DECLARATION ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

The following Members of the World Trade Organization ("WTO") which have agreed on the expansion of world trade in information technology products ("parties")

Albania  
Australia  
Canada  
China  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
European Union  
Guatemala  
Hong Kong, China  
Iceland  
Israel  
Japan  
Korea  
Malaysia  
Mauritius  
Montenegro  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Switzerland
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu  
Thailand  
Turkey  
United States

Declare as follows:

1. Each party shall bind and eliminate customs duties and other duties and charges of any kind, within the meaning of Article II:1(b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, as set forth below, with respect to the following:

   (a) all products classified with Harmonized System ("HS") 2007 sub-headings listed in Attachment A to this Declaration; and

   (b) all products specified in Attachment B to this Declaration, whether or not they are included in Attachment A.

Staging

2. The parties shall apply three year staging in four equal annual reductions of customs duties, beginning in 2016 and concluding in 2019, as standard staging, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, recognizing that extended staging of reductions may be necessary in limited circumstances. The reduced rate should in each stage be rounded off to the first decimal. Each party shall incorporate commitments on staging for each product into its Schedule of Concessions to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("Schedule of Concessions").

Implementation

3. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, and subject to the completion of domestic procedural requirements, each party shall eliminate all customs duties and other duties and charges of any kind on products listed in the Attachments as follows:

   1 On behalf of the customs union of Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
(a) elimination of customs duties in equal steps, the first such rate reduction effective no later than 1 July 2016, the second such rate reduction no later than 1 July 2017, the third such rate reduction no later than 1 July 2018, and the elimination of customs duties shall be completed effective no later than 1 July 2019; and

(b) elimination of such other duties and charges of any kind, within the meaning of Article II:1(b) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994, shall be completed by 1 July 2016.

Accelerated implementation

4. The parties encourage autonomous immediate elimination of customs duties or accelerated implementation prior to the dates set out in paragraph 3 above, for instance for products with relatively low customs duties.

Scheduling timeframe

5. As early as possible, and no later than 30 October 2015, each party shall provide all other parties with a draft schedule containing (a) the details concerning how the appropriate duty treatment shall be provided in its Schedule of Concessions and (b) a list of detailed HS subheadings involved for products specified in Attachment B, which shall also include a headnote stating that such products shall be provided duty-free treatment wherever they are classified in the HS. Each draft schedule shall be reviewed and approved by the parties on a consensus basis taking into account the concerns expressed by the parties in the negotiations. This review process should be completed no later than 4 December 2015.

6. After this review process has been completed for any such draft schedule of a party, that party shall submit its approved schedule, subject to the completion of domestic procedural requirements, as a modification to its Schedule of Concessions, in accordance with the Decision of 26 March 1980 on Procedures for Modification and Rectification of Schedules of Tariff Concessions (BISD 27S/25).

7. Each party shall implement paragraphs 3 and 6 of this Declaration once the parties review and approve on a consensus basis draft schedules that represent approximately 90 per cent of world trade\(^2\) in the products covered by this Declaration.

Format of draft schedules of concessions

8. In order to implement its binding and elimination of customs duties and other duties and charges of any kind on products listed in the Attachments, each party’s modifications to its Schedule of Concessions shall:

(a) in the case of products classified with HS 2007 subheadings listed in Attachment A, create, where appropriate, sub-divisions in its Schedule of Concessions at the national tariff line level; and

(b) in the case of the products specified in Attachment B, attach an annex to its Schedule of Concessions including all products in Attachment B, which is to specify the detailed tariff classification for those products at either the national tariff line level or the HS 6-digit level.

\(^2\)To be calculated by the WTO Secretariat and communicated to the parties on the basis of the most recent data available.
Acceptance

9. The Declaration shall be open for acceptance by all WTO Members. Acceptance shall be notified in writing to the WTO Director-General who shall communicate it to all parties.

Non-tariff barriers

10. The parties agree to intensify consultations concerning non-tariff barriers in the information technology sector. To this effect, the parties support the possible development of an upgraded work programme on non-tariff barriers.

Final considerations

11. Parties shall meet periodically, and at least one year prior to regular amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature by the World Customs Organization, and no later than January 2018, to review the product coverage specified in the Attachments and consider whether, in the light of technological developments, experience in applying the tariff concessions, or changes to the HS nomenclature, the Attachments should be updated to incorporate additional products.

12. The parties recognize that the results of these negotiations involve concessions that should be taken into account in ongoing multilateral non-agricultural market access negotiations within the framework of the Doha Development Agenda.

Attachments to this Declaration:

- Attachment A lists the HS 2007 subheadings or parts thereof to be covered by this Declaration.

- Attachment B lists specific products to be covered by this Declaration wherever they are classified in the HS 2007.