



**WTO STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS ON  
INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT,  
23 JANUARY 2020, DAVOS, SWITZERLAND**

REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR<sup>1</sup>

The following communication dated 31 January 2020 is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Chile.

1. Chile, as the Coordinator of the Joint Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development, hosted an informal meeting of Ministers to discuss the next steps of the joint initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development at the WTO and pave the way towards a concrete outcome on an investment facilitation framework at the WTO Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12).<sup>2</sup> The meeting was held on 23 January 2020 in the margins of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

2. Following the [Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development](#) issued by 98 WTO Members in November 2019,<sup>3</sup> Ministers at the meeting highlighted the important progress made by the joint initiative both in terms of political support and substance, and re-affirmed their commitment to developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation – keeping transparency, inclusiveness and development at the very heart of the initiative.

3. Ministers re-affirmed their commitment to work towards a concrete outcome on investment facilitation by MC12 and to keep the momentum in the forthcoming crucial months, including by conducting further outreach activities. They also confirmed the decision to move into negotiating mode as of March 2020 in order to achieve such concrete outcome.

4. Ministers welcomed the Philippines as the newest participant in the Initiative, following the announcement made at the meeting in Davos. There are now 99 participating WTO Members, representing well over half of the WTO's membership – as well as 64% of world GDP, 78% of global trade and 68% of global foreign direct investment (inward stock).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The informal gathering, at Ministerial level, was coordinated by Mr Rodrigo Yañez Benítez, Vice-Minister of Trade of Chile, who fulfilled Chile's function as coordinator of the initiative on this occasion.

<sup>2</sup> The meeting gathered Ministers and high-level representatives representing 53 WTO Members (European Union counted as 29).

<sup>3</sup> Document WT/L/1072/Rev.1 dated 22 November 2019. In the November 2019 Joint Ministerial Statement, issued in the aftermath of the Shanghai informal ministerial meeting, 98 WTO Members "committed to intensify work to further develop the framework for facilitating foreign direct investments, and work towards a concrete outcome on Investment Facilitation for Development at the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12)". This joint ministerial statement follows upon the one issued by 70 WTO Members in December 2017 in the margins of MC11, which called for beginning "structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation" (document WT/MIN(17)/59, dated 13 December 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Shares refer to 2018.

5. Ministers conveyed their strong support and commitment in favour of the joint initiative and confirmed that a framework on investment facilitation is seen as an important element to update and strengthen the multilateral rules-based system and make it more responsive to present-day needs and global challenges – notably the financing of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which will require a significant mobilization of investments.

6. Finally, Ministers welcomed the strong support and engagement by the private sector in favour of the initiative – as highlighted in a separate high-level meeting with business leaders, civil society and academics held at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2020 in Davos.<sup>5</sup> Ministers expressed their readiness to further strengthen the dialogue with business and investors, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

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<sup>5</sup> At that meeting, business leaders, government officials, civil society and academics released a message in support of negotiating an international framework on investment facilitation for development at the WTO. It is available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/talks-on-investment-for-development-move-ahead/>.