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**Committee on Trade and Environment  
Special Session**

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT  
IN SPECIAL SESSION (CTESS) TO THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC)**

AMBASSADOR LEOPOLD ISMAEL SAMBA

1. Regarding the work per se of the Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session, there have been no new developments. Having said that, I am pleased to note renewed interest, especially these past two years, in issues crosscutting trade and the environment, even though delegations have chosen to have more in-depth discussions on this topic in other forums. I note in this respect the work done by the Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular Session, Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Dialogue (TESSD) discussions, the Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP) and the discussions on fossil fuel subsidy reform.
  2. Moreover, in this period leading up to the Twelfth Ministerial Conference, I am keen to lend my support to the inclusion in any draft ministerial declaration of a strong reference to trade and environment issues, including climate change and recognition of the crucial role played by the WTO in making much-needed progress in this domain.
  3. Lastly, I continue to be very involved in the work of the least developed countries (LDCs) on environmental issues. With the support of the Secretariat, I have decided to hold an information session for this group of countries on trade and environment issues. The purpose of this session is to update the delegations from these countries in order to enable them to make a meaningful contribution to the various discussion and negotiation forums that are dealing for the time being with trade and environment issues, and to allow them to prepare themselves as best as they can for the ministerial conference. This session will take place on 19 November 2021.
  4. As always, I remain at the disposal of all delegations to assist in any way I can on this matter.
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