

JOINT STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

Ministers representing the following Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO):

welcome the progress made toward WTO negotiations on electronic commerce since the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference at Buenos Aires.

We confirm our intention to commence WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce.

We will seek to achieve a high standard outcome that builds on existing WTO agreements and frameworks with the participation of as many WTO Members as possible.

We recognise and will take into account the unique opportunities and challenges faced by Members, including developing countries and LDCs, as well as by micro, small and medium sized enterprises, in relation to electronic commerce.

We continue to encourage all WTO Members to participate in order to further enhance the benefits of electronic commerce for businesses, consumers and the global economy.