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## **1 PARAGRAPH B OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM**

### **1.1 Text of Paragraph B**

#### *B. Domestic transparency*

Members recognize the inherent value of domestic transparency of government decision-making on trade policy matters for both Members' economies and the multilateral trading system, and agree to encourage and promote greater transparency within their own systems, acknowledging that the implementation of domestic transparency must be on a voluntary basis and take account of each Member's legal and political systems.

### **1.2 General**

1. The Report of the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) on its 1999 Appraisal of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) concluded that "[g]reater attention should be given to transparency in government decision-making on trade policy matters, in line with Paragraph B of Annex 3."<sup>1</sup>

2. In the Fourth Appraisal, Members reiterated that the TPRM was conceived as an exercise in policy transparency and recalled the importance of the TPRM for the functioning of the multilateral trading system by achieving greater transparency in, and mutual understanding of, the trade policies and practices of Members. The TPRM should thus remain focused on achieving greater transparency in, and understanding of, Members' trade policies and practices and thereby contributing to the smoother functioning of the multilateral trading system. Members stressed that any changes in the functioning of the TPRM's role in enhancing transparency should not jeopardize its present satisfactory performance.<sup>2</sup>

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Current as of: June 2020

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<sup>1</sup> [WT/MIN\(99\)/2](#), section VIII.

<sup>2</sup> [WT/MIN\(11\)/6](#), section IV.