

General Council Meeting
9-10 May, 2022

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

AGENDA ITEM 15: LDC VIEWS ON WTO REFORM DISCUSSIONS AND PROPOSALS – COMMUNICATION FROM CHAD ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP (JOB/GC/223/Rev.1)

Thank you Chair.

2. We thank Chad and Cambodia on behalf of the LDC group for their submission on WTO reform proposal and concur with most of its contents, which mirrors the issues, concerns and recommendations made by India in its developing countries reform proposal. WT/778/Rev.4 jointly submitted with Africa group and Cuba.

3. Chair, we had detailed discussions on our reform paper during the previous General Council meeting in February this year, I do not wish to repeat all the points, which have also been highlighted in the LDCs reform paper as well. However, I wish to highlight two major issues pertaining to WTO reforms, which is there as part of LDC proposals when in the run up to MC 12.

4. Chair, last November, when there was an intense discussion on the issue of WTO reforms and the related paragraph in outcome document, we had emphasized the need to define certain principles and parameters that should guide the reform process. In this regard, I would like to draw Members attention to the draft ministerial decision on WTO reforms submitted by India in November last year in document JOB /GC/287, which has defined both the principles and the process for WTO reforms. We are pleased to note that the LDC reform paper has also underscored the elements contained in India's draft ministerial decision.

- (i) First, it is regarding the fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system, as also highlighted in the LDC reform paper. The core values and basic principles of the multilateral trading system must be preserved and reforms should not be used as a pretext to erode these core principles. Especially the principle of decision making by consensus. We also need to ensure that the reforms do not change the multilateral character of the WTO and
- (ii) Second regarding the WTO reform process, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the process adopted for conducting WTO reforms should be open, transparent and inclusive. In our draft ministerial decision on WTO reforms. We have proposed that the WTO reforms need to be carried out by the General Council through its dedicated

sessions. We welcome the endorsement and support of the LDC group for this proposal in their service. And we look forward to constructive discussions on the WTO reform proposal with a view to finding a common ground with other members in the run up to MC12.

Thank you, Chair.

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