

January 26, 2023

H.E. Ms. Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme
Chairperson
Dispute Settlement Body
World Trade Organization
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne 154
1211 Geneva 21

Dear Ms. Chairperson:

Pursuant to Article 16 of the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (DSU), the United States hereby notifies the Dispute Settlement Body of its decision to appeal issues of law covered in the report of the Panel in *United States – Origin Marking Requirement* (WT/DS597/R and WT/DS597/R/Add.1) and legal interpretations developed by the Panel.

Issues of national security are political matters not susceptible to review or capable of resolution by WTO dispute settlement. Every Member of the WTO retains the authority to determine for itself those measures that it considers necessary to the protection of its essential security interests, as is reflected in the text of Article XXI of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994*, Article XIV *bis* of the *General Agreement on Trade in Services*, and Article 73 of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights*. Bringing issues of national security into the WTO is not only incompatible with the purpose of the WTO, a trade organization, but will not advance WTO Members' shared interests in the WTO as a forum for discussion and negotiation.

Sincerely,

H.E. Ms. María L. Pagán
Ambassador

cc: Permanent Representative Laurie Lo, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Geneva