

**General Council Meeting
23 – 24 February 2022**

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

Agenda Item 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALI, NAIROBI AND BUENOS AIRES OUTCOMES – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

General Intervention on PSH

Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your statement on this agenda item. Good morning colleagues.

2. We stated this before, and we reiterate that PSH has a clear ministerial mandate: that PSH negotiations must be on an accelerated, separate track. Any effort to link these discussions with other pillars undermines the Ministerial mandate. Unfortunately, the negotiations on finding the solution as per the mandate have not progressed much.

It has not progressed despite;

- i. Two large WTO negotiating groups, the G33 and the African Group making submissions in support.
- ii. The G33 Ministers Joint Statement of September 2021 reiterates the need for expeditious resolution of Permanent Solution on the PSH at MC 12. It reaffirms the G33 Members' commitment and readiness to work with the rest of the WTO members based on the elements contained in the proposals submitted by the G33 Members.

3. Chair, if the WTO membership cannot deliver on the mandated issues of the past ministerial meeting, then first, its competency comes under question. In nutshell, credibility of the WTO hinges on the outcomes of the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Mandates, especially when the food security issues have become pronounced due to the ongoing pandemic. WTO should come out of the self-imposed impasse in these unprecedented times and redeem itself by delivering a permanent solution on the PSH.

4. India has been constructively engaging on this issue with other Members in relevant meetings. We do not support linking PSH outcomes with outcomes in other pillars. Therefore, a key deliverable is a simple, efficient, and permanent solution for extending PSH for food security purposes to new programs and products.

5. On 15 December 2021, the special GC agreed to extend the deadline time up to 31 March 2022 to provide additional time to those members who were still consulting their Capitals. In this regard, India had conveyed its position in the GC of November 2021 and sought to reaffirm the Bali decision in the informal COA meeting of 2 February 2022.

6. Since the S&DT element, as available in Para 4 of Annex A of the Bali decision, is not available in the proposed resolution, India could not concur with the proposal and sought to reaffirm the Bali decision. India remains committed to finding a solution so long as the S&DT element is preserved in any resolution proposed.
