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Committee on Rules of Origin

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**SUBMISSION OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AS LDC COORDINATOR
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI MINISTERIAL DECISION
ON PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
(WT/L/917/ADD.1) TO THE COMMITTEE OF RULES OF ORIGIN**

The following submission, dated 9 April 2018, is being submitted at the request of the Central African Republic on behalf of the LDC Group.

Paragraph 31 of 10th WTO Ministerial Declaration states "Work on all the Ministerial Decisions adopted in Part II of this Declaration will remain an important element of our future agenda." In this context, Least Developed Country Members of the WTO are of the view that implementation of the Decision on Preferential Rules of Origin for Least Developed Countries (hereinafter "the Decision") is one of the major areas of work of the Committee of Rules of Origin.

Paragraph 4 of the Ministerial Decision requires specific actions to be taken by Preference-granting Members and at the Committee on Rules of Origin as subsidiary body on this issue. Therefore, implementation issues concerning this Decision should be kept as a standing item on the Agenda of CRO meetings. These actions include:

Developing country Members declaring themselves in a position to do so should, with appropriate flexibility, undertake the commitments set out in the above provisions (paragraph 4.1);

No later than 31 December 2016 each developed Preference-granting Member, and each developing Preference-granting Member undertaking the commitments in accordance with paragraph 4.1 up to that date or thereafter, shall inform the Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) of the measures being taken to implement the above provisions (paragraph 4.2);

...Members reaffirm their commitment to annually provide import data to the Secretariat as referred to Annex 1 of the PTA Transparency Mechanism (paragraph 4.3).

In light of the decision, the LDC Group proposes that discussion on implementation on the Nairobi Decision on preferential Rules of origin at the Committee on Rules of Origin focusing on the responses by preference granting members on the following questions:

1. What are the steps taken by developed Country Members granting preferences to LDCs to implement the commitments undertaken in the Decision and what are the outcomes?
 2. What are the steps taken by Developing Country Members granting preference to LDCs to implement the Decision and what are the outcomes?
 3. What are the steps being taken by the preference granting Members, who are yet to "annually provide import data to the Secretariat as referred to Annex 1 of the PTA Transparency Mechanism"?
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