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**General Council**

**AGENDA ITEM 3.B.: FOLLOW-UP TO OUTCOMES OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES -  
BUENOS AIRES (MC11), NAIROBI (MC10) AND BALI (MC9)**

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

*Thursday, 14 December 2023*

1.1. I will only focus on areas where there are new developments to report since the previous meeting of the General Council and that have not been covered in any way under the previous sub-items.

1.2. In doing so, I am mindful that some of the matters that we discuss under this item intersect with MC12 outcomes – and have already been covered under the previous sub-item. For any areas that I do not mention today, my reports on these matters at previous GC meetings under this agenda item stand.

1.3. Starting with the LDCs services waiver, the day before the December meeting of the Council for Trade in Services, the LDC Group presented a communication on how to implement the mandate in paragraph 8 of the MC12 Outcome Document with regard to the services waiver. The submission puts forward a number of proposals for action by the Secretariat and the Council.

1.4. Members reiterated their continued support for the operationalisation of the waiver but indicated that they needed more time to review the LDC proposal in detail, including its resource implications.

1.5. On preferential rules of origin for LDCs, Members took stock of the implementation of the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Decisions in the Committee on Rules of Origin, resulting in a substantive report, submitted to the General Council for consideration. It is contained in document [G/RO/99](#).

1.6. While the Committee on Rules of Origin has been submitting annual reports to the General Council, you will notice that this report is longer and more detailed. It reviews the work of the Committee in different areas covered by the Ministerial Decisions and offers some guidance concerning the future work of the Committee.

1.7. On trade facilitation, the current rate of implementation commitments stands at just over 77 per cent for the entire WTO membership.

1.8. On Aid for Trade, the CTD Chairperson informed me that the deadline for responses to the Aid for Trade Monitoring and Evaluation exercise was extended to 5 January. Let me recall that this exercise will help understand the trade and development priorities of developing economies and LDCs, donors, South-South partners, and regional economic communities. For all those who have not yet sent their responses, you have until 5 January to do so, and I encourage everyone to participate in this exercise.

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