יולי 2015

Thank you Chair,

I would like to thank Australia and Japan for all of their efforts to host this round.

On behalf of Israel I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mauritius to the TiSA family. We are happy to continue adding value to the agreement through welcoming any WTO member that may wish to join in.

Israel would like to echo others in congratulating everyone for this week's hard work and particularly for a first stocktaking exercise, which we think was very useful and welcome endevour after two and half years of negotiations. Now that we have arrived to a better understanding on the state of affairs, the issues that demand more work and where are the zones where political calls will be needed at some point.

In general, we concur with the Chair's reflections, as presented. We, however, would favour caution to set for ourselves another stocktaking exercise in only two additional rounds. It raises some questions in regards whether it allows sufficient time for the issues we have identified as demanding further technical work before the end of the year.

Regarding how we program our work ahead

Above all we need to keep this good momentum and carry out with the work on the annexes that have gained wide support and engagement, namely DR, FS, transparency, e-commerce, telecomms, mode 4. We are also supportive of revitalizing our conversation on institutional issues and the core text.

In the interest of time we are very supportive of inter-sessional work: it has been instrumental in helping to bridge views as well as it has assisted in the consolidation of progress to some extent. The efforts of the proponents in Maritime Transport Services, DR and Financial Services are good examples of such work.

In the interest of transparency, we would just note that it would be most helpful if modifications or textual changes are communicated to the group with reasonable time ahead of the round to be able to react on a more focused fashion during the round itself.

In MAs we should intensify our negotiation.
We support sector-based discussions back to back with annexes sessions, as well as the idea of having time allocated for bilateral MAs meetings, but not in parallel to annexes which poses a challenge to small delegations.
Also, we are ready to engage in inter-sessional market access conversations as a way to prepare the ground for MA negotiations during the rounds.

However, whichever way we decide to go, it is important that more than enough time is afforded for delegations to prepare better and engage relevant experts.

Thank you chair.