UNITED STATES – CERTAIN MEASURES ON STEEL AND ALUMINUM PRODUCTS (DS552)

COMMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COMPLAINANT'S RESPONSES TO THE PANEL'S ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE PARTIES

October 28, 2020

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US-3	U.S. President, "Memorandum on Steel Imports and Threats to National Security," Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, April 20, 2017, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/DCPD-201700259/pdf/DCPD-201700259.pdf	
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US-83	U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Dennis Shea's Statement at the WTO General Council (May 8, 2018),
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US-148	Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade And Employment, Verbatim Report, E/PC/T/EC/PV.2/22 (Aug. 22, 1947)		
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US-156	Summary Record of Thirty-Seventh Meeting, Aug. 8, 1949, GATT/CP.3/SR.37 (Aug. 8, 1949)		
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US-172	Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, Verbatim Report, E/PC/T/A/PV/12 (June 12, 1947)		
US-173	Summary Record of the Twelfth Meeting, E/PC/T/A/SR/12 (June 12, 1947)		
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US-187	Communication from Japan, MTN.GNS/W/107 (July 10, 1990)	
US-188	Draft Multilateral Framework for Trade in Services, MTN.GNS/35 (July 23, 1990)	
US-189	Trade Negotiations Committee, Draft Final Act Embodying The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Revision, MTN.TNC/W/35/Rev.1 (Dec. 3, 1990) (excerpts)	
US-190	Trade Negotiations Committee, Draft Final Act Embodying The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, MTN.TNC/W/FA (Dec. 20, 1991) (excerpts)	
US-191	Negotiating Group on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Status of Work in the Negotiating Group, Chairman's Report to the GNG, MTN.GNG/NG11/W/76 (July 23, 1990)	
US-192	Communication from Nicaragua, MTN.GNG/NG13/W/15 (Nov. 6, 1987)	
US-193	Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement, Meeting of November 20, 1987, Note by the Secretariat, MTN.GNG/NG13/5 (Dec. 7, 1987)	

Ехнівіт	DESCRIPTION		
US-194	Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement, Meeting of November 20, 1987, Note by the Secretariat, Addendum, MTN.GNG/NG13/5/Add.1 (Apr 29, 1988)		
US-195	Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement, Meeting of 25 June, 1987, Note by the Secretariat, MTN.GNG/NG13/2 (July 15, 1987)		
US-196	Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement, Meeting of July 11, 1988, Note by the Secretariat, MTN.GNG/NG13/9, para. 7 (July 21, 1988)		
US-197	Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States of America (excerpt)		
US-198	Tokyo Round Code on Government Procurement (1979) (excerpt)		
US-199	Agreement on Government Procurement, Revised Text (1988) (excerpt)		
US-200	Agreement on Government Procurement, Article XXIII (1994) (excerpt)		
US-201	Agreement on Government Procurement (2012) (excerpt)		
US-202	Intentionally Omitted		
US-203	Ortografia Y Gramática (excerpt)		
US-204	The Oxford Spanish Dictionary, 2nd edn, (University Press, 2001)		
US-205	The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 4th edn., L. Brown (ed.) (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1993) (excerpts)		
US-206	GATT Contracting Parties, Summary Record of the Fourteenth Meeting, GATT/CP.5/SR.14 (Nov. 30, 1950)		
US-207	Schedule XX – United States, Withdrawal of Item 1526(a) under the Provisions of Article XIX, GATT/CP/83 (Oct. 19, 1950)		
US-208	United States – Fur Felt Hats (GATT Panel)		
US-209	Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, Verbatim Report of the Seventh Meeting, E/PC/T/C.II/PV/7 (Nov. 1, 1946)		
US-210	Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, Verbatim Report of the Ninth Meeting, E/PC/T/C.II/RO/PV/9 (Nov. 9, 1946)		

