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General Council

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TWELFTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

COMMUNICATION FROM KAZAKHSTAN

The following communication, dated 8 February 2021, addressed to the Chairman of the General Council is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Kazakhstan.

Further to the last General Council meeting held on 16-17 December 2020, the Republic of Kazakhstan expresses its profound gratitude to WTO Members for their continued support of Kazakhstan's offer to host the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference.

As you know well, during the period of 2018-2019, the Government of Kazakhstan has been working closely with the WTO Secretariat and broader membership to ensure successful organization of MC12 on 8-11 June 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic declared by the World Health Organization in March 2020, the Government of Kazakhstan has appealed to WTO Members with the request to postpone MC12 and proposed to host it in Nur-Sultan in June 2021.

At the same time, given the on-going uncertainty and unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kazakhstan fully shares the concerns expressed by WTO Members and agrees that holding MC12 this June may not be feasible.

In view of the above, and as a result of consultations within the Government, I am pleased to inform you that the Republic of Kazakhstan would be deeply honored to chair and co-host jointly with the WTO Secretariat MC12 in December 2021 in Geneva. We trust that this proposal is supported by the WTO General Council. Kazakhstan is strongly committed to working constructively with all WTO Members to ensure successful outcomes of MC12.
