



Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization 中华人民共和国常驻世贸组织代表团

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador Li Chenggang at the Special Meeting of the General Council

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me join others in congratulating Dr. Ngozi for her appointment as the next Director-General of the WTO. It is truly applaudable that we now have the first female and African leader for the Organization in history.

This appointment is significantly timely, when the WTO is at its critical moment and must be able to deliver soon. The collective decision made by the entire membership demonstrates a vote of trust not only in Dr. Ngozi herself, but also in our vision, our expectation and the multilateral trading system that we all believe and preserve.

There is one sentence in Dr. Ngozi's latest article: Trade in the Time of Pandemics, stating, "If the right hand washes the left, and the left hand washes the right, then both become clean." I cannot agree more. As a contributor and beneficiary of a stable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system, China does believe trade, mutually-advantageous trade, will be a key tool that can help us to find a way out of the current situation and realize economic recovery soon.

Dr.Ngozi, just now you made an encouraging statement. We members have high hopes on you for the months and years to come, and pressingly, we expect you to help deliver outcomes by securing a successful MC12. In this regard, you can count on the full support from China and myself. Congratulations again!

Mr.Chairman, please allow me to commend you and your two co-facilitators, Ambassador Dacio Castillo of Honduras and Ambassador Harald Aspelund of Iceland, for your tireless, professional and transparent work. When Ambassador Walker informed Members the appointment process on 20 May last year, nobody could ever envisage a nearly-9-month process till today. Big thanks to all you three.

Before conclude, I would also like to pay tribute to four DDGs, Yonov, Karl, Alan and Xiaozhun, as well as DGO especially Tim Yeend. We appreciate the hard work and great contribution of all of you to this Organization.

Thank you.

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