

**Dispute Settlement Body Meeting
(18 December 2024)**

Hong Kong, China's intervention

Item 3. Appellate Body Appointments: Proposal by Afghanistan; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Benin; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; the European Union; Gabon; The Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; the Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Tunisia; Türkiye; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Viet Nam; Zambia and Zimbabwe (WT/DSB/W/609/Rev.26)

- Thank you, Chair.
- Hong Kong, China (HKC) wishes to convey its gratitude to Colombia for introducing this proposal, which has garnered the support of 130 Members. We reaffirm our previous remarks on the subject and underscore our dedication to the ongoing process of dispute settlement reform.
- We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Ambassador Usha Dwarka-Canabady for her exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to the reform process.

- A well-functioning dispute settlement mechanism is vital for maintaining the fairness and predictability of the multilateral trading system. While we recognise that Members continue to hold diverse perspectives and are at varying stages of readiness regarding certain aspects of the reform discussions, we are encouraged by the willingness of Members to seek convergence on various fronts. The stakes are high, and the outcomes of this reform are not just theoretical—they have direct and tangible consequences for the functioning of the WTO and the multilateral trading system. We therefore support the consultations to be conducted by the GC Chair early next year to give the reform process a clear direction.
- Meanwhile, we regard the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) as a practical solution that addresses the current need for an operational dispute settlement mechanism. The MPIA ensures that participating Members retain access to an impartial and reliable appeal process during this interim period. We encourage Members who are still not parties to it to consider joining the agreement.
- We look forward to continued constructive engagement with all Members in our shared pursuit of a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system that is accessible to all.
- Thank you.
