

FORUM: General Assembly Second Committee

QUESTION OF: Encouraging Member States to use the World Trade Organisation as a framework for trade negotiations

SUBMITTED BY: Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

CO-SUBMITTERS: United Kingdom, UNCTAD, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, Central African Republic, Ukraine, South Africa, DPRK, Japan, South Sudan, Italy, Latvia, UNIDO, China, Mongolia, Belarus, Bolivia, WTO, Cuba, Somalia, Egypt, Moldova, Mexico

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Celebrating the fact that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has 164 member states,

Recognizing the importance and benefits of the WTO, that constitutes 98% of world trade,

Appreciating the past achievements of the WTO, such as liberalizing trade, facilitating predictability, and improving the ease of business,

Concerned that numerous trade disputes are threatening the authority of the WTO, as nations refuse to follow the legitimate procedures of the WTO,

Further Concerned that the WTO is losing trust from member states that oppose certain aspects of the organization, such as how the appellate body is run, and that this might lead to member states deviating from the frameworks of the WTO and making bilateral agreements and raising tariffs,

Conscious that as the organization gets older, the WTO needs to find new ways to safeguard stability and free trade,

Acknowledging the disagreement of some member states on the preferential trade terms granted to developing countries and the definition of an economically developing country,

1. Calls upon the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) to work along with the WTO in suggesting a definition of a developing country, and to provide specifics of Special and Differential Treatment that would be provided to each of those specific countries, including:
 - a) what trade preferences will be given to the state, such as the allowance of tariffs, subsidies, trade barriers trade preferences,
 - b) how long the state will be given the preferences in clause a, which will be decided according to the situation of the specific Member State under consideration, such as but not limited to;
 - i. the current economic state of the specific developing Member State,
 - ii. the current market situation of the specific developing Member State,
 - iii. the main industry of the specific developing Member State;
 - c) what actions will be taken if a developing country fails to raise its trading competitiveness in the given time, such as but not limited to;
 - i. the intervention of the IMF to lend money to those countries and dictate how the country will raise its global competitiveness,
 - ii. the loss of trade preferences when the Member State declines to the conditions in sub-sub-clause i,
 - iii. the loss of the WTO membership if prolonged for a specific time that the WTO sets specific to each Member State;
2. Supports the WTO to consider requiring more labor and environmental standards based on the International Labor Organization (ILO)'s declaration of Fundamental principles and rights at work, especially those who are in a developing stage, in order to
 - a) ensure that businesses do not take advantage of a lack of legislation relating to workers'

- rights and environmental protection,
 - b) protect other businesses competing with businesses that use the lack of legislation to lower their costs, making their products more competent;
3. Decides to provide funding to member states in concern of the labor and environmental standards that reinforce legislation on those standards, when the nation has provided enough evidence to the WTO, as there are concerns that reinforcing legislation might lead to higher prices, and therefore less competitiveness of those industries;
4. Encourages the establishment of a third party NGO named the Global Tariff Monitor (GTM), which will monitor tariff rates and member states to ensure that member states are complying with the conditions in clause 5, and also the WTO to monitor its member states, by comparing the tariff rates submitted by the imposer of the tax and the state that the tariff was imposed on, in which if the WTO or the GTM finds a flaw, the WTO will conduct an investigation, and when a member state is found guilty, the member state will be;
- a) strongly urged to change its policies to meet the WTO standard, and give national treatment,
 - b) faced with a fine that will be paramount to the total sum of tariffs that the Member State has wrongfully imposed on the receiving Member State of the tariff,
 - c) brought forth to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) if the nation affected decides to bring the issue to the DSB;
5. Urges all member states to follow WTO's guidance on the matters of international trade and avoid implementations of the following measures without the consultation of trade partners through the WTO:
- a) protectionist measures such as;
 - i. raising tariffs
 - ii. subsidies for national goods/products
 - b) unilateral trade agreements such as;
 - i. blacklisting certain countries for political reasons
 - ii. raising trade barriers
 - iii. raising tariffs
 - c) trade preferences for certain Member States that give them an advantage over other imported products,
6. Invites Member States to support companies to advertise their products on global and national scales in order to;
- a) make national products as competent as imported products, so that;
 - i. consumers will have the freedom to choose from a variety of products,
 - ii. merchants will have an opportunity to present their products to the public,
 - b) appeal their products to global citizens,
 - c) generate global supply for their goods, therefore activating free trade, a major principle of the WTO;
7. Decides accordingly to designate the UNDP to create the Global Free Trade Programme (GFTP) to fund entities such as;
- a) member states that take actions mentioned in clause 9, and provide enough evidence to prove that
 - b) MEDCs that establish multilateral agreements with LEDCs,
 - c) Member States that decide to lower tariffs;
8. Encourages the open trading of technology, specifically information technology (IT), and the alleviation of taxes in accordance with the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), when the Member State has ensured that;

- a) the technology solely serves for:
 - i. making consumers' life more convenient,
 - ii. peoples right to communicate freely, in whatever form they desire;
 - b) the technology does not have or support any features that threaten one's privacy, such as:
 - i. backdoors,
 - ii. the collection of the user's basic information by installed applications without the user's consent,
 - iii. tracking of the user's usage of the technology not approved by the user.
9. Hopes that the United Nations General Assembly issues a unanimous statement of support for the WTO;
10. Promote the establishment of plurilateral trade agreements rather than multilateral agreements within the WTO to prevent deadlock, and to ease negotiations and install adapted policies.