

Statement by India- Delivered by Ambassador & PR to the WTO

Agenda Item 6: SUPPORTING THE CONCLUSION OF FISHERIES SUBSIDIES NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE OCEAN AND FISHING COMMUNITIES - DRAFT MINISTERIAL DECISION - COMMUNICATION FROM BRAZIL (WT/GC/W/815)

Thank you Chair. India thanks Brazil for its communication contained in document WT/GC/W/815.

2. Chair, India remains fully committed to the negotiations on fisheries subsidies as provided under the SDG 14.6 and the MC11 mandates. We are slightly puzzled that the purpose of this draft declaration that either it is an add on to the process going on in NGR; and now that has been accelerated with the arrival of DG or is it a fall back arrangement that if we fail to meet the deadline then in the Ministerial we are expecting this kind of declaration. I would suggest to be optimistic and follow the path shown by the DG and Santiago (NGR Chair) to conclude the negotiations. If we are taking it as a fall back arrangement, we share our concern regarding lack of explicit reference to the Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries and LDCs, an integral and important part of the SDG14.6 and mandate of MC11.

3. In the previous GC meeting, we had highlighted and sought clarification on some of the phrases used in the communication such as “ambitious outcome”, “to curb subsidies that threaten global maritime fish stocks”, “improve existing WTO disciplines in fisheries subsidies” and “highest standards of environmental sustainability”. We hope to receive some clarification on terms used in the communication.

4. Its disconcerting that in the name of collective responsibility the communication puts at par countries with no or very few industrial fishing fleets with countries having highly developed industrialised fishing fleets. We believe that environmental sustainability of fisheries resources, is a classic case for the application of the “polluter pays principle” and “common and differentiated responsibility”.

5. I conclude by saying that while ensuring the sustainability of our oceans, is undoubtedly a shared responsibility, the livelihood of vulnerable fishermen across the globe too depends on an appropriate and effective special & differential treatment to developing countries and LDCs addressing their developmental priorities and concerns of food and nutritional security.

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