



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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PHILIPPINES

*Statement by Hon. Mr. Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary of Trade and Industry,
at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Investment Facilitation for Development,
held in Davos, Switzerland on 23 January 2020*

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

The Philippines is pleased to announce its decision to join the initiative and actively participate in the structured discussions to contribute to the development of a multilateral framework on Investment Facilitation for Development.

We see merit in the adoption of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation which will provide a more transparent and predictable investment environment that should enhance and further boost investment opportunities, not only for large investors but also small and medium sized investors from both developed and developing countries. We also see merit in including transitional periods and capacity building mechanisms for developing and least developed countries to assist in the implementation.

The Philippines welcomes the open, transparent and inclusive character of the ongoing structured discussions that will exclude market access, investment protection, and investor-state dispute settlement, and looks forward to the streamlined text, which will serve as the basis of the negotiations to achieve substantial progress towards a significant outcome at MC12.