Ехнівіт	DESCRIPTION		
US-211	Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, Verbatim Report of the Eleventh Meeting, E/PC/T/C .II/PRO/PV/11 (Nov. 14, 1946)		
US-212	Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, Addition to Report of Sub-Committee Procedures, E/PC/T/C.II/57/Add.1 (Nov. 20, 1946)		
US-213	Work Already Undertaken in the GATT on Safeguards, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/1, (Apr. 7, 1987),		
US-214	Declaration of Ministers Approved at Tokyo on 14 September 1973		
US-215	Negotiating Group on Safeguards, Draft Text by the Chairman, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/25 (June 27, 1989)		
US-216	Negotiating Group on Safeguards, Draft Text by the Chairman, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/25/Rev.1 (January 15, 1990)		
US-217	Negotiating Group on Safeguards, Chairman's Report on Status of Work in the Negotiating Group, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/25/Rev.2 (July 13, 1990)		
US-218	Negotiating Group on Safeguards, Additional United States' Proposals on Safeguards, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/31 (Oct. 31, 1990)		
US-219	Negotiating Group on Rule Making and Trade-Related Investment Measures, Safeguards, Note by the Secretariat MTN.GNG/RM/W/3 (June 6, 1991)		
US-220	Negotiating Group on Safeguards, Draft Text of an Agreement, MTN.GNG/NG9/W/25/Rev.3 (Oct. 31, 1990)		
US-221	Agreement on the European Economic Area (excerpt)		
	U.S. Responses to the Panel's Additional Questions		
US-222	The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 4th edn, L. Brown (ed.) (Clarendon Press, 1993) (excerpts)		
US-223	Intentionally Omitted		
US-224	Intentionally Omitted		
US-225	Intentionally Omitted		
US-226	WILLIAM STRUNK JR. & E.B. WHITE, THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE (4th ed. 1999) (excerpt)		

Ехнівіт	DESCRIPTION		
US-227	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Statement before the Dispute Settlement Body, <i>National Security in WTO dispute Settlement Proceeding DS567</i> (July 29, 2020)		
US-228	UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, REPORT ON THE APPELLATE BODY OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (Feb. 2020) (excerpt).		
U.S. Comments	s on Complainant's Responses to the Panel's Additional Questions		
US-229	Intentionally Omitted		
US-230	Intentionally Omitted		
US-231	Intentionally Omitted		
US-232	Intentionally Omitted		
US-233	Intentionally Omitted		
US-234	Intentionally Omitted		
US-235	Intentionally Omitted		
US-236	Intentionally Omitted		
US-237	Intentionally Omitted		
US-238	Intentionally Omitted		

1. The United States comments below on the complainant's responses to the Panel's additional questions. The absence of a comment on any particular answer or argument by the complainant should not be construed as agreement with the complainant's arguments.

TO ALL

Question 82. In relation to the requirement under Article 6.2 of the DSU to "identify the specific measures at issue", is it sufficient to identify a legal instrument in a panel request without explaining the challenged substantive content of such legal instrument? Please respond with reference to the panel request in this dispute.

2. The United States responds to the Panel's Questions 82 and 83 together, at Question 83, below.

Question 83. Does the requirement to "identify the specific measures at issue" in a panel request also encompass the identification of the elements/components/forms that constitute a broader/complex measure at issue? Please respond in light of due process considerations under Article 6.2 of the DSU.

- 3. The United States responds to the Panel's Questions 82 and 83 together.
- 4. Norway comments that "after two rounds of written submissions, a substantive meeting, and one round of questioning from the Panel, the United States has never suggested that Norway failed to comply with Article 6.2 by insufficiently identifying the measures at issue." Such an observation does not establish that Norway's panel request complies with Article 6.2, however. The terms of reference in a dispute establish the scope of a panel's legal authority under the DSU, the examination and confirmation of which is thus a threshold issue, distinct from the merits of a claim. Therefore, a panel not only may raise questions regarding these issues, but must do so if its authority with respect to a particular claim is in doubt.
- 5. Regardless of whether a respondent has expressed concerns under Article 6.2, when in the course of a proceeding these concerns arise, or whether the respondent is perceived to understand the claims brought against it, the Panel may only address "the matter" contained in the panel request, pursuant to the standard terms of reference established by the DSB pursuant to DSU Article 7.1. Therefore, the Panel may appropriately raise questions regarding compliance with Article 6.2 if it perceives those issues are presented in a particular dispute. This understanding of the plain text of Articles 6.2 and 7.1 of the DSU is reflected in the findings of previous reports addressing this issue. Under Article 7.1, the DSB charges the panel with terms of reference "to examine the matter;" the DSB does not charge the panel with terms of reference "to examine the matter and other matters, provided the responding

¹ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 83, para. 14.

