

## **Origin Marking Requirement by the United States**

### **Hong Kong, China's Intervention** **at the Committee on Trade Facilitation** **Meeting on 20 October 2020**

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor.

2. On 11 August this year, the United States (US) announced a revised origin marking requirement for Hong Kong products imported into the US. Under this revised requirement, which is scheduled to come into effect on 9 November this year, goods produced in Hong Kong and to be exported to the US may no longer be marked to indicate “Hong Kong” as their origin, but must be marked to indicate “China” instead.

3. Hong Kong, China expresses our strong objection to the revised origin marking requirement imposed by the US. We have already written to request the US to withdraw such measure with immediate effect, and invited the US for bilateral discussions with a view to resolving the matter in our mutual interests. Regrettably, the US has so far not withdrawn the measure.

4. This US measure disregards the fact that Hong Kong is a separate customs territory with its own trade policies and origin rules. The measure also ignores the well-established origin marking rules in the WTO that aim to facilitate the flow of international trade and to eliminate unnecessary trade barriers. By arbitrarily dictating the name to be used on the origin marking without regard to the facts, prevailing commercial practices and relevant WTO rules, this US measure would impose unnecessary burden and difficulties to the business communities of both sides and cause confusion to US customers. The US measure in question would not be conducive to expediting the movement, release

and clearance of goods; and would hinder the achievement of the objectives under the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA).

5. Hong Kong, China is a staunch supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system. Members may recall that we were the first of the WTO Members, back in December 2014, to have formally accepted the TFA, showing our strong commitment for cooperation among Members to facilitate trade. Today, under the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of trade facilitation in the global economy is greater than ever. We therefore urge the US to honour the spirit of trade facilitation, observe relevant WTO rules, and withdraw immediately its revised origin marking requirement on Hong Kong products.

6. Thank you.

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

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