



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE & SUPPLY

SINGHADURBAR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL



Press Release

Mr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal, addressed through online platform the Ministerial Level Meeting of the WTO Trade Negotiation Committee on Fisheries Subsidies today.

In his address, respected Secretary appreciated the relentless efforts and contribution of the chair of negotiating group on rules, members and experts to prepare the revised consolidated text on the fisheries subsidies. He also emphasized the need to maintain disciplines on Fishing and Fisheries in the context of all being guided by the sustainable development goals for sustainable management of the natural resources.

He further stated that the small coastal countries and resource-poor countries would benefit from proposed provisions on (i) prohibitions to subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, (ii) prohibitions to subsidies that contribute to over capacity and overfishing, (iii) special and differential treatment provisions for developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including others in the meeting.

Secretary highlighted on the importance of the provisions of technical assistance and capacity building of LDCs and LLDCs and expressed his confidence that such provisions complemented by other instruments would gradually ensure the reasonable stake of land locked countries in the fish stocks of high seas. He stressed that these provisions would enable LLDCs to have quality sea products in competitive price in collaboration with coastal countries and support from donor country Members.

Underlying the critical role of the SDTs in fisheries subsidies for LDCs to enjoy the during the transition period, he stated that extension of this rule to the grace period will support in sustainable graduation of LDCs facing systemic problems due to Covid 19 pandemic.

Concluding his remarks, he reiterated the Government of Nepal's support and readiness with needful flexibility to successfully conclude the negotiation by the upcoming Ministerial Conference 12 for which our delegation in Geneva is fully authorized and expressed his expectation of full cooperation from all the members, WTO and other related international institutions.

(Dr. Narayan Prasad Regmi)
Spokesperson
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