² US – 1916 Act (AB), n.30; see Mexico – Corn Syrup (Article 21.5 – US) (AB), para. 36.

party is not prejudiced." A complainant must comply with the terms of Article 6.2 in its request for the establishment of a Panel, and those terms remain the same, whether or not a respondent raises arguments under Article 6.2.

6. With respect to the requirements of Article 6.2, Norway is incorrect in asserting that "identifying a legal instrument in a panel request is sufficient to 'identify the specific measures at issue." As the United States explained in its response to the Panel's Question 82, where a legal instrument sets out numerous different actions by a Member, merely naming the instrument without more (for example, without specifying the potential action of concern or without clarifying the complaint encompasses the entirety of the instrument) may not be sufficient to identify the "specific measure at issue." Therefore, whether a particular measure has been sufficiently identified in a panel request must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Question 84. How does the characterisation of various actions and/or omissions as either (i) elements/components of a single complex measure, or as (ii) separate measures affect the Panel's assessment or its findings and recommendations to the DSB?

7. Norway has confirmed that it "does <u>not</u> challenge 'component part[s] of a single, broader measure" and that "each of the measures identified in its panel request is 'challenged on its own terms, and not as a component of a single, broader measure." As the United States explained in its response to the Panel's Question 84, the panel's findings and recommendations must therefore be made with respect to the specific separate measures identified.

Question 85. In relation to the requirement under Article 6.2 of the DSU to "provide a brief summary of the legal basis of the complaint sufficient to present the problem clearly", is it sufficient to indicate the relevant legal provisions and reproduce their terms after separate identification of the measures at issue? Please respond with reference to the panel request in this dispute and bearing in mind the distinction between claims and arguments in WTO dispute settlement.

8. The United States refers the Panel to its own response to the Panel's Question 85.

TO COMPLAINANT

Question 86. With respect to any challenges against (i) potential amendments, modifications or replacements of a measure identified in the panel request, (ii) any other measures following the establishment of the Panel, and/or (iii) measures that have lapsed since the establishment of the Panel, please complete the following table to the extent relevant to the claims in this dispute.

³ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 82, para. 1.

⁴ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 84, para. 16 (emphasis in original).

⁵ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 83, para. 11.

	Description of the Measure	Challenged independently or as an element/component of an existing measure?	Relevant language in the panel request
Amended, modified or			
replaced			
measures			
Any other			
measures			
following the			
establishment			
of the Panel			
Lapsed			
measures			

9. The United States addresses the complainant's response to the Panel's Questions 86 and 87 together at Question 87, below.

TO ALL

Question 87. In dealing with amended, new, and/or lapsed measures, panels and the Appellate Body have previously used considerations such as (i) whether the "essence" of an identified measure has been altered, (ii) the "close connection" between measures identified and those not expressly mentioned in a panel request, and (iii) considerations regarding providing a positive resolution to the dispute. Please comment on the validity and applicability of these considerations in this dispute. In doing so, please comment on the differences and similarities across these considerations and whether there are any other relevant considerations in this dispute.

10. In its response to the Panel's Questions 86 and 87, Norway responds that it does not challenge any amended, new, or lapsed measures. The United States has no comments on this response.

TO COMPLAINANT

Question 88. Please confirm if the Panel's understanding of your characterisation of the measures under the Agreement on Safeguards, as depicted in the diagram at the end of this document, is correct. In this regard, please clarify the precise scope of the elements/measures challenged under Article 11.1(b) of the Agreement on Safeguards and whether these are also challenged as a safeguard measure.

11. The United States has no comments on complainant's response at this time.

Question 89. Please clarify how the measures "suspend the obligation in whole or in part" or "withdraw or modify the concession" within the meaning of Article XIX taking into account the distinction between these actions under Article XIX and

violations of the GATT 1994. In doing so, please address the United States' response to Panel question No. 7.

