SINGAPORE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON ENSURING SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIVITY AMIDST THE COVID-19 SITUATION

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted trade flows and disrupted supply chains. Maintaining trade connectivity is critical in enabling countries to respond effectively and efficiently to manage the pandemic.

2. In recognition of the importance of upholding trade and supply chain connectivity, Singapore and New Zealand initiated a Joint Ministerial Statement on 20 March 2020, to affirm our shared commitment to maintaining open supply chains amidst the pandemic. We were joined by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile and Myanmar in this collective response on 25 March 2020.

3. Since then, we have welcomed more like-minded countries on board, namely Lao PDR, Nauru, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. We are pleased to also welcome China which has joined the statement today. Their participation is a positive affirmation of the importance for countries to work closely together to identify and address trade disruptions with ramifications on the flow of necessities.

4. Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing said, “We are encouraged that 12 countries are now on board this Joint Ministerial Statement. It sends a strong signal of our collective commitment to ensure the continuity and interconnectivity of supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore welcomes other like-minded partners to join our continued efforts to keep trade lines open and refrain from imposing restrictions that hinder trade, so that we can emerge from this crisis stronger and rebuild our economies.”

Ministry of Trade and Industry
2 July 2020

ANNEX: Updated Joint Ministerial Statement on Supply Chain Connectivity

For media queries, please contact:

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ANNEX


1. The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious global crisis. As part of our collective response to combat COVID-19, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People’s Republic of China, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay are committed to maintaining open and connected supply chains. We will also work closely to identify and address trade disruptions with ramifications on the flow of necessities.

2. We recognise that it is in our mutual interest to ensure that trade lines remain open, including via air and sea freight, to facilitate the flow of goods including essential supplies.

3. We affirm the importance of refraining from the imposition of export controls or tariffs and non-tariff barriers and of removing any existing trade restrictive measures on essential goods, especially medical supplies, at this time.

4. We are committed to working with all like-minded countries to ensure that trade continues to flow unimpeded, and that critical infrastructure such as our air and seaports remain open to support the viability and integrity of supply chains globally.

MINISTER FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT, AUSTRALIA, SENATOR THE HON SIMON BIRMINGHAM

MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY II, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, HON DATO DR AMIN LIEW ABDULLAH

MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS, EXPORT PROMOTION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, CANADA, HON MARY NG

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CHILE, TEODORO RIBERA

MINISTER OF COMMERCE, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ZHONG SHAN
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, KHEMMANI PHOLSENA

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, NAURU, HON LIONEL ROUWEN AINGIMEA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU

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MINISTER OF ECONOMY, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, SULTAN BIN SAEED AL MANSOURLI

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, URUGUAY, ERNESTO TALVI

2 JULY 2020