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1 PARAGRAPH F OF THE TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

1.1 Text of Paragraph F

F. *Appraisal of the Mechanism*

1.5 Fifth Appraisal of the TPRM

4. The Fifth Appraisal of the operation of the TPRM began on 2 July 2013, and the Report was adopted by the TPRB at its meeting on 28 October 2013.⁷ During the Fifth Appraisal, Members concluded as follows:

4.1 Members recalled the importance of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism for the functioning of the multilateral trading system by achieving greater transparency in, and mutual understanding of, the trade policies and practices of Members. They acknowledged that the TPRM had proven all the more vital in recent years in the aftermath of the economic crisis and in the collective efforts to keep protectionism at bay. Therefore, Members stressed the need to ensure the proper operation of the TPRM, including through the full participation of all Members.

4.2 Members underlined that the TPRM has generally performed its functions well. Members also considered that the various changes introduced to the TPRM following the fourth Appraisal (section 2 of this note) have worked satisfactorily, but that more time is needed to fully appreciate all aspects of these changes before agreeing to make them definitive. Similarly, Members stressed the need to keep this Appraisal light and simple in view of the forthcoming ninth Ministerial Conference.

4.3 Consequently, Members agreed that the changes introduced following the fourth Appraisal will continue to apply on a provisional basis until the next (sixth) Appraisal. It is understood that, in the meantime, nothing prevents the TPRB deciding on more specific areas for further improving the functioning of the TPRM. In this regard, recalling some of the points raised in this Appraisal, Members expressed an interest in reflecting further on, *inter alia*, how the meetings can be made more interactive; how to facilitate the full participation of all Members, especially developing countries and LDCs, in the review meetings; whether the review meetings could be made more accessible to the public; what could be done to simplify the handling of large sets of questions and help identify which aspects are of the greatest systemic importance; whether there is a need to revise the time-frame for reviews; what other measures could be taken to reduce the costs involved in TPRs and the burden imposed on Members; and the potential formats for government reports.

"(1) The trade monitoring meetings will have a regular item on the agenda which gives an opportunity for Members to provide brief reports on significant changes in their trade policies between reviews, in the manner as envisaged in Section D of Annex 3 to the