- 12. Norway appears to agree with the United States that the suspension or withdrawal of a Member's obligations as referred to in Article XIX of the GATT 1994 is not synonymous with a breach of the GATT 1994.⁶ Rather than responding to the Panel's question, however which refers to "how the measures [at issue] 'suspend the obligation in whole or in part' or 'withdraw or modify the concession' within the meaning of Article XIX taking into account the distinction between these actions under Article XIX and violations of the GATT 1994" (emphasis added) Norway makes a circular argument based on its previous assertions drawn from the Appellate Body's report in *Indonesia Iron or Steel Products*, which the United States has already rebutted.
- 13. Specifically, Norway suggests that "whether a measure permissibly suspends, or impermissibly violates, a GATT 1994 obligation is a legal characterisation, dependent on whether a measure satisfies applicable safeguards obligations." Two paragraphs later, the circular nature of Norway's argument becomes apparent when it asserts, relying on the Appellate Body's Report in *Indonesia Iron or Steel Products*, that "[t]he legal standard for assessing the applicability of the *Safeguards Agreement* is as follows: (1) does the measure suspend, withdraw, or modify a GATT 1994 obligation or concession; and (2) is the suspension designed to prevent or remedy serious injury to a domestic industry caused or threatened by increased imports?" Neither part of Norway's argument provides an answer to the Panel's question.
- 14. Contrary to the second part of Norway's suggestion, the terms "suspend [an] obligation in whole or in part or . . . withdraw or modify [a] concession" do not address the design or purpose of a measure. Rather, the terms "suspend [an] obligation in whole or in part or . . . withdraw or modify [a] concession" identify a release under the Agreement on Safeguards that gives a Member legal authority to take otherwise prohibited action. Put differently, the terms "suspend [an] obligation in whole or in part or . . . withdraw or modify [a] concession" describe what a Member is permitted to do if it meets the conditions of Article XIX and the Agreement on Safeguards. These terms do not serve to define or other identify a measure as a "safeguard measure" where such a measure is not taken pursuant to the Agreement on Safeguards. As the United States has explained in response to the Panel's Question 19, the scope of measures that may be taken pursuant to Article XIX and other provisions may overlap. Therefore, the text of the covered agreements does not support an interpretation which depends on consideration of whether the suspension is "designed to prevent or remedy serious injury to a domestic industry caused or threatened by increased imports."
- 15. With respect to the first part of its argument, Norway suggests in essence that to determine whether a measure suspends or violates a GATT 1994 obligation, a panel must assess whether a measure suspends, withdraws, or modifies a GATT 1994 obligation. This

⁶ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 89, para. 46.

⁷ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 89, para. 48.

⁸ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 89, para. 50.

circular argument fails to acknowledge the difference between suspension and breach of obligations under the GATT 1994. The phrase "suspend the obligation in whole or in part or to withdraw or modify the concession" appears in Article XIX, while a breach of the GATT 1994 typically refers to "the failure of a Member to carry out its obligations" as stated in Article XXIII:1(a).

- 16. Suspension or withdrawal of a Member's obligation as referred to in Article XIX of the GATT 1994 is thus not synonymous with a breach of the GATT 1994. Once a Member has the right to suspend an obligation or withdraw or modify a concession under Article XIX (including by invoking Article XIX through notice of a proposed measure to other Members), that Member no longer has to perform those obligations. In other words, the Member does not breach (or "fail to carry out") its obligations within the meaning of Article XXIII:1(a) of the GATT 1994, if the Member's nonfulfillment of those obligations occurs under the circumstances set forth in Article XIX and the Agreement on Safeguards. In that situation, the obligations are suspended, or the relevant concessions are withdrawn or modified there is no breach.
- 17. Complainant's argument fails to address the Panel's question of "how the measures [at issue] 'suspend the obligation in whole or in part' or 'withdraw or modify the concession' within the meaning of Article XIX." (emphasis added) A measure does not itself suspend an obligation or withdraw or modify a concession; instead, a Member must claim an obligation is suspended (or a concession is withdrawn or modified) to justify taking particular action. If the Member does not make such a claim, the Member would simply breach another commitment (e.g., Article II), unless it has a basis to take the action.
- 18. In relation to the measures at issue, the United States has explicitly and repeatedly invoked GATT 1994 Article XXI. ⁹ No obligation or concession may supersede the right to take action under that provision, as the text of Article XXI confirms that "[n]othing in this Agreement shall be construed ... to prevent" a Member "from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests." Accordingly, in taking action under Section 232, the United States has acted consistently with its existing rights under the covered agreements, and has not "suspended in whole or in part a GATT obligation or withdrawn or modified a GATT concession" within the meaning of Article XIX.
- 19. The circular nature of Norway's argument also highlights the fundamental importance of invocation through notice of a proposed measure to other Members as a condition

