

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation

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

The following communication, dated 21 July 2006, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu.

ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This text-based proposal is based on the former proposals submitted by Chinese Taipei (TN/TF/W/62; 19 September 2005 and TN/TF/W/118; 7 June 2006), on "establishing a long-term mechanism on trade facilitation matters", and "institutional matters related to Trade Facilitation". Please note that this proposal is intended to serve as a basis for Members' further consideration.

2. Trade Facilitation is a long-term process. As international economic environments change, Trade Facilitation measures will need to be revised accordingly in order to achieve the same goals in the future. When it comes to the implementation phase, Members will definitely face difficult issues and challenges, such as the use of international standards, the application of risk management techniques, and the provision of technical assistance and capacity building. We believe these challenges are crucial to the success of this negotiation. Therefore, we propose to establish a committee to deal with these issues as well as others that may arise in the future.

II. TEXTUAL PROPOSAL

3. The establishment of a Committee on Trade Facilitation

- (i) "A Committee on Trade Facilitation is hereby established, and shall be composed of representatives from each of the Members. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman and shall meet as necessary, but no less than once a year, for the purpose of affording Members the opportunity to consult on any matters related to the operation of this Agreement or the furtherance of its objectives. The Committee shall carry out such responsibilities as assigned to it under this Agreement or by the Members. The WTO Secretariat shall act as the secretariat to the Committee.
- (ii) The Committee shall establish working parties or other bodies as may be appropriate, which shall carry out such responsibilities as may be assigned to them by the Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement."