

**AMENDMENT OF THE TRIPS AGREEMENT – EXTENSION OF THE PERIOD FOR THE  
ACCEPTANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE TRIPS  
AGREEMENT**

*Decision of 18 December 2007*

The General Council,

*Conducting*, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article IV of the WTO Agreement, the functions of the Ministerial Conference in the interval between meetings of the Ministerial Conference;

*Having regard* to paragraph 2 of the Decision of the General Council of 6 December 2005 on the Amendment of the TRIPS Agreement (the "Decision") and paragraph 3 of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement (the "Protocol")<sup>1</sup>, which provide that the Protocol shall be open for acceptance by Members until 1 December 2007 or such later date as may be decided by the Ministerial Conference;

*Recalling* that, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Decision and paragraph 4 of the Protocol, the Protocol shall take effect and enter into force in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article X of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement");

*Noting* that acceptance of the Protocol by two thirds of the Members in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article X of the WTO Agreement is taking longer than initially foreseen;

*Having considered* the proposal to extend the period for acceptances of the Protocol submitted by the Council for TRIPS (IP/C/45);

*Decides* as follows:

The period for acceptances by Members of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement referred to in paragraph 2 of the Decision and paragraph 3 of the Protocol shall be extended until 31 December 2009 or such later date as may be decided by the Ministerial Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> WT/L/641.