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**REPORTS ON G-20
TRADE AND INVESTMENT MEASURES¹
(MID-OCTOBER 2015 TO MID-MAY 2016)**

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We are pleased to submit our reports on G-20 trade and investment measures ahead of the G-20 Trade Ministers' Meeting on 9-10 July in Shanghai, China. At their meeting in Antalya, Turkey, in November last year, G-20 Leaders reaffirmed their standstill pledge with respect to measures affecting global trade and investment and their commitment to roll back protectionist measures. They mandated WTO, OECD and UNCTAD to monitor and to report publicly on their adherence to these commitments. Our reports delivered today under this mandate cover trade and investment measures implemented in the period from mid-October 2015 to mid-May 2016.

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Attachments: Joint Summary on G-20 trade and investment measures
 Trade report
 Investment report
 Summary of trade and trade-related measures taken since October 2008
 (made available separately)

Joint Summary on G-20 Trade and Investment Measures

We recall that G-20 Leaders, at their last Summit in Antalya, Turkey, in November 2015, delivered a strong message in support of global trade and investment as important engines of economic growth and development, generating employment and contributing to welfare and inclusive growth. In reaffirming their longstanding commitment to standstill and rollback on protectionist measures they also pledged to remain vigilant and to continue to monitor progress in this respect. Recognizing that the WTO, as the backbone of the multilateral trading system, should continue to play a central role in promoting economic growth and development, Leaders also reaffirmed their determination to better coordinate efforts to reinforce trade and investment.

During the review period between mid-October 2015 and mid-May 2016 world trade continued its volatile path. The most recent WTO trade forecast of 7 April 2016 predicted merchandise trade volume growth of 2.8% in 2016, unchanged from 2015. At the same time, over the last seven months, there appears to have been a relapse in G20 economies' efforts at containing trade-restrictive measures.

The fifteenth WTO Report on G20 Trade Measures shows that the monthly average of new trade restrictions recorded was the highest since the beginning of the monitoring exercise in 2009. While G20 economies also adopted more trade-facilitating measures during this review period compared to the last, the trend overall is still in the wrong direction. It is positive that some G20 countries are eliminating trade restrictions, but the rate by which this is done remains too slow to change the trend which saw the overall stockpile grow by 10%. Of the total number of 1,583 trade restrictions recorded for G20 economies since 2008, only 387 (25%) had been rolled back by May 2016.

Providing leadership in eliminating existing trade restrictions and refraining from introducing new ones must remain a central priority for the G20. The recent increase in the number of trade restrictions introduced by the G20 economies requires closer scrutiny in upcoming monitoring reports.

The majority of the investment policy changes introduced by G20 economies between October 2015 and May 2016 enhanced openness for foreign investment. This confirms the long-term trend since the monitoring exercise began. Among the G20 investment policy measures taken since 2009 and recorded in this series of inventories established by OECD and UNCTAD, over 80% of measures specific to FDI – expressed in numbers – were liberalizing in nature.

This does not mean, however, that investment abroad has generally become easier or more attractive. Many factors that home and host countries control influence the possibility and viability of foreign investment, and the measures included in this inventory are only the formal changes that governments have made. Beyond is a series of more informal or less traceable measures – such as the administration of existing policies, the exercise of discretion, and the signals governments send to investors – that influence whether investors feel confident to invest abroad.

While the present inventory cannot trace these developments – essentially because these decisions and their motivations are often not publicly documented – G20 members should bear in mind that they will only reap the benefits of foreign investment if they demonstrate openness and transparency in practice.