

**General Council Meeting  
9-10 May, 2022**

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

**Agenda ITEM 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALI, NAIROBI AND BUENOS AIRES OUTCOMES- STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

Thank you Chair for your report. I would like to touch upon two items which you have given in your report that is in Bali's decision on TRQs and PSH.

2. As we know that on 31st March 2022, through a consensus, a final agreement was reached and adopted in a Special General Council Session for the future operation of Para 4 of the Bali Ministerial decision, for the administration of the TRQ which underfills the view of this mechanism as mandated under the Bali Ministerial Decision.

3. Chair, in this context, I would like to make a couple of points.

- (i) Even though India had some concerns about the draft text, we joined the agreement in order not to come in the way of the consensus, this shows our firm commitment to quote principles of consensus-based decision made at the WTO.
- (ii) The review of the decision was a Ministerial Decision, to meet the needs of five countries that were in Annex B. But in the same Ministerial Decision, it was mandated to find a permanent solution to the public stock holding by 2017. Unfortunately, despite more than 80 countries from three large groups seeking it, there is no substantial progress, and obstacles are repeatedly erected in the proponent's pursuits.

4. We have stated this before and we reiterate that Public Stock Holding has a clear Ministerial mandate. Public Stock Holding negotiations must be on an accelerated separate track. Any effort to link these discussions with other pillars undermines the Ministerial mandate. Unfortunately, the progress on finding the PS solution as per the mandate has not progressed much. It has not progressed despite;

- (i) Submission by two large WTO negotiating groups, that is Members of G33 and the African Group.
- (ii) In the G33 Ministers Joint Statement in September 2021, they reiterated the need for expeditious resolution of permanent solution on the public stock holding at MC12. It reaffirms the G33 Members'

commitment and readiness to work with the rest of the Members based on the elements contained in the proposals submitted by G33 Members.

5. Chair, if the WTO Membership cannot deliver the mandate or issues of the past ministerial meeting, then first its credibility comes under question. Competency 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 and the current crisis. Therefore Chair, the WTO has to get out of the self-imposed impasse in these unprecedented times and redeem itself by delivering a permanent solution to the PSH.

6. Chair we also take note of your mention of India's notification to the Committee on Agriculture that it has exceeded that de minimis level of market price support for rice for the marketing year 2018 -19 2019 – 20 and 2020-21. In this regard, my statement will be kept on the record.

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