

On the occasion of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the

Equally, instead of looking critically inward, many leaders of the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender are attempting to reform the WTO in a manner that promotes more of the same ongoing liberalisation that takes the institution further away from reshaping itself for the better; for meeting the development promises to developing countries and LDCs and to women thereof in all their diversity, multiple roles, and facing discrimination based on hierarchies of gender, class, race, ethnicity, migration status, age, sexuality and gender identity, etc.

We want to emphasise that the development context is critical for women's lives across the Global South. Trade policy space for autonomous development is crucial in order to meet broader development objectives such as income, food and health security, and develop digital infrastructure capabilities without which trade cannot comprehensively benefit women. When such development pathways are blocked by WTO rules, including through the attack on special and differential treatment, any tinkering on trade