



15 February 2021

(21-1269)

Page: 1

Original: English

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS (TESSD)

COMMUNICATION BY SWITZERLAND

The following communication, dated 8 February 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Switzerland.

1 SWITZERLAND'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE ISSUES/PRIORITIES

1.1. Switzerland welcomes the launch of TESSD and looks forward to engaging constructively and meaningfully with participants, observers and all relevant stakeholders. It is a first step to ensure that trade and climate changes policies are aligned.

1.2. It is crucial that the multilateral trading system, including the WTO, step up its efforts to positively contribute to broad environmental and climate objectives and support a green transition. The challenges are immense and it will be important to identify not only priorities but also concrete measures in that regard.

1.3. Switzerland firmly believes that TESSD will allow for in-depth exchanges on current and new initiatives but also on measures taken at the national or regional levels.

1.4. In order to identify how the WTO can tackle some of the challenges, we will need substantive discussions, with inputs from international organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector. These discussions should be designed to allow Members to devise relevant policy options depending on the specific issue (recommendations, good practices, data collection, binding disciplines, etc.).

1.5. Switzerland is of the view that the following issues could be tackled within TESSD:

- Liberalization of Environmental Goods
- Liberalization of Environmental Services
- Fossil Fuels Subsidies Reform
- Greening Aid for Trade
- Circular Economy
- Plastic Pollution
- Climate adaptation
- Biodiversity
- Other?

1.6. Switzerland stands ready to work with all WTO Members and hope many will join TESSD in order to prepare concrete deliverables for the 12th Ministerial Conference.