

WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
Singapore, 9-13 December 1996

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON TRADE IN  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

SINGAPORE, 13 DECEMBER 1996

*Ministers,*

*Representing* the following Members of the World Trade Organization ("WTO"), and States or separate customs territories in the process of acceding to the WTO, which have agreed in Singapore on the expansion of world trade in information technology products and which account for well over 80 per cent of world trade in these products ("parties"):

Australia  
Canada  
European Communities  
Hong Kong  
Iceland  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Korea

Norway  
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan,  
Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu  
Singapore  
Switzerland<sup>1</sup>  
Turkey  
United States

*Considering* the key role of trade in information technology products in the development of information industries and in the dynamic expansion of the world economy,

*Recognizing* the goals of raising standards of living and expanding the production of and trade in goods;

*Desiring* to achieve maximum freedom of world trade in information technology products;

*Desiring* to encourage the continued technological development of the information technology industry on a world-wide basis;

*Mindful* of the positive contribution information technology makes to global economic growth and welfare;

<sup>1</sup>On behalf of the customs union Switzerland and Liechtenstein.