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**STATEMENT ON INCLUSIVE TRADE AND GENDER EQUALITY
FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND GENDER**

TWELFTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The following statement dated 12 June 2022, is being circulated on behalf of Iceland, Botswana, and El Salvador.

A strong evidence-based data demonstrates that gender equality and women's economic empowerment can support and contribute to economic growth. Gender-responsive trade policies and rulemaking can create an ecosystem that support women's economic empowerment which contributes to strengthening women's resilience in crises. Gender equality and women's economic empowerment are therefore essential to support sustainable peace and development.

Over the last five years since MC11, research-based evidence and joint work by WTO Members has been carried out and underlined the importance of addressing gender and trade issues at the WTO.

This work is in line with the objectives of the WTO, as stipulated in its preamble, other international and regional instruments and Sustainable Development Goal 5 (on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls).

As Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender, we report that participating WTO Members have:

1. Held thematic discussions on trade and gender issues, putting these issues on the WTO agenda for the first time;
2. Strengthened their experience and expertise in inclusive policy making, including in designing and implementing gender-responsive trade policies, rule-making and Aid-for-Trade programmes; and
3. Started work on the first work plan on trade and gender in the WTO, based on four pillars: (i) gender-responsive policy making; (ii) gender lens applied to WTO; (iii) research and analytical work; and (iv) Aid for Trade.

Based on these achievements, we are committed to continuing work on trade and gender.
