

**Formal Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) and  
Informal Heads of Delegation (HoDs) Meeting  
(28 February 2023)**

**Hong Kong, China's Statement**

**Work in Preparation for MC13**

- I would like to highlight two priority areas of work for Hong Kong, China in the preparation for MC13: they are fisheries subsidies and restoration of a fully functioning dispute settlement system.

Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations

- First, on fisheries subsidies. We are pleased to note that some Members have already completed their domestic procedures with regarding to implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. In this connection, Hong Kong, China would like to report that our relevant authorities at home are also actively preparing for implementation of the Agreement, with a view to contributing to its early entry into force.
- As to the second wave of negotiations, we recognise that Members do have different wishes and priorities on the outstanding issues. Hong Kong, China fully supports the work plan presented by the new NGR Chair at the informal Heads-of-Delegation meeting last week (20 February), and we will continue to engage constructively in the negotiations.

Dispute Settlement Discussion

- Turning to the Dispute Settlement System. The restoration of a fully-functioning binding, two-tiered dispute settlement system is a top priority for Hong Kong, China. We are glad to note that many Members also share the same view.
- We cannot emphasise enough how important the Dispute Settlement system is to the WTO. It not only assists Members in resolving trade disputes among themselves, but also supports making of new rules by reassuring Members that there will be an effective mechanism for enforcement of newly agreed provisions.

- The MC12 outcome document has set out a timeframe for restoring a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024. Members should step up efforts to make this happen.
- A new stage of informal discussion on the Dispute Settlement reform commenced earlier this month (17 February). Hong Kong, China is pleased to note the progress in this important area of work and will continue to engage constructively with other Members so as to revitalise the dispute settlement function of the WTO.
- In this connection, we would also highlight the importance of early involvement of the General Council and its subsidiary bodies in the relevant discussions, or in the review and consideration of recommendations that may be generated in the process so as to prepare all Members for a consensus to the eventual submission to MC13.

**Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva**  
**February 2023**