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Page: 1/1

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INDONESIA – MEASURES RELATING TO RAW MATERIALS

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 6 December 2019, from the delegation of the United States to the delegation of Indonesia, and the delegation of European Union, is circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

This concerns the request for consultations by the European Union in *Indonesia – Measures Relating to Raw Materials* (WT/DS592/1). My authorities have instructed me to notify the consulting Members and the Dispute Settlement Body of the desire of the United States to be joined in these consultations, pursuant to Article 4.11 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes*.

The United States has a substantial trade interest in these consultations. Indonesia is the world's largest nickel producer, accounting for roughly a quarter of world nickel production and reserves.¹ Accordingly, the measures identified by the European Union – including a ban on export of nickel ore, domestic processing requirements, domestic marketing requirements, and export licensing requirements – would reduce global nickel supply and increase prices.

The United States imports considerable quantities of minerals that are subject to the measures challenged by the European Union. The United States imported a total of \$2.9 billion worth of nickel in 2018 from various sources, and the United States is the second largest importer of nickel from Indonesia and the world's second-largest nickel importer.² The United States is also the world's leading importer of nickel metal waste and scrap.³ Nickel is a vital input for a range of goods – including steel, jet engines, and batteries for electric vehicles – for which the United States is a leading producer, and imported nickel accounts for roughly half of U.S. nickel consumption.⁴ As such, the United States considers that it has a substantial trade interest and requests to be joined in these consultations.

¹ U.S. Geological Survey, *Nickel Commodity Summary 2019*, <https://prd-wret.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/atoms/files/mcs-2019-nicke.pdf>.

² U.S. Census 2019, *Trade Data Monitor*.

³ *Trade Data Monitor*.

⁴ U.S. Geological Survey, *Nickel Commodity Summary 2019*. The United States produced 2.4 million tons of nickel-bearing stainless steel and alloy products in 2018, accounting for slightly less than half of U.S. primary nickel consumption, along with substantial quantities of nonferrous alloys and super-alloys, and advanced manufactured goods such as engines and electric vehicle batteries.