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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON
SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION AND
THE REASONS FOR IT**

PHILIPPINES

(Ceramic floor and wall tiles)

The following notification, dated 11 January 2019, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Philippines.¹

Pursuant to Article 12.1 (a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the WTO hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards of the initiation of a preliminary safeguard measures investigation on the importation of ceramic floor and wall tiles from various countries.

1 DATE OF INITIATION OF THE INVESTIGATION

The investigation was initiated on 20 December 2018.

2 PRODUCT SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION

Ceramic floor and wall tiles classified under AHTN Codes 6907.2123, 6907.2124, 6907.2193, 6907.2194, 6907.2213, 6907.2214, 6907.2293, 6907.2294, 6907.2313, 6907.2314, 6907.2393, 6907.2394, and 6907.4092.

3 REASONS FOR INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

The investigation was initiated on the basis of evidence submitted by the ceramic tile industry that increased imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles are a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry in terms of declining market share, production, sales, capacity utilization, incurred losses, price depression, and undercutting.

The investigation has been initiated to determine whether safeguard measures are warranted.

¹ A copy of the DTI Notice of Initiation has been submitted electronically. To consult this document, please contact Ms Budd (hilary.budd@wto.org) or Ms Naville (delphine.naville@wto.org) of the Rules Division.