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JOINT STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

COMMUNICATION FROM PHILIPPINES

The following communication, dated 3 February 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Philippines.

INFORMAL MEETING OF MINISTERS ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE
24 JANUARY 2020, DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT BY HON. MR. RAMON M. LOPEZ,
SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is pleased to officially join the initiative to actively participate and contribute to the focused group discussions towards a high standard outcome on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce, which builds on existing WTO agreements and frameworks with the participation of as many WTO Members as possible.

There is no other way forward but digital trade. We recognize the importance of electronic commerce not only for business and trade but also for job creation and development, especially for MSMEs and our related initiatives on trade and investment facilitation development. Thus, we share the goal of advancing electronic commerce work in the WTO and address the various parameters and/or rules on e-commerce in order to better harness these benefits by taking into account the unique opportunities and challenges faced by Members, especially developing and least developed countries.

The Philippines welcomes the open, transparent and inclusive nature of this initiative, and looks forward to participating constructively in the negotiating meetings in the lead-up to MC12.
