

TALKING POINTS – OPENING SESSION

DDG ANABEL GONZÁLEZ

29 June 2021 – Opening Session from 10:00 to 10:15 (CET) – Zoom

- x Greetings from Geneva. I am Anabel González, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. Welcome to the Technical Symposium on COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chain and Regulatory Transparency.
- x The WTO has been actively working on trade and public health-related issues since 2001, when Members adopted the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health. Over this time, the WTO has promoted a holistic and multi-disciplinary approach which has entailed invaluable partnerships with sister international organizations.
- x Exemplifying this continuous collaboration, at all levels, we are privileged today to welcome my colleagues Dr Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão, Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products at the World Health Organization; and Mr Ricardo Treviño Chapa, Deputy Secretary-General at the World Customs Organization.
- x Our objective today is to improve public and policymaker understanding at the technical level of the operation of global COVID-19 vaccine and input supply chains. We will also look at the role that trade policy can play in facilitating the cross-border movement of vaccine inputs, as well as the critical role of regulatory transparency and cooperation to secure equitable access.

x Thank you, Mariângela. I now offer the floor to Ricardo Treviño Chapa , Deputy Secretary General, WCO . Ricardo, you have the floor.

[Ricardo Treviño Chapa, WCO Deputy Secretary General, takes the floor.]

x Thank you, Mariângela and Ricardo, for joining us. We look forward to continuing our strong collaboration with your organizations , as we move forward in our work related to trade and public health.

x Now, let's get to work and move to our first session. I will pass the relay to Robert Koopman, Chief Economist and Director of the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO Secretariat.

x Bob, the floor is yours.

[Robert Koopman starts Session 2.]
