

**Declaration of Ministers of the Group of Small, Vulnerable Economies
(SVEs) to the Eleventh Session of the World Trade Organization
Ministerial Conference**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Group of Small, Vulnerable Economies (SVEs), having met on 9th December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the margins of the Eleventh Session of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference:

Reiterate, pursuant to Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of continued work for a fair, equitable, inclusive, transparent, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system.

Reaffirm the centrality of development in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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.

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

Note the destruction caused during this year's unprecedented hurricane season, particularly to SVEs, and acknowledge that recovery and redevelopment will take many years.

Call on the full flexibility of the multilateral trading system to be deployed regarding the reconstruction measures that may be taken by the affected Members, so that these be considered compatible with the WTO Agreements without altering the rights and obligations of WTO Members.

Recognize that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) can contribute to recovery and growth in world trade and in the global economy.

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 recognized 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 Members' commitment to continue to address in all areas of WTO work, in a substantive and meaningful manner, the needs of small, vulnerable economies (SVEs) and to favorably consider the adoption of such measures that would facilitate our economies' fuller integration into the multilateral trading system.

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

Emphasize the necessity for the continued inclusion of SVEs in the consultations held within the regular bodies and the negotiating groups on issues relating to the work of the Organization.

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 Argentina for their warm and generous hospitality and for their contribution to a successful Eleventh Session of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference.

9th, December 2017
Buenos Aires Argentina