOB/GC/159 dated 27 November 2017.

clarify the framework's relationship and interaction with existing WTO provisions, with current investment commitments among Members, and with the investment facilitation work of other international organizations. These discussions shall not address market access, investment protection, and Investor-State Dispute Settlement.

3. Facilitating greater developing and least-developed Members' participation in global investment flows should constitute a core objective of the framework. Working in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations, developing and least developed Members' requirements in implementing the multilateral framework shall be assessed, so that technical assistance and capacity building support can be made available to address these identified needs.

4. The right of Members to regulate in order to meet their policy objectives shall be an integral part of the framework. The framework shall also be designed to be flexible, adaptable, and responsive to the evolving investment facilitation priorities of Members.

5. These structured discussions shall rely on recent and future contributions by Members, as well as on the exploratory work of the WTO Informal Dialogue on Investment Facilitation for Development.

6. An Investment Facilitation Group shall be established to carry out these structured discussions. The Group shall report to the General Council twice a year on progress made.

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