Council for Trade in Goods

WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

I hereby make, under my own responsibility as Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods, the following factual report to the General Council.

Pursuant to the 2017 Ministerial Decision[1] instructing the General Council, *inter alia*, to hold periodic reviews of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (Work Programme, WPEC or WP) in its sessions of July and December 2018 and July 2019, based on the reports submitted by the WTO bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme, the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG or the Goods Council) placed the issue of the Work Programme on the agenda of its meetings held on 23 and 26 March, 3 and 4 July, 12 and 13 November 2018, and 11 and 12 April, and 8 and 9 July 2019. At these meetings, the Chair invited delegations to express their opinions and to make suggestions as to how to work on the preparation of the periodic review to be held in the General Council at its sessions of July and December 2018 and July 2019.

The reports concerning the meetings of the Goods Council of July and November 2018, and July 2019, are contained in documents G/C/60, G/C/64, and G/C/65, respectively.

At its meeting of 8 and 9 July 2019, given that MC12 would take place in June 2020, the Goods Council considered it useful to include the issue of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce on the agenda of the CTG meeting of 14 and 15 November 2019, and that I report to the General Council at its December 2019 meeting.

At that meeting, I recalled the mandate contained in document WT/L/1032 and invited delegations to express their views and opinions and to make suggestions regarding the reinvigoration of the Work Programme and/or the issue of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. However, despite my call, no delegation took the floor at that meeting.

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[1] Document WT/L/1032.