COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATIONS OF SWITZERLAND AND THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU

Market access in services – a contribution to the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda

The following communication from the delegations of Switzerland and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, dated 14 April 2011, is being circulated to the Members of the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services.

1. We strongly believe that it is in every Member’s interest to participate in the services market access negotiations, both to secure a positive outcome on services itself and in support of wider DDA objectives.

2. In order to achieve this goal, we:

   (a) reaffirm our commitment to the objectives and approaches of Annex C of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which need to be implemented in full, with appropriate flexibility for individual developing Members;

   (b) urge Members that were part of the 2008 signalling conference, and other interested Members, to engage in focused and intensive negotiations with the objective of securing high-quality, meaningful schedules of commitments that are substantially improving the quality of offers currently on the table;

   (c) reiterate the importance of the 2001 guidelines and procedures for the negotiations on trade in services, including the fact that there shall be no a priori exclusion of any service sector or mode of supply;

   (d) recognize the fact that special attention shall be given to sectors and modes of supply of export interest to developing Members.

3. To enable Members to assess progress in negotiations, including to identify issues that need to be resolved through senior and political level engagement, Members are encouraged to:

   (a) enhance transparency on the results of work achieved so far by exchanging possible wording to be included in draft schedules, in an informal mode, bilaterally or plurilaterally, as judged most conducive to achieve progress;

   (b) report to the CTS-SS, which would provide the Membership with summaries of the discussions and provide senior-level negotiators with the necessary factual reports.

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