

**General Council Meeting  
July 22-23, 2020**

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

**Agenda Item 11: ‘Statement on the importance of market-oriented conditions to the World Trading System – United States’**

Thank you, Chair.

2. We thank the United States and Brazil for their Statement. The U.S.-Brazil joint statement is being examined by our capital and therefore, we will offer our detailed comments on the proposal in due course.

3. Chair, India has strived to pursue pro-market, pro-competition and transparent policies. However, some time State interventions have been warranted to address market failures, given the significant need to pursue pro-poor, pro-welfare, and pro-equity policies to bring millions of people out of poverty. While doing so, India has been mindful of the need to achieve a fair balance between the market and state interventions.

4. As stated by our Prime Minister just yesterday, India celebrates openness in people and in governance. Open minds make open markets. Open markets lead to greater prosperity. India shares these principles with many of its partners including the proponents of this statement. During the last six years, the government has made many efforts to make Indian economy more open and reform oriented. These reforms have ensured increased ‘competitiveness’, enhanced ‘transparency’, expanded ‘digitization’ and more ‘policy stability’.

5. We had raised concerns on the proposal in March, 2020 and we thank the U.S. delegation for providing us more clarity on the proposal in their statement today. However, some aspects contained in the Statement need further clarity and we look forward to discussing with the delegations of the United States and Brazil in the coming days.

6. As a founding member of the WTO, India believes that WTO’s core objective is promoting sustainable development, ‘in a manner consistent with the needs and respective levels of economic development’ of its members. The focus of the WTO, in that regard, is to facilitate trade for welfare and development for the benefit of all members, and India remains committed to supporting measures that are aimed towards that end.

7. I thank you, Chair.

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