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**COLOMBIA – MEASURES RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION  
OF TEXTILES, APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR**

RECOURSE TO ARTICLE 21.5 OF THE DSU BY PANAMA

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 22 September 2017, addressed to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

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Article 21.5 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) provides that the panel shall circulate its report within 90 days after the date of referral of the matter to it.

Article 21.5 of the DSU further provides that, when a panel considers that it cannot provide its report within this time frame, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing of the reasons together with an estimate of the period within which it will submit its report.

On 19 June 2017, the DSB decided to refer the dispute *Colombia - Measures Relating to the Importation of Textiles, Apparel and Footwear, Recourse to Article 21.5 of the DSU by Panama* (DS461) to the original panel, if possible. The Panel was composed on 6 September 2017.

Given that the panelists in these proceedings under Article 21.5 of the DSU are also serving in the proceedings initiated at the request of Colombia pursuant to the same provision and that both sets of proceedings are being conducted simultaneously, and taking into account the parties' agreement regarding the deadlines for their written submissions, the Panel expects to issue its final report to the parties by September 2018.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this communication to the Members of the DSB.

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