

Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference
Thematic Session on WTO's Response to the Pandemic
(including the TRIPS Waiver)
(13 June 2022)

Hong Kong, China's Statement

- Thank you Chair. Hong Kong, China (HKC) would also like to thank the two facilitators for their dedicated efforts in assisting Members to work out solutions to these two important matters.
- The pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global crisis, and the world is rightfully expecting the multilateral trading system to play its role in maintaining an uninterrupted supply of essential medical goods and services under the pandemic.
- We believe that any pandemic-related measures must be targeted, proportionate, transparent and transient, and we must learn from the current challenge so that we may enhance the resilience of Members and the institution for any future global health crises.
- The WTO, being at the core of the rules-based multilateral trading system, has to present a concrete collective response to the pandemic. We need a united, coordinated and timely response in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and support for the post-pandemic recovery.
- HKC also understands fully the pressing concerns about the inadequate supply and distribution of medical products in low- and middle-income countries. We consider that Members should put in concerted efforts to scale up research, development and manufacturing activities to strengthen access for all to high-quality, safe and affordable vaccines and medicines.
- HKC is a co-sponsor of the initiative on trade and health. We believe we are close to reaching a consensus on the WTO Response to the Pandemic and are ready to join other Members in bringing it to fruition. We would also call on Members to exercise their utmost flexibility for reaching consensus on the TRIPs waiver.
- Thank you very much.
