



16 January 2024

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General Council

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WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA; BRUNEI DARUSSALAM; CANADA; CHILE; COSTA RICA;
GEORGIA; HONG KONG, CHINA; ICELAND; ISRAEL; KOREA, REPUBLIC OF; LIECHTENSTEIN;
MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF; MONTENEGRO; NORTH MACEDONIA; NORWAY; NEW ZEALAND;
PARAGUAY; PERU; QATAR; SINGAPORE; SWITZERLAND;
SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU;
THAILAND; UKRAINE; UNITED KINGDOM AND URUGUAY

Revision¹

The following communication, dated 16 January 2024, is being circulated at the request of the above-mentioned delegations.

Since 1998, WTO Members have periodically taken decisions to carry on work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and to continue their practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions. We are encouraged by the extensive exchanges under the Dedicated Discussions in response to the 12th Ministerial Conference decision to reinvigorate the Work Programme and we now call on Members to uphold this elevated level of engagement. We take note of the intensified discussions on the moratorium and continued evidence-based exchanges, as we agreed in [WT/L/1143](#).

DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION

1.1. Recognizing the importance of continuing to examine under the Work Programme trade-related issues relating to global electronic commerce, taking into account in particular the development dimension, and of maintaining certainty and predictability for business and consumers, we propose that the Ministerial Conference adopts the following decision:

1.2. We agree to continue the work under the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, based on the mandate as set out in [WT/L/274](#) including the development-related issues under it. We instruct the General Council to identify and focus its work on a set of trade-related topics brought forward by Members, building on its work undertaken during the Dedicated Discussions. To that end, we mandate the WTO to continue collaboration with other international organisations and relevant external stakeholders with the view to enhancing coordination to address challenges related to e-commerce, as identified by Members.

1.3. We instruct the General Council to hold periodic reviews of the Work Programme, based on the reports that may be submitted by the relevant WTO bodies and report to the next session of the Ministerial Conference.

1.4. We agree to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions until the 14th Ministerial Conference and to hold further deliberations on the scope, definition, and impact of the moratorium, including through the continued examination of empirical evidence.

¹ Further to modifications of the content, this revision also adds Brunei Darussalam and Thailand as co-sponsors to the communication.