

**Special General Council Meeting**  
(14 February 2024)

**Statement by Hong Kong, China**

- Director-General, GC Chair, Chairpersons and Facilitator of negotiating groups, a big thank you to you all for your strategic and persistent efforts to drive progress.
- **Hong Kong, China (HKC)** would also like to express our appreciation of the thoughtful arrangement of our host, United Arab Emirates.
- After months of hard work since MC12, we are at the doorsteps of celebrating a range of breakthroughs. In accession, we are welcoming two new members after a hiatus of eight years. On LDC graduation, we have a concrete GC decision for Ministers to bless.
- What's more, a plurilateral Investment Facilitation Agreement is already on the plate. About three quarters of the WTO membership, including HKC, are all set to request for its incorporation into the WTO Agreement. We are in all earnest to make it the first newly-added WTO plurilateral agreement in 30 years since the WTO came into existence.
- On the other hand, unfinished business remains. To HKC, the extension of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmission is indispensable if the WTO is to stay relevant.
- A credible Dispute Settlement reform to restore a fully functional DS system in 2024 is just as critical. Since MC12, Members have indeed worked very hard to find solutions to address concerns in the DS system, yet the consolidated text from the informal discussion process as at this week remains a half-baked proposal with a crucial ingredient missing. At MC 13, our Ministers should give the world a pledge on the next steps to bring the DS reform to fruition before the end of 2024.
- HKC remains committed to continuing our constructive participation in all unfinished business, including the Fish 2 negotiation and the drafting of the Outcome Document.

- Chair, a heavy agenda awaits our ministers in Abu Dhabi. Delegating upwards rarely produce good outcomes. In the next few days, let us all exercise the maximum possible flexibility to whittle down brackets and rainbow texts and find bridging solutions.
- Thank you.

**Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva**  
**February 2024**