

## **General Council Meeting on 25 and 26 July 2022**

### **Hong Kong, China's statement**

#### **Item 2 – Implementation Matters from MC12 Mandates**

- Thank you, Chair.
- First of all, I would like to join others in bidding farewell to those colleagues who are leaving Geneva, and welcoming the new Permanent Representatives who have just arrived.
- On Agenda Item 2, since Hong Kong, China did not speak at the special HoD meeting on 7 July, I would like to focus on three issues in the implementation of the MC12 Mandates today.

#### ***Fisheries Subsidies Agreement***

- First, fisheries subsidies, Hong Kong, China is delighted that we have finally managed to agree on multilateral rules on eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies. The Agreement demonstrates that the negotiation function of the WTO is alive and well, and that the rules-based multilateral trading system is capable of delivering results on new subjects of importance to economies around the world.
- Hong Kong, China is committed to making timely preparation to ratify the Agreement and hope that all Members will keep up the momentum and act early to bring this meaningful Agreement into force and get ready for the next phase of fisheries negotiations.

#### ***E-commerce***

- Second, e-commerce, the extension of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission also shows that we, at the WTO, are able to respond to the call of the business communities around the world, including MSMEs. That said, it is abundantly clear that our work on this important matter must continue.
- Hong Kong, China all along considers the moratorium a key measure contributing to maintaining a stable, predictable and conducive e-commerce environment. We remain committed to reinvigorating the work under the Work Programme and intensifying discussions on the moratorium as agreed

in the MC12 Ministerial Decision, with a view to coming up with a permanent solution by MC13. We are open-minded to the format in which the discussions are to be conducted.

### ***Dispute Settlement System***

- Lastly, on the dispute settlement system. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of restoring the full function of the two-tier dispute settlement system, which is a key pillar of the WTO rules-based multilateral trading system.
- Hong Kong, China would like to reiterate our commitment to engaging constructively in any discussion with other Members for the necessary changes and improvements to the existing system, with a view to restoring a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024 as denoted in the MC12 Outcome Document.
- Thank you very much.

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