

## DECLARATION

The undersigned:

Organizations representing commerce, employers and employees;  
Aruba Bankers Association (ABA), Aruba Financial Center Association (AFCA), Aruba Food & Beverage Association (AFBA), Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association (AHATA), Aruba Jewelers Association (AJA), Aruba Trade & Industry Association (ATIA), Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA), Arubaanse Vereniging voor Accountants (AVvA), Arubaanse Vereniging van Belastingconsulenten (AVvB), Comerciantenan Uni Aruba (CUA), Federacion di Trahadornan di Aruba (FTA), Insurance Association of Aruba (IAA), Kamer van Koophandel en Nijverheid (KvK), Sindicato di Empleadonan Publico y Privado di Aruba (SEPPA), Sindicato di Maestro di Aruba (SIMAR), San Nicolas Business Association (SNBA), Sindicato di Polis di Aruba (SPA), Sindicato di Trahadornan Arubano (STA), Sindicato di Trahadornan den Telecomunicacion (STT), Vacation Rental Professionals Aruba (VRPA), Vereniging van Werknemers met een Individuele Arbeidsovereenkomst bij WEB N.V. (VWI), Werkgevers Arubaanse Bouwnijverheid (WAB)

WHEREAS:

- the government has decided to implement a tax reform, including a VAT/BTW SYSTEM as per January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023;
- the consequences of the implementation of the tax reform will have drastic financial and administrative consequences for the commerce, employers and employees;
- to this date, the government has provided limited information and/or opportunity for all stakeholders to study the implications. This is necessary in our opinion as it can have far reaching consequences if not all aspects have been considered.
- as the draft legislation has not been shared yet, the implementation date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 is not realistic and does not allow enough time for the stakeholders to prepare.
- the stakeholders are of the opinion that any reform should entail simplification of the tax system combined with increased tax compliance and cost cutting/decreasing the government expenditures.
- the undersigned have serious concerns and,

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Not to implement any tax reform or increase the current tax burden in any way until the stakeholders have had sufficient time to analyze and provide feedback on the proposed legislation.
2. The stakeholders will install a commission of 3 experts to:
  - a) analyze the government's proposed tax reform measures;
  - b) determine the financial, economic, and social consequences of such reforms;
  - c) provide realistic suggestions/advice regarding a tax reform that is suitable for Aruba's long-term wellbeing.

Thus, agreed and signed on August 15, 2022