Joint Sustainability Event
Launch of the Ministerial Statement on Trade and Environmental Sustainability
Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD)
December 15, 2021, 09:30 – 11:15am

Good morning Excellencies; fellow Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Permanent Representatives, Delegates, Secretariat and stakeholders.

Thank you for joining us this morning on this historic and symbolic event.

Dear Friends,

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because, in our national capacity, this initiative is very relevant to advance our trade and environment interests.

11. Costa Rica´s green trade agenda gist is the idea that trade must deliver sustainability, and in turn, sustainability must deliver trade. This virtuous circle must be the driver of development moving forward. That is the reason why we are founding members of TESSD and why we are part of the negotiations of an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) with other five like-minded countries, covering disciplines on trade liberalization on environmental goods and services, ecolabelling, and harmful fossil fuel subsidies.

12. We expect TESSD to be a first step towards building the political will required for reaching consensus on the pillars that must guide the WTO's trade and environment agenda.

13. TESSD' work program also can positively contribute to implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact, particularly regarding ensuring *"just transitions that promote sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including through making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development […]"*[1].

14. To conclude, I want to thank each and every single cosponsor that has joined this trailblazing effort and encourage those who haven't joined to do so. We look forward to all the exciting discussions we will have in the coming year. There's plenty to do, but more importantly, there's plenty we CAN do.

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[1] Glasglow Cover Decision