WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Ministerial Conference
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WORK PROGRAMME ON E-COMMERCE[1]

COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The following communication, dated 9 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation.

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION OF XX DECEMBER 2017

The *Ministerial Conference*,

Noting the work done under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce adopted on 25 September 1998;

Recognizing the growing importance of global electronic commerce and its potential to create new opportunities for trade and development;

Recognizing the need to have formal coordinated discussions on e-commerce in the WTO to advance work on e-commerce issues and make substantial progress;

Decides as follows:

1. To establish a Working Group on Electronic Commerce (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") under the auspices of the General Council to perform such functions as may be necessary to ensure efficient continuation of work on e-commerce issues and to provide Members with the appropriate forum for discussions on e-commerce issues and its development, including the possibility of developing international rules.

2. To instruct the General Council at its first meeting in February 2018 to establish a Working Group on Electronic Commerce and appoint its' Chair. The first meeting of the Working Group shall agree on a work plan and the schedule of meetings.

3. That Members shall submit topics for discussion at the Working Group. Topics could include, but not limited to, the following: scope and definitions; existing applicable rules and gaps in the WTO legal framework; existing barriers to e-commerce; confidence building; trade facilitating measures; transparency; increasing participation of developing countries; intellectual property rights.

4. That the Working Group may ask WTO bodies for assistance with specific requests related to their areas of competence. Those bodies shall report back to the Working Group any results achieved.

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[1] Originally circulated in document JOB/GC/137.

5. That discussions within the Working Group on any trade-related e-commerce topic shall to the extent possible take into consideration the views of consumers, regulators and the private sector with the objective of achieving a balance of legitimate interests.

6. To instruct the General Council to hold periodic reviews on the progress made in its sessions of July and December 2018 and July 2019 based on a comprehensive report submitted by the Working Group and report to the next session of the Ministerial Conference.

7. That the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions will be maintained until our next session, which we have decided to hold in 2019.