

**Trade Policy Review of Macao, China
(First Session on 15 December 2020)**

Statement of Hong Kong, China (HKC)

- Thank you, Chair. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Macao, China's delegation led by Mr TAI Kin Ip, the Director of Macao Economic Bureau. I would also like to thank the discussant, Ambassador Da Silva Izata, for sharing with us her insights, and the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive report.
- Hong Kong, China (HKC) cherishes our close relationship and cooperation in various aspects with Macao, China. Among other things, our trade and economic ties are strong and substantial. In 2019, HKC was the second largest trading partner of Macao, China, and our total bilateral trade exceeded US\$7.9 billion in value.
- Another example of our close ties is the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region, which entered into force in October 2017, with the relevant liberalisation measures in trade in goods and services started to be implemented in January 2018.
- We are pleased to note Macao, China's commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system through maintaining the consistency of its trade measures and practices with WTO rules, formulating and implementing its trade policies with the aim of promoting a free and open trade environment, and upholding its support to the further liberalisation of global trade. We appreciate such commitment especially at a time when protectionism and unilateralism are on the rise in international trade.
- I would like to highlight three specific areas in Macao, China's trade policies, namely trade facilitation, investment facilitation and services.
- On trade facilitation, we are pleased to note that Macao, China introduced the e-Customs Services Web System in 2013 and mobile application in 2016 to provide online application for declarations and licenses, offering users enhanced experience in completing customs procedures. Paperless clearance is now available in every cargo terminal in Macao, China. We commend Macao, China's continued

efforts in simplifying and modernising its customs procedures in response to a rapidly changing trade environment.

- On investment facilitation, Macao, China actively supports the Joint Statement Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD). In particular, it co-sponsored the Joint Ministerial Statements in Buenos Aires in 2017 and in Shanghai in 2019. HKC looks forward to working closely with Macao, China and other like-minded Members to develop the framework on IFD so that we can work towards a concrete outcome at MC 12.
- Lastly, on services, we note that the sector is of growing importance to Macao, China's economy, accounting for 90% of both its GDP and its employment. We encourage Macao, China to continue its effort to pursue progressive liberalisation in trade in services, so as to facilitate its economic diversification and sustainable development.
- Chair, HKC will continue to build on our strong ties with Macao, China to further deepen our bilateral economic and trade cooperation for mutual benefits. We thank Macao, China for its replies to our written questions and wish Macao, China a very successful trade policy review.
- Thank you very much.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office
December 2020