



**GENERAL COUNCIL DECISION ON EXTENSION OF UNILATERAL DUTY FREE AND QUOTA
FREE PREFERENCES IN FAVOUR OF COUNTRIES GRADUATED FROM THE LDC CATEGORY**

ADOPTED ON 23 OCTOBER 2023

The General Council,

Having regard to the provision for consensus decision-making in paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO);

Noting proposals submitted by the LDC Group at the General Council ([WT/GC/W/807](#), [WT/GC/W/829](#), and [WT/GC/W/807/Rev.2](#)) as well as the extensive engagement by Members on this matter;

Further recalling the paragraph 5 of the WTO MC12 Outcome Document adopted by Ministers on 17 June 2022 ([WT/MIN\(22\)/24](#), [WT/L/1135](#)) that acknowledges the challenges including the loss of trade-related international support measures after graduation from the LDC category and recognizes the importance of WTO measures to address those challenges;

Decides:

To encourage those Members that graduate or remove countries from unilateral tariff or duty-free and quota free (DFQF) preference programmes reserved for least developed countries (LDCs) based on their being graduated from the UN list of LDCs, to provide a smooth and sustainable transition period for withdrawal of such preferences after the entry into force of a decision of the UN General Assembly to graduate a country from the LDC category.
