



RESOLUTION OF SPECIFIC TRADE CONCERNS

TENTH TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Proposal from Kenya

The following submission, dated 5 March 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Kenya.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1. WTO Committees and Councils are fundamental fora for discussion. Members use these multilateral settings to raise trade concerns with respect to measures which may affect their trade. These discussions can help ease trade tensions by providing further information and clarification, working towards mutually satisfactory solutions.

1.2. WTO Members use the TBT Committee to discuss Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) related to specific laws, regulations or procedures that affect their trade. Usually in response to notifications, members raise STCs to find out more about the scope and implementation of each other's regulations in light of TBT obligations. The discussion is mostly about measures still in the pipeline (drafts) but can also be about implementing existing measures.

1.3. Expedited resolution of Specific Trade Concerns is essential for maintaining the smooth flow of trade, preserving market confidence, reducing costs, enhancing competitiveness, promoting trade growth, and preserving trade relationships. It underscores the importance of proactive engagement, cooperation, and adherence to established trade rules and regulations in fostering a dynamic and resilient global trading system.

1.4. Noting the importance of fast-tracking resolution of STCs, Kenya wishes to express her concern on the manner in which raised trade concerns have been dealt with over the years, with members raising such concerns repeatedly with little to no solution found.

2 PROPOSAL

2.1. Kenya proposes the establishment of a framework and a mechanism on resolution of STCs with a view to:

- a. Facilitating an expedited resolution of outstanding STCs that have been on the floor for a long time;
 - b. Holding members accountable, through an explanation on the floor during meetings, against which STCs have been raised.
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