

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

Agenda Item 13. G90 declaration on special and differential treatment – Communication from South Africa on behalf of the G90 (WT/GC/234)

1. Chair, we thank G90 and South Africa for their proposal in the document WT/GC/234. Special and Differential Treatment provisions are an integral part of the Multilateral Trading System. They continue to be a critical aspect of the WTO's framework and a non-negotiable right of all developing countries, for which they have already paid for. They are to be looked at, not as exceptions to the general rules but as an inherent objective of the MTS, something our Ministers agreed in Doha.

2. Given the concerns expressed by Members regarding the effectiveness of S&D provisions in the WTO Agreements, our Ministers in Para 44 of the Doha Ministerial Decision, had given a mandate to review all S&D provisions with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational. Although Members have been discussing these issues since 2002, unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure tangible progress with regard to this Ministerial mandate.

3. The proposal clearly demonstrates the pressing need to agree to the 10 Agreement Specific Proposals to enable the social and economic transformation required by developing and least developed countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to ensure that no one is left behind. The same frustration what we see in fisheries negotiations, should be reflected here also. As we say WTO is about people, certainly this is about people.

4. India believes that the G90 proposal provides a useful basis to advance work in this important area. We appreciate the initiatives by CTD-SS Chair Ambassador Kadra to have discussions in the informal configuration for 10 items. Chair, we hope for a meaningful outcome by MC12. We urge all the Members to collectively work towards finalizing this like we are working for fisheries negotiation.
