

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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Council for Trade in Services

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STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES

GATS Article V Notifications of Economic Integration Agreements pursuant to Article V of the GATS

The attached statement has been received from the delegation of the United States with the request that it be circulated to Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

Article V of the GATS requires, inter alia, Members who are parties to a regional trade agreement to promptly notify such agreement and any enlargement or significant modification of that agreement to the Council for Trade in Services. However, in the view of the United States, it appears that a number of such agreements have not been notified to the Council for Trade in Services.

In addition, several such agreements have been notified, but have not been transmitted to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements for the purposes of carrying out the required examinations. The United States would welcome a discussion on how to improve the timeliness of such notifications and transmittals. Further, the United States proposes that the Council act on agreements that have been notified but have not yet been referred to the CRTA. This would help to ensure that the obligations of Article V are being fulfilled, with a view to assessing the extent to which such agreements are beneficial to trade and the overall goals of multilateral trade liberalization.
