COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NOTIFICATION OF OBJECTION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND'S REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF ITS SCHEDULE OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

The following communication from the delegation of the Russian Federation, dated 3 February 2023, is being circulated to all WTO Members.

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This notification is in response to document S/C/W/416, dated 20 December 2022, which contains a request by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("UK") for certification of improvements to the UK's Schedule of Specific Commitments pursuant to the "Procedures for the Certification of Rectifications or Improvements to Schedules of Specific Commitments" (S/L/84).

The Russian Federation supports the outcome on services domestic regulation. The Russian Federation does not object to the certification of the substance of the proposed improved commitments.

However, the Russian Federation notes that modifications to schedules can be made only to the authentic texts of schedules that have entered into force. As acknowledged in the footnote to the certification request (document S/C/W/416), "the process of certification of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's schedule has not yet concluded" so the referred draft schedules (S/C/W/380 and S/C/W/380/Corr.1) legally cannot be modified.

For this reason, the Russian Federation considers that, at present, it would not be possible nor appropriate to proceed with giving legal effect to the additional commitments on services domestic regulation as improvements to the UK Schedule of Specific Commitments.

The Russian Federation expresses its openness to work addressing the aforementioned concerns and readiness to withdraw its objection upon reaching a satisfactory resolution of the matter described above in para. 3.

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