

COMMUNICATION FROM MONGOLIA, NORWAY, AND SWITZERLAND

The following communication, dated 6 July 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of Mongolia, Norway, and Switzerland. Mongolia, Norway, and Switzerland reserve the right to revise, supplement or withdraw this proposal according to the results of further examinations.

SIMPLIFICATION AND HARMONIZATION OF TRADE DOCUMENTS

1. Following-up with the joint communications TN/TF/W/36 by the delegations of New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, as well as TN/TF/W/85 by the delegations of Chile, Korea, Norway and Switzerland, the following draft text is submitted for consideration by the Negotiating Group.

Textual proposal on the use of international trade facilitation standards

Recognizing the need to minimize the incident and the complexity of trade documents, Members shall ensure that:

1. Documentation requirements are no more administratively burdensome or trade restrictive than necessary to achieve their legitimate objectives; and
2. The following is aligned with international trade facilitation standards and recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2(i) to (iii):
 - (i) National trade document formats with the UN-Layout Key or its future updated electronic counterparts in accordance with the Customs Co-operation Council Recommendations on the matter;
 - (ii) National data elements in trade documents with the UN Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED) and future updated versions in accordance with the Customs Co-operation Council Recommendations on the matter; and
 - (iii) Electronic messages to be interchanged between Customs administrations and between Customs administrations and other trade users with international standards for electronic information exchange in accordance with the Customs Co-operation Council Recommendations on the matter.

In exceptional cases where this is necessary to pursue a legitimate objective, Members may deviate from the international trade facilitation standards under paragraph 2(i) to (iii), in conformity with GATT 1994 Articles XX and XI.
