

## **General Council Meeting on 3 March 2020**

### **Statement of Hong Kong, China (HKC)**

#### **Item 8: Procedural Guidelines for WTO Councils and Committees Addressing Trade Concerns – Communication from Albania; Australia; Canada; China; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; New Zealand; North Macedonia; Norway; Panama; Qatar; Singapore; Switzerland; The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Thailand; Turkey; and Ukraine (WT/GC/W/777/Rev.5)**

- Thank you, Chair. As a co-sponsor, HKC would like to thank the European Union for leading this proposal on procedural guidelines, and in particular for its continued efforts in reaching out to interested Members.
- As we have suggested in different forums of this organisation that small concrete steps can be important steps, we continue to see value in making the day-to-day operation of WTO bodies more efficient, and believe that this proposal is a solid and practical contribution to the broader reform efforts.
- The latest revised version of the proposal has taken into account the constructive suggestions from many Members. We would reiterate our support for this proposal and hope that the changes made will help address the concerns and comments raised by some Members earlier.
- Thank you.