

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

Agenda Item 11. Procedural Guidelines for WTO Councils and Committees Addressing Trade Concerns (WT/GC/W/777/REV.6)

Thank you Chair.

India thanks the European Union and other cosponsors for the updated proposal putting forward the draft General Council decision on ‘Procedural guidelines for WTO Councils and Committees addressing trade concerns’ as contained in document WT/GC/W/777/ Rev.6.

2. As iterated during the previous GC Meetings, India supports the idea of improving the meeting arrangements of WTO bodies with a view to make them more efficient. We, therefore, support proposals for preparation of advance indicative yearly schedule of meetings; circulation of all documents to be discussed at a meeting at least 15 days prior to the meeting and timely circulation of the minutes of meetings of various WTO bodies.

3. We also agree that it is in the interests of all Members to make full use of the WTO Council and Committees to seek satisfactory outcomes of their trade concerns. However, while considering any changes in procedures to be followed for various WTO bodies, we need to ensure that such proposals, in effect, do not end up adding to or diminishing Members’ rights and obligations under the concerned WTO Agreements.

4. India also believes that the appropriate forum for discussing procedural guidelines for trade concerns is the relevant Council or Committee dealing with the specific trade concern, as per the scope of the relevant WTO Agreement. Therefore, while we are open to discuss all possible suggestions aimed at improving existing processes, we would not like to take away the role of such WTO bodies in finalizing such procedural guidelines.

I thank you Chair.

General Council Meeting
27 - 28 July, 2021