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**Ministerial Conference
Tenth Session
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**DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF THE GROUP OF SMALL, VULNERABLE ECONOMIES
(SVES) TO THE TENTH SESSION OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

The following communication is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Guatemala on behalf of the SVEs.

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Group of Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs), having met on 15th December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, on the margins of the Tenth Session of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference:

Reiterate the importance of preserving a fair, inclusive and transparent, rules-based multilateral trading system, and underscore the centrality of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in this regard.

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.

In this regard, we strongly urge that the required support is provided to implement the Work Programme.

Note the progress achieved on SVE priorities, especially the work conducted in the CTD's Dedicated Session on the challenges and opportunities experienced by Small Economies when linking into global value chains in trade in goods and services, **and look forward for** the future work on the Work Programme, including the discussions on the challenges that small and vulnerable economies experience in their efforts to reduce trade costs, particularly in the area of trade facilitation.

Recognize that economic recovery still remains one of the challenges affecting the world economic environment. Thus, a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) can contribute to the economic growth and development of the small and most vulnerable.

Urge Members to exercise the requisite political will to reinvigorate and successfully conclude the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations with priority given to the areas of interest and modalities in favor of the SVEs.

Urge Members to exercise caution and ensure that the bodies of the WTO are not used to promote a system of plurilateralism at the expense of the multilateral trading system (MTS).

Reiterate the need for the preservation of development-centered negotiations and the continued safeguard of the principle of the Single Undertaking for the achievement of a balanced and development oriented outcome in the negotiations that is sensitive to the development objectives of SVEs.

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 stabilized 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 the priorities of SVEs to be duly addressed in all areas of the negotiations and regular work.

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

Emphasize the necessity for the continued and further inclusion of SVEs as an integral part of the discussions on, and consultations within the regular bodies and work programmes of the WTO as we seek to become more fully integrated into the multilateral trading system.

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.

Express appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for their warm and generous hospitality and for their contribution to a successful Tenth Session of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference.

15 December 2015
Nairobi, Kenya
