

**Committee on Trade and Development
Seventeenth Dedicated Session on the Monitoring
Mechanism on Special and Differential Treatment**

NOTE ON THE MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Usha Chandnee Dwarka-Canabady (Mauritius)

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A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The draft agenda as contained in Airgram WTO/AIR/COMTD/MMSDT/15 of 20 October 2022 was adopted.

B. MONITORING OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL PROVISIONS

- Statement by the Chairperson

2. The Chairperson said that, at the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) held in Bali in December 2013, Ministers decided to establish the Monitoring Mechanism (MM) on Special and Differential Treatment (S&D). The Decision establishing the MM was contained in document WT/MIN(13)/45 – WT/L/920. According to the Decision, the MM was to act as a focal point within the WTO to analyse and review the implementation of S&D provisions. The Mechanism was to review all aspects of implementation of S&D provisions with a view to facilitating the integration of developing and least developed Members into the multilateral trading system. The Mechanism operated in Dedicated Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development. The present meeting was the 17th Dedicated Session on the MM, and it appeared that the situation remained unchanged from the last meeting, which was held in June 2022. For one thing, the monitoring of special and differential provisions in the Mechanism was to be undertaken on the basis of written inputs or submissions made by Members, as well as on the basis of reports from other WTO bodies to which submissions by Members could also be made. However, as Members were well aware, no written submissions had yet been made in the MM. Furthermore, paragraph 12 of the Decision establishing the MM stated that "The Mechanism shall be reviewed three years after its first formal meeting, and thereafter as necessary, taking into account its functioning and evolving circumstances". This review had still not taken place. As had been previously highlighted, delegations had expressed different perspectives on the question of the review. She recalled that, at the last meeting, she had indicated that she would be holding discussions with Members in informal settings to explore what could be done to make the MM operational. In this regard, she wished to inform the Committee that she had reached out informally to a number of delegations to discuss the matter. While these discussions were useful to help her better understand some of the issues surrounding the MM, it was also clear that more engagement among Members would be required in order to find the much-needed solutions. She urged Members to work together in order to come to a common understanding on how to move forward with the MM.

3. The Committee took note of the statement by the Chairperson.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

4. No matter was raised under "Other Business".
5. The meeting was adjourned.
