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JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON SERVICES DOMESTIC REGULATION

The following communication, dated 13 December 2017, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Albania; Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Indonesia; Israel; Japan; the Republic of Kazakhstan; the Republic of Korea; Liechtenstein; Mexico; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; New Zealand; Norway; Peru; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Turkey; Ukraine; and Uruguay.

1. Ministers representing the following Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO): Albania; Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Indonesia; Israel; Japan; the Republic of Kazakhstan; the Republic of Korea; Liechtenstein; Mexico; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; New Zealand; Norway; Peru; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Turkey; Ukraine; and Uruguay, recognize the importance of good regulatory practice in facilitating trade in services.

2. We acknowledge the valuable work that has been undertaken and good progress made in discussions since the last Ministerial Conference to revive negotiations in the WTO Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR).

3. We reaffirm our commitment to advancing negotiations on the basis of recent proposals as set out in WT/MIN(17)/7/Rev.2 and related discussions in the WPDR and future contributions by Members to deliver a multilateral outcome. We will continue to work together with all Members toward that end.

4. We call upon all Members to intensify work post-MC11 towards concluding the negotiation of disciplines on domestic regulation pursuant to the mandate contained in Article VI:4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services in advance of the next Ministerial Conference.
