

**General Council meeting  
9-10 May 2022**

**Hong Kong, China's Statement**

**Item 10. Work Programme on Electronic Commerce and Moratorium on Imposing Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions – Request from India and South Africa**

- Thank you, Chair.
- First of all, I would like to join other colleagues in bidding farewell to the Permanent Representatives who are leaving Geneva and would take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Ambassador Mathias FRANCK for his leadership and efforts in facilitating the discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. I would also extend a warm welcome to all Permanent Representatives who are joining General Council meeting for the first time.
- Coming back to Agenda Item 10. Hong Kong, China has commented on this matter several times before and is not going to repeat them in detail today, but would just highlight that digital trade has played a vital role in sustaining the global economy during the pandemic and we believe it will also be a driving force for post-pandemic global economic recovery.
- Noting that the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has underpinned a stable and predictable e-commerce environment for over two decades, Hong Kong, China strongly supports extension of the moratorium to at least MC13 so as to sustain the current enabling environment for international digital trade. We would also like to reaffirm our support for the continuation of the work under the Work Programme so that Members can continue to address the issues of concern to them.
- Thank you very much.

**Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva  
May 2022**