

## **Dispute Settlement Body Meeting**

**(28 October 2024)**

### **Hong Kong, China's Intervention**

**Item 3. Appellate Body Appointments: Proposal by Afghanistan; Angola; Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Benin; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte D'ivoire; Cuba; Democratic Republic of Congo; Djibouti; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Eswatini; The European Union; Gabon; The Gambia; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Republic of Korea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Lesotho; Liechtenstein; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Namibia; Nepal; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; The Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; The Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Tunisia; Türkiye; Uganda; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uruguay; The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Viet Nam; Zambia; and Zimbabwe (WT/DSB/W/609/REV.26)**

- Thank you, Chair.
- Hong Kong China thanks Colombia for the proposal, which has the support of 130 Members. We refer to our previous statements made on this matter.
- We also want to reiterate our support towards the Dispute Settlement (DS) reform process, which has been marked by significant progress, with all stakeholders working together to identify areas for improvement and propose concrete solutions, with a view to enhancing the system to make it more efficient and accessible. This reform is crucial in upholding the principle of fair and free trade, and that a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of our

rules-based multilateral trading system. To meet the 2024 deadline, we acknowledge the need for swift convergence in the reform process, and we hope we could move to the drafting stage as soon as possible. We recognize that there may still be differences in opinion and varying levels of readiness on different aspects among Members, but we remain committed to finding common ground and working towards a mutually beneficial solution. We look forward to continuing our constructive dialogue with all Members and exploring ways to achieve this goal. Meanwhile, the Multiparty Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) offers a pragmatic solution in the interim, as it addresses the immediate need for a functioning dispute settlement system and provides Members who have joined the MPIA with access to an independent appeal process for dispute settlement.

- Thank you.

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