

**General Council Meeting  
(05–06 May 2021)**

**Statement by India – Delivered by Ambassador & PR to the WTO**

**Agenda item 5: Trade related Challenges of the LDCs and a Way Forward - a Draft for MC Decision (WTGCW807)**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

2. Chair, my delegation would like to thank Chad and the LDC Group for their proposals contained in document WT/GC/W/807.

3. India has been a strong supporter of LDC's integration into the multilateral trading system, and has been at the forefront of efforts to increase their share in global trade. Towards that, India provides duty free access to about 96% of tariff lines for goods originating in LDCs, with partial preference on another 114 tariff lines (i.e. about 2.15 % of tariff lines). India is the fourth biggest export destination for goods originating in LDCs, after EU, China and US. India also runs a dedicated Centre for WTO Studies for technical assistance and capacity building activities to help LDCs to better integrate into the MTS.

4. Chair, as the submissions notes, LDCs suffer from various capacity constraints and economic vulnerabilities. We, therefore, support that a reasonable period of time be granted as transition period for ensuring a smooth transition for graduating LDCs under the WTO system. We request Members to consider this proposal favourably.

Thank you Chair.

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