

**AUSTRALIA – CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING TRADEMARKS,
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND OTHER PLAIN PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING**

Request to Join Consultations

Communication from South Africa

The following communication, dated 30 July 2012, from the delegation of South Africa to the delegation of Australia, the delegation of Dominican Republic and to the Chairperson of the Dispute Settlement Body, is circulated in accordance with Article 4.11 of the DSU.

Pursuant to Article 4.11 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), South Africa hereby notifies the Governments of Australia and the Dominican Republic of its request to be joined in the consultations requested by the Dominican Republic in the document circulated to WTO Members on 23 July 2012 entitled *Australia – Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks, Geographical Indications and Other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco Products and Packaging* (WT/DS441/1).

South Africa has a systemic interest in the application and interpretation of the provisions of the relevant WTO Agreements, in particular, the TRIPS Agreement. South Africa keenly follows how matters relating to the balance between public health and trade obligations, are resolved.

In view of this systemic interest that we have in this matter, South Africa wishes to notify Australia, the Dominican Republic and the Dispute Settlement Body that it desires to be joined in the consultations requested by the Dominican Republic. We look forward to acceptance of this request.
