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**PANAMA — MEASURES CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF
CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM COSTA RICA**

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL

The following communication, dated 11 October 2023, addressed to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), is circulated in accordance with Article 12.9 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).

Article 12.8 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) provides that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date the final report is issued to the parties to the dispute, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU provides that, when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel on *Panama - Measures Concerning the Importation of Certain Products from Costa Rica* (DS599) was established by the DSB on 27 September 2021 and composed on 24 January 2022.

On 13 June 2022, the Panel informed the DSB that the beginning of its work had been delayed due to a lack of Spanish-speaking personnel in the Secretariat available to staff disputes.¹ Accordingly, the Panel did not expect to issue its final report to the parties prior to the second half of 2023.

The Panel wishes to inform the DSB that, due to the delayed start of the work, the complexity of the dispute and the large number of claims involved, the Panel now expects to issue its final report to the parties at the end of the third quarter of 2024.

The report will only be available to the public once it is circulated to the Members in all three working languages of the WTO. The date of circulation depends on completion of translation and the Panel is not in a position to provide an estimated circulation date at this time.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the DSB.

¹ WT/DS599/6.