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1 PARAGRAPH A OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

1.1 Text of Paragraph A

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improve and streamline its reports in order to make them more effective in achieving the objectives of the TPRM and, at the same time, help reduce documentation and translation costs of the TPRB".³

4. With respect to the trade policy reviews of least developed country Members, the 2013 annual report by the TPRB states that:

Trade Policy Reviews of LDCs have helped to enhance understanding in these countries of the WTO Agreements, enabling better compliance and integration into the multilateral trading system. In some cases, better interaction between government agencies has been facilitated by the reviews. The reports' wide coverage of Members' policies also enables Members to identify any shortcomings in policy and specific areas where further technical assistance may be required. When requested by the Member concerned, the Secretariat organizes follow-up seminars to discuss the outcome of the trade policy review process with domestic stakeholders.⁴

1.3 Reference to the practice of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

5. The WTO's TPRM continues and expands the TPRM of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT 1947), which was established on 12 April 1989 on a provisional basis by a GATT Council Decision adopted as one of the "early harvest" decisions of the Uruguay Round.⁵ The 1989 Decision established the TPRM "to contribute to improved adherence by all contracting parties to GATT rules, disciplines and commitments ... by achieving greater transparency in, and understanding of, the trade policies and practices of contracting parties