

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/GC/W/377  
19 October 1999

(99-4502)

General Council

Original: English

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1999 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Proposals Regarding Implementation Issues  
(Paragraph 9(a)(i) of the Geneva Ministerial Declaration)

*Communication from Cuba, Dominican Republic and Honduras*

The following communication, dated 18 October 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic.

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### DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION ON PREFERENCES

*Ministers,*

*Mindful* of the need to facilitate the phased and balanced integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system;

*Recognizing* the persistent situation of dependence on a limited number of commodities faced by the structurally-weak, vulnerable and small developing countries;

*Agree* on the following:

1. By virtue of the present Decision, a waiver shall be granted to all preference-giving countries from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2010.

2. Under no circumstances shall Members of the WTO challenge this waiver for its entire duration.

3. Preference-giving countries shall not subject preferential market access to conditionalities, whether trade-related or not, in order to comply fully with the provisions of the Enabling Clause.

4. Preference-giving countries shall not initiate any form of unilateral action against preference-receiving countries, including through "warnings", "watch lists", "priority watch lists" or any other form of discriminatory characterization; and

5. Compliance with this decision shall be monitored by the General Council through examination of notifications presented by preference-giving countries every three months.

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