



**REPORT (2020) OF THE COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION
OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS**

1.1. The Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", was established pursuant to the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (WT/MIN(96)/16), hereinafter referred to as "the Ministerial Declaration", and the provisions for the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products (G/L/160), in order to carry out the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the Annex to the Declaration.

1.2. The Committee has held one formal meeting in 2020: 30 October. The minutes of the meeting are contained in document G/IT/M/72. Ms Uma MUNIANDY (Singapore) was elected Chairperson of the Committee for 2020 on 29 July through written procedures.

1.3. As of 30 October 2020, the total number of WTO Members that are participants to the Ministerial Declaration is 82. The Committee has consistently reviewed the status of implementation, a summary of which is provided in document G/IT/1 and its revisions. The document details that all but one participant had submitted the formal documentation for the rectification and modification of their WTO schedules in order to incorporate the commitments arising from the Ministerial Declaration, and that they had been certified by the Director-General. Three implementation issues, concerning India, China, and Indonesia, were raised at the Committee's meeting in October.

1.4. The Committee's rules of procedure provide for observer status in the Committee for WTO Members that are not participants to the Ministerial Declaration, and governments that are observers to the Council for Trade in Goods. Requests for observer status by international intergovernmental organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have been granted observer status, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) has been granted observer status to meetings where issues of HS classification and HS amendments are included on the agenda.

1.5. The Committee continued its deliberations on the Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) Work Programme in 2020. Regarding its work on the Electromagnetic Compatibility and Electromagnetic Interference (EMC/EMI) Pilot Project, the Committee took note that, among the 53 participants (EU-28 countries count as one participant), 43 had provided survey responses and encouraged those that had not yet done so to provide the information without any further delay. It was recalled that in order to advance and expand its work on NTMs other than EMC/EMI, the Committee continued its discussions on the follow-up to the workshop held on 7 May 2015 on NTMs affecting trade in IT products and to the Symposium for the 20th Anniversary of the ITA held in June 2017. At the October meeting this year, the Committee agreed that the Chairperson, in 2021, would continue to undertake informal consultations with interested delegations to examine the recommendations and avenues that were suggested by industry representatives at the 7 May 2015 workshop on NTMs. Upon request, the Secretariat made a presentation on the background of the EMC/EMI Pilot Project at the meeting.

1.6. On classification divergences, the Committee referred to its Decisions concerning the endorsement of the 18 List I-A items for Attachment B (G/IT/27), and for the HS2007 classification of 15 additional "Attachment B" products (G/IT/29); as well as the Secretariat's compilation of comments on possible HS2007 classification for the remaining 22 "Attachment B" items (G/IT/W/40 and its Addenda and Supplements). At the request of the Committee, the Secretariat made a presentation on a new technical note to update the "ITA Model List" (JOB/IT/25) at the October meeting.

1.7. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the reports and updates from those participants that were engaged in the 2015 ITA Expansion (WT/L/956 and WT/MIN(15)/25), and its implementation. The Committee agreed to revert to this matter at its future meetings.

1.8. At the October meeting, the Committee discussed the date and programme for the proposed ITA Workshop projected for the spring of 2021.
