



17 October 2019

(19-6766)

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PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

DECISION ON EXTENSION OF WAIVER

Adopted on 16 October 2019¹

The General Council,

Having regard to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement"), the Understanding in Respect of Waivers of Obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and the Guiding Principles to Be Followed in Considering Applications for Waivers adopted on 1 November 1956²;

Conducting the function of the Ministerial Conference in the interval between meetings pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article IV of the WTO Agreement;

Considering the decision adopted on 15 June 1999 granting a waiver of paragraph 1 of Article I of the GATT 1994 to the extent necessary to allow developing country Members to provide preferential tariff treatment to products of least developed countries, designated as such by the United Nations, without being required to extend the same tariff rates to like products of any other Member³;

Considering the decision adopted on 27 May 2009 extending the aforementioned waiver until 30 June 2019⁴;

Noting that the exceptional circumstances that justified the initial granting of the aforementioned waiver continue to exist;

Decides as follows:

The waiver contained in the decision of 15 June 1999 (WT/L/304) is hereby extended from 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2029.

¹ Adopted in accordance with the Decision-Making Procedures under Articles IX and XII of the WTO Agreement agreed by the General Council (WT/L/93).

² L/532 (BISD 5S/25).

³ WT/L/304.

⁴ WT/L/759.