

FORUM: General Assembly Second Committee

QUESTION OF: Encouraging member states to use the world trade organization as a framework for trade negotiations

SUBMITTED BY: European Union

CO-SUBMITTERS: Cameroon, Ireland, IMO, Israel, Dominica, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, South Africa, Sao Tome and Principe, Bulgaria, Yemen, Costa Rica, Canada, Belize, Switzerland, Austria, Lithuania, USA, Moldova, Cape Verde, Chile

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Deeply concerned regarding heightening tensions between the world's major trading powers that could potentially cause free trade stagnation and thereby a recession,

Realizing the urgent need to devise methods of reinstating global agreements on trade to foster better international relations and faster domestic economic growth for all nations,

Noting with satisfaction that several member states have already actively pledged and taken multiple measures to ensure the eradication of hindrances in the path of international trade,

Having considered the perspectives of all relevant stakeholders in this issue, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), its member states, and other organisations and bodies involved,

Confident in the member states' ability to utilize international collaboration to draft practical and viable solutions to the issue that can be enacted within a reasonable time frame,

Aware of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) projections of slowing global economic growth, caused mainly by fear of a trade war, which could negatively impact the world economy,

Believing in the extremely crucial role that the WTO plays in settling international trade conflicts,

1. Encourages the immediate commencement of a series of formal meetings of the representatives and policymakers of the major parties involved in trade disputes with the managerial and other relevant personnel in possession of authoritative powers to regulate operations and standard protocols within the organizational structure of the WTO for:

a. discussing the reasons for staggering and prolonging the unanimous appointment of new judges for the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) by withdrawing support during voting procedures and thereby hindering international progress on free trade policies, including any concerns that they may have pertaining to the functioning of the WTO,

b. discussing potential methods of resolving the concerns derived from the outcomes of sub-clause a, and the extent to which compromises can be made by either party, yielding a complete and comprehensive list of mutually agreed solutions by April 30, 2020,

c. drafting and thereby formally ratifying, within the presence of all WTO member nations, an agreement that once necessary actions are undertaken by the involved stakeholders to enact the measures agreed upon, producing statistically verifiable results, the involved parties will agree to the appointment of a

minimum of 4 new DSB judges;

2. Urges the WTO to take into consideration prioritizing the reformation of its Appellate body in order to maximize the efficiency of operations when abiding by the founding principles that necessitated the establishment of the organisation in the following manner:

a. amending the voting procedures for electing new judges for the advisory panel of the DSB by taking steps such as, but not limited to:

i. limiting the number of member state approvals necessary for the appointment of a new judge to two-thirds of the house, to prevent a particular member state from withholding the decision,

ii. ensuring that the new regulations will permit the figure in sub-sub-clause i to be subject to change, should the number of member states of the WTO be influenced by unforeseen circumstances,

b. appointing a renewed advisory board for the DSB at the end of every 10-year cycle on a mandatory basis rather than as and when required, whereby the previous board's members shall no longer be eligible for reappointment,

c. increasing the maximum limit of the number of individuals permitted to exclusively constitute the DSB advisory panel from 7 to 15;

3. Strongly encourages non-discriminatory trade among all nations to promote healthy international competition;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the modification of the Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) policies to accommodate the interests and sustain the incentives of all member nations in adhering to the WTO framework using methods such as, but not restricted to:

a. addressing the fact that different countries are affected by different circumstances and therefore the capability and speed of development varies, and thereby determining the deadline for each developing member separately,

b. establishing a time frame for the special privileges accorded to developing nations to provide them with an opportunity to improve domestic infrastructure and production technology, whereby these privileges will not be returned for the next 30 years unless the nation has been affected by a natural calamity or foreign disruption,

c. mandating annual reports to the WTO from the countries that have been granted these privileges, the contents of which will compulsorily comprise of:

i. any necessary statistics obtained from reliable sources on development pertaining to trade that can assist the WTO in ascertaining whether or not the nation in question will be able to meet the deadline,

ii. detailed accounts of the measures that have already been taken, and a future plan of action,

iii. notes regarding any major interference that the country foresees will occur in the near future,

d. preventing any supplications from developing countries for an extension after the time frame established in sub-clause b has elapsed, and also any counterpart besiegements from the WTO towards any developing country prior to the expiry of the time frame;

5. Requests all member states to adopt and adhere to the WTO trade framework by complying with the guidelines outlined in the WTO's documentation of policies and principles and further support the realization of the organisation's intentions by taking additional measures such as, but not confined to:

a. avoiding unilateral discussions and decisions regarding trade to the greatest possible extent but if unable to do so then reporting to the WTO the purposes and outcomes of such meetings, unless an inherently confidential nature of it forbids so from happening,

b. requests member states to route through the WTO's DSB all complaints regarding a member state's failure to comply with the international trade policies, and acting in accordance with the DSB's ruling instead of taking preemptive measures,

c. recommends minimizing plurilateral agreements and undertaking collaborative efforts to progress towards transforming these into multilateral agreements;

6. Advises the WTO to, as soon as possible, enhance transparency and effectiveness of communication and collaboration, both amongst countries and within its own operations and sessions, by implementing into their legislation and corporate structure extensions such as, but not limited to:

a. mandating member nations that have been approached by another country via formalized procedures as dictated by the WTO regarding any trade-related affairs, to respond to the same within a fixed interval of time which will be decided at the time of receiving the initial communication depending on the complexity and urgency of the topic,

b. restructuring and reorganizing the operational structure of the organisation such that minor sub-committees that have little significance in comparison to their larger counterparts are dissolved into core councils that will allow for the dissemination of primary information and the imparting of authentic perspectives of member states without convolution,

c. expediting the parliamentary proceedings in a manner that will allow for an improvement in the response time of the WTO in regard to any appeals made by a member nation, such that any appeal receives an appropriate response within six months of the initiation of the concern.