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## WTO STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

### SCHEDULE OF OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS JUNE – JULY 2020

#### *Revision<sup>1</sup>*

1. This schedule of meetings for June and July 2020 has been prepared under the Coordinator's responsibility with a view to making good use of time and sustaining the momentum in our work on investment facilitation for development pending the resumption of in-person meetings at the WTO premises.
2. **Three open-ended informal meetings** will be held – **on 5 June, 24 June and 10 July 2020** from **3:00 to 6:00 pm CET** – using a suitable virtual platform (Interprefy) to allow delegations to share information and resume thematic discussions. These three meetings will not serve the purpose of conducting negotiations and, therefore, will not lead to decision-taking or drafting suggestions by the Coordinator.
3. The first meeting, on 5 June, will allow Members to introduce their text proposals and contributions<sup>2</sup> – and the Coordinator to present the informal consolidated text<sup>3</sup> circulated to all WTO Members in April. Thereafter, the floor will be opened for an element-by-element discussion, including questions and answers on submitted text proposals and contributions, based on the thematic structure of the informal consolidated text. This element-by-element discussion will continue at the following meetings (24 June and 10 July).
4. The following modalities will apply:
  - a. In keeping with the open, transparent, and inclusive nature of the discussions, all WTO Members are invited and encouraged to participate in the virtual meetings;
  - b. A short non-attributable informal summary will be prepared under the Coordinator's responsibility for circulation to all Members after each meeting;
  - c. Interpretation will be ensured through the virtual platform; and
  - d. Experts from international organizations – such as the ITC, OECD, UNCTAD and the World Bank Group – will be invited to attend as observers.<sup>4</sup>
5. A more detailed proposed annotated agenda, as well as information about the technical and logistical arrangements – including detailed information on how to join the meeting platform – will be circulated in due time ahead of each meeting.
6. In addition to these virtual meetings, Members are encouraged, on a voluntary basis, to exchange written questions and comments on the proposals, text contributions and other submissions, before each meeting. Members concerned will have the possibility to reply to these questions and comments in writing and/or orally at the following virtual open-ended meeting(s). The coordinator will circulate the written questions, comments and answers to all Members.
7. In parallel, Members are encouraged to conduct informal bilateral or small-group consultations on the proposals as they see appropriate.
8. These temporary work arrangements will be revised in light of future developments.

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<sup>1</sup> This revision only concerns the date of the meeting in July – which has been rescheduled to 10 July.

<sup>2</sup> Text contributions have been submitted by Argentina (INF/IFD/RD/42), and text proposals have been submitted by China (INF/IFD/RD/48), the European Union (INF/IFD/RD/46), Japan (INF/IFD/RD/47) and Turkey (INF/IFD/RD/49).

<sup>3</sup> Document INF/IFD/RD/50 dated 22 April 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Experts from international organizations will attend the meetings as observers, replying to questions or contributing in any other way as requested by any Member.