

Meeting of the General Council
(20-21 May 2025)

Statement by Hong Kong, China

***Item 3. Report by the Chairperson of the Trade Negotiations Committee and
Report by the Director-General***

- This is the first time that I take the floor, so I am going to start by extending my warm welcome to all the newly arrived colleagues, and to bid farewell to the departing Ambassador Simon Manley and the departed Ambassador Li Chenggang.
- On the subject of the TNC, I should like to thank the report of the Director-General in her capacity as TNC chair. Today, I would like to focus on the process instead of the individual content of the roadmap. I see the roadmap as a good working method to give us a framework as to how we progress from here to MC14. The clarity is appreciated. I see that as a member-driven process and appreciate the transparency. I note that DG has mentioned that there would be a revised version of the document. We look forward to receiving that. It would be actually even better if we could have received it before this meeting.
- On the date of the MC, as I mentioned in the TNC meeting, we can be flexible, but the certainty will be very welcome. What I consider to be very helpful is the proposed change of mind-set to have a clear cut-off time, not only for sizing up what would be the package we take to Yaoundé, but also a clear cut-off time for the MC itself. The sense of urgency, the commitment or the discipline to stick to the deadline is helpful.
- Another point I would like to make is that all along we have been talking about reform. We all recognise that the WTO is here to deliver outcome, but our scorecard in that respect is not that impressive so far. We know that is the problem. But when we talk about reform, we need to be very specific as to what we seek to fix. I appreciate that we will have the process to discuss exactly what will be the content of reform, what we will try to reform for this organization to stay resilient and relevant in the face of increasing uncertainties. That's all I'd like to say at this juncture noting the time constraint. Thank you, Chair.