TRIPS COUNCIL

Statement - Mozambique Delegation.

On the Waiver Submission (IP/C/W/669)

10 December 2020

Excellencies and dear Colleagues

Thank you very much Mme Chairperson, for the floor, and we thank you for all your efforts.

We commend the WTO Secretariat and you Chair, for organizing this meeting, and we would like to reiterate our thanks to Members for the level of engagement and discussion of the proposal for a waiver.

Mme Chair, we agree with your proposals on the tittle for the agenda item, and also agree with the language for the information to be orally presented on the status repport, during the General Council.

The Doha Declaration on Public Health reaffirms the flexibilities contained in the TRIPS Agreement to address the public health needs of the WTO Member States. While some member states included TRIPS flexibility in their national laws, many did not, and, well positioned countries often put political pressure on developing countries against the use of TRIPS flexibilities.

As stated several times, the magnitude of Covid 19 pandemic, calls for solidarity, cooperation and for everyone’s action so as to collectively address the challenge. Public Health is a Public good, and being so, all governments must be committed to globally, address this issue, as a clear demonstration of the commitment to solidarity, through supporting the COVID-19-related waiver proposal. We align our statement with the ones presented by the proponents as well as the ones presented by the co-sponsors.

Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development advocates the need to collectively advance, and leave no one behind. A positive consideration of the requested Waiver would be a substantial contribution for the achievement of the Sustainable development Goals.

As LDC, even though we do not have to protect patents, many of us do not have production capacity and would require importation of the means to address Covid 19, yet conditionalities attached to the use of Article 31 and article 31 bis make the use of such flexibilities very difficult.

We would like to refer to the various petitions that appeal for a positive appreciation and consideration of the submission by India and South Africa, needless to mention them one by one, as they represent thousands of voices launching appeals, for a positive consideration of the above referred Submission.

We reiterate that the waiver aims to, on a limited time, thus, temporary, just to facilitate the necessary actions to ensure (provision and delivery of essential medical products, pharmaceuticals, technology for diagnostics, vaccines and others), so important to save and ensure the protection, cure and saving lives… …………..Thank you very much.