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(19-8206) Page: 1/1

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## WORK PROGRAMME AND MORATORIUM ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA; CANADA; CHILE, COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; GEORGIA; GUATEMALA; HONG KONG, CHINA; ICELAND; ISRAEL; REPUBLIC OF KOREA; MEXICO; NEW ZEALAND; NORWAY; PANAMA; PARAGUAY; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND; THAILAND AND URUGUAY

## Revision\*

The following communication, dated 28 November 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Australia; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Georgia; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Republic of Korea; Mexico; New Zealand; Norway; Panama; Paraguay; Singapore; Switzerland; Thailand and Uruguay.

Since 1998, WTO Members have periodically taken decisions at Ministerial Conferences to continue their practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions. Recognizing the potential implications on certainty and predictability for business and consumers from the moratorium lapsing prior to the next Ministerial Conference, we propose an extension of the moratorium until the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference and to continue the work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce during this period. We note that the moratorium is without prejudice to Members' right to impose internal taxes, fees or other charges in a manner consistent with WTO Agreements. We propose that the General Council adopts a decision to this effect at its meeting in December 2019 and we will submit a draft decision in the near future.

 $<sup>^{</sup>st}$  This revision is to add Canada, Guatemala, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Uruguay as co-sponsors to the submission.