



27 September 2019

(19-6247)

Page: 1/3

Original: English

**INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON MSMEs**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE COLLECTION AND  
MAINTENANCE OF MSME-RELATED INFORMATION**

*Revision<sup>1</sup>*

*Communication from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia,  
the Russian Federation and Uruguay*

The following communication, dated 27 September 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Russian Federation and Uruguay.

---

*Recalling* the Declaration on the Establishment of a WTO Informal Work Programme for MSMEs (WT/MIN(17)/58);

*Recognizing* that information on and of particular interest to MSMEs is not systematically considered in WTO Trade Policy Reviews;

*Desiring* to support the WTO Secretariat in its regular work on trade policy reviews;

*Noting* the discussions by the MSME Informal Working Group of information of particular interest to MSMEs that could be included in WTO Trade Policy reports;

*Seeking* to ensure that such information is collected and catalogued for ongoing use and reference; and

*Acknowledging* that the provision of such information is voluntary;

*Recommends* that:

1. All WTO Members voluntarily provide during their trade policy review process, to the extent it is readily available, the MSME-related information contained in the checklist in Annex 1. Members are encouraged to provide additional information not included in the checklist, as appropriate.
2. Members provide such information either in their own Government Reports, by asking the Secretariat to request the information for inclusion in its Reports, or a combination of both.
3. In drafting its Government Report, the Member includes the MSME-related information in a dedicated section of the report as well as in other relevant sections, as appropriate.
4. If a Member asks the Secretariat to request MSME-related information for inclusion in the Secretariat Report, the Secretariat is encouraged to include it in a dedicated section as well as in other relevant sections, as appropriate.

---

<sup>1</sup> This revision is to add Colombia as a co-sponsor to the submission.

5. Members whose trade policy reviews will not occur within [three] years of the adoption of this recommendation, or Members who do not wish to provide through their trade policy review process the MSME-related information included in the checklist contained in Annex 1, are encouraged to voluntarily provide it, to the extent it is readily available, directly to the Informal Working Group within [three] years of the adoption of this recommendation.

6. The WTO Secretariat establish and maintain a database of the information collected or provided by Members in order to: (i) provide Members with an overview of MSME-related information; (ii) support an exchange of information between Members; and (iii) inform analysis and discussions of MSME-related agenda items in WTO Councils and Committees.

---

**ANNEX 1****CHECKLIST OF MSME-RELATED INFORMATION TO INCLUDE  
IN WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEWS****Background information**

1.	How MSMEs are defined for the purposes of statistical and policy analysis.	
2.	Available statistics on the role of MSMEs in the economy and their participation in international trade; any identifiable trends. This information could include: (i) total number of MSMEs; (ii) percentage of businesses that are MSMEs; (iii) employment profile of MSMEs, e.g. percentage of total employment generated by MSMEs; (iv) export and imports by MSMEs, e.g. percentage of all exports and imports for MSMEs, total number of MSMEs that are exporting and importing.	
3.	Available statistics on MSME ownership by diverse groups (e.g., women, youth, minority populations, etc.).	

**Marketplace Framework**

1.	Specific references, if any, to MSMEs in the domestic marketplace framework (i.e., legislative and regulatory regime).	
2.	Consultation mechanisms, if any, for MSMEs to provide feedback on new or revised legislation and regulations.	
3.	Processes implemented, if any, to review new legislation or regulations in relation to their effects on MSMEs.	
4.	Procedures, if any, to support MSMEs' compliance with new regulatory or legislative requirements.	

**Government Programs and Policies**

1.	Targeted support programs and/or policies, if any, to help MSMEs grow domestically and/or export internationally. This could include supports for SMEs to increase their competitiveness, innovation or digital capabilities.	
2.	General programs, if any, that provide financial support to scale-up or export and are accessible by MSMEs.	
3.	Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements, if any, to support MSMEs in cross-border trade, e.g. cooperation, investment.	
4.	Collaborative engagement with other countries that support MSMEs, e.g. international cooperation efforts on standardization to reduce regulatory burden across jurisdictions.	