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General Council Original: English

WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

COMMUNICATION FROM INDIA

The following communication, dated 23 January 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of India.

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

The Ministerial Conference:

Recalling the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" adopted on 25 September 1998 and subsequent Ministerial Declarations and Decisions on the Work Programme,

Concerned with the deep digital divide afflicting developing and least developed countries and noting the need to address the same,

Recognising the uneven spread of global electronic commerce and inequitable gains arising from the digital economy,

Acknowledging the importance of work under the Work Programme in examining trade related issues relating to global electronic commerce, taking into account the economic, financial, and development needs of developing countries,

Decides as follows:

We agree to build on the progress since last Ministerial Conference and intensify the work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, based on the mandate set out in <u>WT/L/274</u> and particularly in line with its development dimension. We instruct the General Council to hold periodic reviews based on the reports that may be submitted by the WTO bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme and report to the next session of the Ministerial Conference.