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**COLOMBIA – MEASURES RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF
TEXTILES, APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR**

REQUEST TO JOIN CONSULTATIONS

Communication from Guatemala

The following communication, dated 28 June 2013, from the delegation of Guatemala to the delegation of Colombia, the delegation of Panama and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

I wish to refer to Panama's request for consultations in *Colombia - Measures Relating to the Importation of Textiles, Apparel and Footwear* (DS461).

Textiles and apparel production is one of the most important sectors for the Guatemalan economy. It generates some 90,000 direct and indirect jobs, 46% of which are held by women. As an economic activity, the sector accounts for 4% of domestic production and 21% of industrial production and is the second largest in terms of exports.

It is Guatemala's understanding that the measures questioned by Panama do not affect Guatemalan exports, since Colombia excluded from the application of these measures any imports originating in countries with which it has existing free trade agreements.

Nevertheless, Guatemala has a systemic interest in this dispute and wishes to join the consultations. Guatemala is interested to know Panama's and Colombia's views regarding the interpretation of the provisions cited in the legal basis for the complaints.

We hope that Colombia will accord sympathetic consideration to the present representations made by Guatemala. Guatemala and Colombia share the desire to enhance the rights of third parties and together promote increased third party participation in the dispute settlement mechanism.
