

(WTO),

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2014,

Recalling also the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 5 December 2019,

Further recalling the Roadmap for accelerated implementation of the VPoA, adopted in 2020, and recognizing its importance in accelerating the implementation of the VPoA and building back better after COVID-19,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling and reaffirming the objectives and principles of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO as global trade rule making body and the need to reinvigorate and strengthen its negotiating function,

Recalling the Astana Ministerial Declaration adopted on 17 May 2018 at the Ministerial Meeting of LLDCs on Trade and Transport held in Astana, Kazakhstan,

Recalling all ministerial declarations of the Group of LLDCs including the Ministerial Declaration at the margins of the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO on 10 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the Ministers of LLDCs, reiterated the strong commitment of the Group of LLDCs to the Multilateral Trading System (MTS), especially in the framework of the negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda,

Recalling the Geneva Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fifth Meeting of Trade Ministers of LLDCs in 2016 which aimed at Harnessing the trade potential of the LLDCs to accelerate the implementation of the VPoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling Ministerial Declarations adopted during the 20th

Recalling the Fifteenth session of the Ministerial Conference of the UNCTAD in 2021

have made efforts to implement the Agreement, including simplification of trade regulations, documents and procedures, border agency cooperation including single-stop inspections, maintenance of agency ETC EMC P MICID 15DC q0.000008866 0 594.96 842.0

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19. We emphasize that agriculture, including the role of trade in achieving food security, is of critical importance to the LLDCs. The continuation of the reform process in order to promote market access; reduction of distortive domestic support measures; the total elimination of all forms of export subsidies; and the promotion of fair rules for agriculture sector will constitute an important tool for the promotion of economic activities and development in LLDCs. We also urge WTO members to examine the issue of the application of SPS measures to goods in transit in the SPS Committee;

20. We acknowledge the importance of global equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and health technologies. We call on all WTO Members to unite for meaningful solidarity in effectively responding to the pandemic, addressing all possible barriers and ramping up the production and equal distribution of the essential health commodities;

21. We commit to working together with our development partners to seize the opportunities offered by technologies to address the COVID-19 crisis, including by scaling up collaboration on essential medicines, vaccines and innovations in health systems;

22. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted that digital transformation and connectivity creates tremendous opportunity for achieving the SDG. However, LLDCs face fundamental challenges including inadequate infrastructure, limited internet access, high cost of broadband, inadequate digital skills and regulatory and data policies. We aim to foster favorable conditions for the development of the digital economy by creating appropriate enabling environment including the necessary policies, legal and regulatory framework to support ICT development in particular the development of broadband, enhancement of digital skills, promotion of digital inclusion, increased adoption and utilization of ICT applications and services. We also call for increased public-private-partnerships and support from the development partners to enable LLDCs to reap the full potentials of the digital technologies and e-commerce and close the digital divide;

23. We recognize that the growth in e-commerce provides international trade opportunities including new market opportunities for LLDCs. We call on UN-OHRLS, UNCTAD, ITU and partners to provide technical assistance to promote e-commerce in LLDCs including through capacity building and advice on, developing the necessary legal framework and improving digital infrastructure. We recognize the importance of a conducive multilateral trade framework for the promotion of digital inclusion and the development of e-commerce in LLDCs. We commit ourselves to fully take into account our interests in multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations on this subject including our fundamental challenges specially the inadequate infrastructure, the underdeveloped legal and regulatory framework as well as the limited digital skills.

24. We note that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact have resulted in lower business and industrial activity, and we call on development partners and international organizations to

COVID-19 era;

25. We recognize that the LLDCs share in services exports still remains very low, and emphasize that an efficient and productive services industry will contribute significantly to productivity growth and for the overall competitiveness of LLDCs economies. We recognize the importance of a conducive multilateral trade framework for the development of their services sector as well as the importance of addressing supply side constraints. We commit ourselves to fully take into account their interests and constraints in multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations on this subject including the granting of economically relevant preferential access to their markets. We call on international organizations and bilateral donors to assist the development of their services sector. In that regard, we affirm our commitment to develop the service sector with the view to addressing supply side constraints, and call on development partners and international organizations to support LLDCs to develop their services sectors and provide market access to LLDCs service providers;

26. We commit to strengthen the works of the LLDCs group in Geneva, in order to maintain regular meetings, share experiences and seek for enhanced support including capacity building for LLDCs, in the main areas of work of the WTO: monitoring, rules making, dispute settlement and capacity building. This effort should allow the Group to enhance our role and establish work plan;

27. In view of the continued hardships in international trade suffered by the LLDCs, we stress the importance to have a specific Work Programme for LLDCs in the WTO that will study the special needs, challenges and vulnerabilities of LLDCs in order to increase their participation in the MTS. We call for exploratory discussions on the establishment of this Work Programme to take place in the Committee on Trade and Development and for the Committee to report to the 13th Ministerial Conference on the outcome of these discussions;

28. We recognize the significant contribution to the strengthening of the MTS of the LLDCs that acceded under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO. For a balanced outcome of trade liberalization negotiations, we stress the need to take into account the extensive commitments undertaken by the Article XII Members upon their accession to the WTO;