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Committee on Rules of Origin

REPORT OF THE CRO TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL AHEAD OF THE 13TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON PREFERENTIAL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR LDCS

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Submission from Djibouti on behalf of the LDC Group

The following submission, dated 16 May 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Djibouti on behalf of the LDC Group.

As a result of the 2022 Decision by the CRO ($\underline{G/RO/95}$) concerning preferential rules of origin for LDCs and the implementation of the 2013 and 2015 Ministerial Decisions, a report will have to be sent to the General Council ahead of the 13^{th} Ministerial Conference describing the work of the CRO. Below, is a proposed table of contents of what such report could contain.

The report would describe progress, lessons learned and best practices from the point of view of LDCs. If necessary, it could note areas of divergence with preference-giving Members. It would cover the different paragraphs of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision drawing and distilling from the previous and future LDC submissions. The following topics would be covered:

- I. Requirements for the assessment of sufficient or substantial transformation:
 - (a) Ad valorem;
 - (b) CTC; and
 - (c) Specific working and processing.
- II. Cumulation.
- III. Documentary requirements.
 - (a) Documentary evidence of direct consignment; and
 - (b) Trade facilitation measures for small consignment including exemptions from proof of origin.
- IV. Lessons learned from the use of the notification of data on utilization rates.
- V. Improvements on notification of law and data.
- VI. Way forward.