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Your Excellencies Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mongolia, Coordinator of LLDCs In Geneva and Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Global Chair of the Group of LLDCs.

Ambassadors Purevsuren and Aitzhanova.

Distinguished Ministers, and Ambassadors.

related logjams could be eased. I am pleased to inform you that the study is just about ready and will be printed before MC12.

Entitled "Easing the Trade Bottlenecks of LLDCs," the study covers several of the priorities you have identified, including trade facilitation, transport connectivity, SPS and study

information via prompt notifications on measures that may influence shipments across their territory. The COVID-19 epidemic has highlighted the importance of information for exporters and transporters to keep trade flowing.

In the area of SPS measures, the WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is helping exporters in Zambia, Ethiopia, and Azerbaijan comply with SPS requirements. The application of such measures to goods in transit is a delicate issue. The study recommends that LLDCs should actively participate in standard-setting processes to ensure that SPS standards are applied to goods in transit only in cases where the goods present a risk to the transit country.

The report also looks at trade in services. LLDCs suffered a 36% decline in services exports in 2020, sharper than in the rest of the world. Services that support more

Moving now to MC12, as you know I believe that to deliver results, we should focus our efforts on two or three concrete areas.

One is ensuring that the trading system responds more effectively to this and future pandemics. This involves freeing up vaccine supply chains by lowering export restrictions and facilitating trade; working with manufacturers to identify supply chain bottlenecks and increase production in developing countries; and finding pragmatic solutions to technology transfer, knowhow, and intellectual property questions. Trade can and must play a role to end the ongoing inequity in access to COVID-19 vaccines, and help your economies rebound.

A second key priority is to conclude an agreement on curbing harmful fisheries subsidies. A deal would make a material difference to global fish stocks, to delivering on SDG target 14.6, and to the WTO's credibility as a forum for negotiating multilateral agreements – including agreements that respond to the major challenges of our time, particularly challenges of the global commons. While the issue of fisheries subsidies may not directly impact LLDCs, you can play a meaningful role as honest brokers.

