

**Dispute Settlement Body Meeting  
(27 January 2025)**

**Hong Kong, China's intervention**

**Item 2. United States – Origin Marking Requirement (Hong Kong, China)  
(DS597)**

- Thank you, Chair.
- We express deep disappointment at the US' request to once again place this item on the DSB agenda. Our position on this matter has been clearly articulated in our previous statements. While we would prefer not to use the DSB meeting to defend our inherent rights under international law, the US' repeated and unfounded allegations against our national security laws and human rights compel us to address the facts once more.
- The panel ruling in DS597 has delivered a clear and impartial assessment of the issues at hand, comprehensively addressing all relevant arguments. The US continues to exploit WTO rules and misuse DSB meetings as a platform for political purposes. Not only are the allegations made by the US inappropriate, unfounded, and regrettable, such actions undermine the fairness, respect, and efficiency that are the cornerstone principles of the multilateral trading system.
- Hong Kong, China is a society governed by the rule of law, firmly upholding the principle that laws must be respected and offenders held accountable. This commitment is widely acknowledged by the international community. The National Security Law ensures that human rights are both respected and protected while safeguarding national security. Our judiciary operates independently, and all cases are handled strictly based on evidence and in accordance with the law. Defendants are guaranteed a fair trial, as enshrined in the Basic Law and the Hong Kong Bill of Rights. Any attempt to interfere with Hong Kong's judicial proceedings constitutes a blatant affront to the rule of law and an attack on judicial independence. We urge the US to cease making baseless and false accusations.

- Chair, this is the 14th time we have had to address this matter. The panel ruling clearly vindicates our position, confirming that the US' actions lack legal justification and affirming the legitimacy of our challenge.
- We urge the US to respect the rules of the multilateral trading system, as Hong Kong, China, consistently does. Lastly, concerning DS597, Hong Kong, China, stands ready to proceed through the due process of appeal, should the US lift its blockage on Appellate Body appointments.
- Chair, I would like to reiterate that this matter should not have been brought to today's DSB meeting agenda.
- Thank you.

**Item 6. 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 thanks Colombia for introducing this proposal, which has garnered the support of 130 Members. We take this opportunity to

reaffirm the views expressed in our previous statements and to reiterate our strong commitment to the Dispute Settlement reform.

- A fully operational dispute settlement mechanism is vital to maintaining the fairness and predictability of the multilateral trading system. Although we could not deliver the results as we would have hoped before end of 2024, we believe we should continue with the work we have done so far. As things now stand, we support the GC Chair's plans to conduct a fresh round of consultation, with a view to giving the reform a clearer direction. While we recognize the diversity of opinions and varying levels of readiness among Members on certain aspects of the reform process, Hong Kong, China remains dedicated to fostering consensus and pursuing a balanced solution that benefits all.
- In the meantime, we regard the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) as a practical response to the current need for a functioning dispute settlement process. The MPIA ensures that participating Members have access to a credible and impartial appeal mechanism during this transitional period.
- We look forward to continued constructive engagement with all Members as we collectively strive for a fully functional and inclusive dispute settlement system that serves the entire membership.
- Thank you, Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*