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STATEMENT BY THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs*

The following communication, dated 12 April 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Uruguay in their capacity as General Coordinator of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs.¹

1.1. A key conclusion of the open-ended meeting that the Informal Working Group on MSMEs held on 27 March 2018 is that enhanced transparency and access to information on trade-related information are recurring demands from MSMEs, from all over the world, in their efforts to internationalize.

1.2. The Global Trade Helpdesk, developed jointly by the ITC, UNCTAD and the WTO, is a powerful tool that tackles MSMEs' demand for increased trade and market intelligence (<http://www.helpmetrade.org/>). This useful platform needs to be nourished with updated information from each one of us concerning our own markets.

1.3. The responsibility is therefore upon us to help make this tool as complete and efficient as possible.

1.4. We, the Members of the Informal Working Group on MSMEs, call on all WTO Members to contribute to the success of the Global Trade Helpdesk initiative. There is a clear role for all of us to collectively help keep the information accurate, complete and up-to-date and to ensure that such information can be easily fed from our national repositories into the Global Trade Helpdesk. There is a clear beneficiary to all of this: every single one of our MSMEs.

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¹ The Informal Working Group on MSMEs consists of 60 Members (88 if individual EU Member States are included): Afghanistan; Albania; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; the Kingdom of Bahrain; Belize; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominica; the Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; European Union; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Israel; Japan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; the Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao PDR; Liechtenstein; Malaysia; Mexico; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Myanmar; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Turkey; Uruguay and Viet Nam.