# **Essential Features for the Rules-Based Trading System of the Future**

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#### Why we need a rules-based trading system

• Rules: the essential support for an open trading system

 Open trade and economic integration provide incentives to avoid destructive conflict

Today's unfortunate paradox

#### WTO: the Essential Anchor

**Essential (Bedrock) Features: both under severe threat** 

- MFN (non-discrimination)
  - Implications e.g. for WTO plurilateral agreements
- National Treatment

• Effective dispute settlement

## Essential institutional features needing to be introduced, further developed, or reviewed

- Space for dialogue
  - APEC model?
- Trade Policy Review Mechanism
  - improve transparency of policy assessments
- Trade Statistics
  - value added
- Special and Differential Treatment/Self Designation
- Unanimity in decision-making

## **Existing Rules Needing Attention**

Subsidies

State Trading

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#### Frameworks Needed

- Trade Measures to support climate change objectives
  - e.g. carbon tariffs

- Industrial policy/competition interface
  - technological/digital competition

Market economy issues

#### Complementary (WTO compatible) Architectures

- Plurilateral Trade Agreements:
  - EU, CPTPP, RCEP, AfCTA
  - Other models?

- Issue-based plurilaterals
  - inside and outside WTO?

### Thank you!

謝謝 ありがとう 감사합니다

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ครับ imuchas gracias!

**Maraming salamat** 

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