

**Dispute Settlement Body Meeting
(24 February 2025)**

Hong Kong, China's intervention

Item 5. 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; and good morning colleagues.
- Hong Kong, China supports Colombia's proposal, which has received the backing of 130 Members. We refer to our previous statements on the matter.
- The dispute settlement function lies at the heart of the WTO's rules-based system, providing Members with a predictable and enforceable framework to resolve trade disputes fairly and efficiently. It ensures that trade rules are applied consistently, thereby upholding the credibility and stability of the multilateral trading system. It is precisely during challenging times that we must demonstrate our commitment to a sound and reliable dispute settlement system and maintain our trust in the multi-lateral trading system.

Hong Kong, China remains dedicated to pursuing a balanced solution that upholds the integrity of the system for the benefit of all.

- In the interim, the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) is a pragmatic and effective response to the immediate need for a functioning dispute settlement process. The MPIA offers participating Members access to a reliable and impartial appeal mechanism during this transitional phase. We encourage interested Members to join the MPIA before the Appellate Body resumes its operation.
- We look forward to continuing our constructive engagement with all Members as we work collectively towards restoring a fully operational and inclusive dispute settlement system that serves the interests of the entire membership.
- Last but not least, we wish to thank you, Ambassador Saqer Abdullah Almoqbel for your leadership in the past year as the Chair of the DSB and also congratulate on your new role as the GC Chair. Meanwhile, we would also like to congratulate Ambassador Clare Kelly of New Zealand on her taking up as the Chair of the DSB. We look forward to working under the guidance of both of you in the coming year.
