

**Informal Trade Negotiations Committee and
Informal Heads of Delegations Meeting
on 30 September 2021**

Hong Kong, China's Statement

- Thank you, Director-General, for your frank assessment and sharing. I would also like to thank the various Negotiating Group and Committee Chairs for their comprehensive reports.
- Today, I am going to focus on four priority issues for the coming MC12.

Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations

- First, fisheries subsidies. While it is encouraging to see Members' positive engagements after the summer break, as other Members have pointed out, we have seen little movement on the outstanding major issues. We hope that Members will continue to work constructively together to resolve the outstanding differences and achieve meaningful and balanced outcomes in this long overdue initiative by MC12.

WTO's Response to the Pandemic

- On the WTO's response to the pandemic, Hong Kong, China (HKC) is pleased to see that Members have been deepening their engagement under the Facilitator-led process. We highly appreciate Members' contributions and efforts as well as Ambassador Walker's leadership. Looking ahead, we will continue to work with Members in a constructive and pragmatic manner, so as to produce meaningful outcomes in this important subject by MC12.

E-commerce Moratorium

- Turning to e-commerce. For more than two decades, the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions has underpinned a stable, predictable and conducive environment for international e-commerce.

- HKC would reiterate our support for making this moratorium permanent, and if such a consensus could not be forged in time by MC12, we believe the moratorium should be extended further until at least the following Ministerial Conference. Such a decision is critical to avoiding unnecessary disruptions to the global e-commerce environment during the current pandemic, it will also be essential to the post-pandemic global economic recovery.

Dispute Settlement System

- Finally, on the dispute settlement system. We share many other Members' views that we should take concrete steps to restoring a fully functioning two-tier WTO dispute settlement system, which is a key pillar of the rules-based multilateral trading system. Members should agree on a work programme by MC12 for resolving the prolonged impasse in the Appellate Body.
- Thank you very much.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva
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