

# WTO WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

GENEVA, 6 TO 10 NOVEMBER 2017

OPENING REMARKS BY DING XIAOZHUN, CHINA

MONDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2016, 9:00, ROOM E

1. Good morning. I would like to welcome you to the Workshop on Trade and Public Health which the WTO Secretariat is organizing for the thirteenth year in close collaboration with the World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization. "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2016-2030. This goal and this Workshop certainly is an integral part of our efforts.
3. Health is clearly one of the more complex policy environments that decision-makers are required to work with in preparing practical solutions to contemporary challenges. And these require, in turn, a multidimensional policy approach that is the very basis for key players from the public and private sector to provide effective responses.

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<sup>1</sup> Target: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases.



pharmaceutical sector , the programme also includes a wide range of other cross-cutting issues and public health determinants, such as: procurement; competition; tariffs; health services; technical barriers to trade; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; as well as regulatory issues to ensure access to safe, high quality and effective medicines.

9. The entry into force of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, in January this year , is a milestone in the short history of the WTO. It made an additional public health flexibility an integral and permanent part of the TRIPS Agreement. It provides a secure legal pathway to the most vulnerable WTO Members that primarily rely on the import of medicines from countries in which these medicines are patent -protected.

10. In order to support your respective authorities in making effective use of this new mechanism, you will have a full day 11o ( )-10 (9|50 Td [.007 (nt)1 (.)115 0

13. This said, and given the breadth of issues to be covered, you will not have time to discuss all of them in a very detailed fashion. Therefore, I invite you to regard this training activity only as the beginning of a long journey . You will have to continuously deepen your knowledge and also share it with other colleagues upon your return to capital.

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