



## UNITED STATES – COUNTERVAILING MEASURES ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER FROM CANADA

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 15 November 2019, was received from the Chairperson of the Panel with the request that it be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).

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Article 12.8 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) provides that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date the final report is issued to the parties to the dispute, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU provides that, when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel on *United States – Countervailing Measures on Softwood Lumber from Canada* (DS533) was established by the DSB on 9 April 2018 and composed on 6 July 2018.

Due to the complexity of the dispute, the Panel expects to issue its final report to the parties in the first half of 2020.

The report will only be available to the public once it is circulated to the Members in all three working languages of the WTO. The date of circulation depends on completion of translation and the Panel is not in a position to provide an estimated circulation date at this time.

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

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