



11 December 2017

(17-6820)

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**Ministerial Conference  
Eleventh Session  
Buenos Aires, 10-13 December 2017**

Original: English

### **JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF MSMEs"**

The following communication, dated 11 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of the Friends of MSMEs.

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We, the Heads of Delegations representing the following Members of the WTO: Afghanistan; Albania; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; Bahrain; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; European Union; Grenada; Guatemala; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Liechtenstein; Malaysia; Mexico; Moldova, Republic of; Montenegro; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Uruguay and Viet Nam.

*Acknowledge* that the participation of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in international trade has emerged as an important issue in the multilateral trading system and in the WTO agenda;

*Recognize* that MSMEs perform a significant role in the national economies of WTO Members, as sources of job creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth;

*Note* that costs related to foreign trade operations represent a significant burden for the participation of MSMEs in international trade;

*Acknowledge* that MSMEs from developing countries and especially the least developed countries among them face additional obstacles when participating in international trade;

*Decide to build* on the work undertaken by the WTO in addressing trade issues and the relevant work of other international organizations;

*Reaffirm* our commitment, as reflected in document WT/MIN(17)/24 to begin a multilateral discussion through the establishment of a Work Program in the WTO to address some of the obstacles faced by MSMEs in international trade;

*Call* for a dedicated Minister-level meeting on MSMEs at MC11 for all Members to discuss this important topic. We call upon all WTO Members to actively participate in this dedicated meeting;

*Call* all WTO Members to adopt a ministerial decision at MC11 as reflected in document WT/MIN(17)/24 to strengthen efforts aimed at promoting the participation of MSMEs in international trade.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 11 December 2017

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