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TEXTUAL PROPOSAL ON THE DECLARATION OF THE MC10

The following communication, dated 10 November 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on behalf of the Group of Recently Acceded Members (RAMs).

INTRODUCTION

1. The group of WTO Members that have acceded under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement (also known as RAMs) recognizes that developments in world trade pose various challenges to the multilateral trading system and the future of the WTO.
2. The RAMs now account for over 20% of the WTO's Membership. We have undertaken exceptionally high and extensive commitments as compared to the original WTO Members. Our aim in WTO negotiations is to narrow significantly the gap in Members commitments, in order to promote a more level playing field in multilateral trade.
3. As Members collectively prepare for the 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, the RAMs Group would like to submit the following proposed textual language for Parts I and III of the Ministerial Declaration.

TEXTUAL PROPOSAL ON THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

1 PART I – HIGHLIGHTING THE WTO'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS ACROSS ITS FUNCTIONS

1.1. We, the Ministers, celebrate the enlargement of the Organization by accessions in accordance with Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement, both in terms of the numbers of new Members and the trade volume they represent. We recognize the exceptionally deep commitments under WTO rules made by all Members that have acceded to the WTO under Article XII, and the great contributions their accessions have made to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system, and to the further promotion of global trade. The level of commitments to trade liberalization made by Members that have acceded under Article XII is a benchmark for the level of ambition other Members should aim to achieve through their contributions in the current round of negotiations.

2 PART III-FUTURE WORK AFTER NAIROBI

2.1. We strongly reaffirm the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO, and pledge to preserve the negotiating function of the Organization.

2.2. We reaffirm that the Ministerial declarations, decisions and the related achievements since the Doha Ministerial Conference shall be preserved in negotiations, including towards the conclusion of the goals of the Doha Round.

2.3. We commit to reach a balanced outcome in order to achieve a level playing field for all. We undertake to establish all Members' level of ambition for commitments at a level at least equal to the level required of the Members that acceded under Article XII, on completion of the Doha Round.