

**Informal Open-ended Meeting hosted by  
the General Council Chair  
(5 November 2021)**

Statement by Hong Kong, China

- Thank you Chair.
- Hong Kong, China would like to reiterate our strong support to the draft decision for adoption at MC12 just presented by Switzerland, and we are pleased to be a co-sponsor of the proposal.
- Hong Kong, China all along believes that the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has contributed to providing the necessary certainty and predictability for the global digital economy to thrive, and that the moratorium should be made permanent. But we recognise that it is a pragmatic way forward to extend the moratorium at MC12 until the following Ministerial Conference and to continue with the work of the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce.
- As Switzerland has pointed out in her opening statement, it would send a wrong signal to the world, if we fail to renew the moratorium at this critical time when so many people, enterprises and governments in different parts of the world are striving to recover from the economic shocks brought about by the pandemic, especially when digital commerce has provided a viable platform for many small businesses, new start-ups and disadvantaged groups at this difficult time.
- Thank you very much, Chair.

**Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva  
November 2021**