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## JOINT STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

### COMMUNICATION BY GUATEMALA

The following communication, dated 24 July 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Guatemala.

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On 25 January 2019, some WTO Members issued a Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce. In this statement, signatories confirmed their intention to commence WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce.

Based on that, Guatemala is pleased to officially join the initiative to actively participate and contribute to the focused group discussions towards a high standard outcome on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce, which builds on existing WTO agreements and frameworks with the participation of as many WTO Members as possible.

We recognize the importance of electronic commerce not only for business and trade but also for job creation, investment and development, especially for MSMEs.

Thus, we share the goal of advancing electronic commerce work in the WTO and address the parameters and/or rules on e-commerce in order to have legal certainty and the harmonization of global rules. It is important to take into account the challenges faced by Members, especially developing countries such as Guatemala, in the implementation of those rules.

We recognize the importance of cooperation among Members and the World Trade Organization's support to address the challenges and opportunities of digital trade for developing countries.

Guatemala welcomes the open, transparent and inclusive nature of this initiative, and looks forward to participating constructively in the negotiations in the lead-up to MC12.

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