⁹ See U.S. Response to the Panel's Question 5(b)-(d) (citing and discussing U.S. statements in the WTO Council for Trade in Goods, Minutes of the Meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods, 10 November 2017, G/C/M/130 (Mar. 22, 2018), at 26-27 (US-80), WTO Council on Trade in Goods, Minutes of the Meeting of the Council for Trade in Goods, 23-26 March 2018, G/C/M/131 (Oct. 5, 2018), at 26-27 (US-81), WTO Committee on Safeguards, Communication from the United States, G/SG/168 (Apr. 5, 2018), at 1-2 (US-82), U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Dennis Shea's Statement at the WTO General Council (May 8, 2018), at 3 (US-83), and Statements by the United States at the Meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, Geneva, October 29, 2018, November 21, 2018, and December 4, 2018 (US-84)).

precedent to a Member's exercise of its right to take action under Article XIX and for the application of safeguards rules to that action, as discussed in Section IV of the U.S. Second Written Submission.¹⁰ As the United States explains there, the ordinary meaning of the text of Article XIX, including the title of Article XIX and each of its paragraphs, establishes that such invocation is a necessary, condition precedent to the right to apply a safeguard measure under Article XIX.

- 20. Perhaps realizing the circular nature of its argument, Norway then proceeds to suggest that "in assessing whether the *Safeguards Agreement* applies to a measure, a panel must assess whether a measure is *designed to suspend GATT 1994 obligations* (i.e., departs from them) for the purposes of protecting a domestic industry from injury caused by increased imports." The first part of this assertion continues Norway's circular logic, as Norway appears to suggest that a measure suspends an obligation or modifies or withdraws a concession if it is "designed to suspend a GATT 1994 obligation (i.e., departs from them)."
- 21. Moreover, neither the terms of Article XIX nor the Agreement on Safeguards supports using this sole criterion ("whether a measure is designed to suspend GATT 1994 obligations . . . for the purposes of protecting a domestic industry from injury caused by increased imports") as the basis for, as Norway says, "assessing whether the Safeguards Agreement applies to a measure." As the United States has already explained in the paragraphs above, Article XIX's references to suspension of an obligation or withdrawal or modification of a concession do not address the purpose or design of a measure, but rather identify the legal authority to take action that would otherwise be prohibited.

TO ALL

Question 90. Please comment on the grammatical structure and composition of Article XXI(b). In doing so, please identify the distinct grammatical elements (e.g. clauses and phrases) in the provision and the grammatical relationship (e.g. qualification and modification) between such elements. The parties are invited to use the table below should it be of assistance.

22. Norway's response is deficient and flawed in numerous ways. First, Norway fails to accurately identify the distinct grammatical elements (e.g. clauses and phrases) of Article XXI(b) identified by the Panel. For instance, Norway claims that "to prevent any contracting party from taking an action" is a subordinate clause, but does not offer any explanation as to

¹⁰ Invocation of Article XXI, therefore, also does not entail a breach of an obligation under the WTO Agreement. In this respect, a Member's invocation of Article XXI parallels that of a Member properly exercising its right to invoke Article XIX. The reason is that neither invoking Member has "failed to carry out" its obligations. The similarities between Article XIX and Article XXI, however, end here because an invocation of Article XXI does not entail a suspension of an obligation. Instead, the obligation does not apply when a Member invokes Article XXI with respect to a measure it implements. Accordingly, the measures at issue cannot be considered safeguards because they do not suspend an obligation or withdraw or modify a concession under the WTO Agreement.

¹¹ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 89, para. 53 (emphasis in original)

why that is the case when, under English grammar rules, a "clause" is "a group of words containing both a subject and a predicate (which includes a verb)." Therefore, Norway's suggestion is not consistent with English grammar rules.

- 23. Despite the Panel's inclusion of the chapeau text ("Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed") in the Panel's table, Norway does not address the chapeau text, other than labelling it as such. Again, Norway resists interpreting the entire text of Article XXI(b), including the chapeau. It continues to interpret Article XXI(b) in a piece-meal fashion, artificially separating the independent clause that begins Article XXI(b) into two pieces, and artificially separating the single relative cause that follows "action" into different pieces. The result of Norway's piece-meal approach is a failure to interpret the entire text of Article XXI(b), including the grammatical construction of the full provision.
- 24. In contrast, the United States has explained the grammatical composition of Article XXI(b) in detail with citations to multiple linguistic sources, including grammar books, to present an interpretation of Article XXI(b), including its self-judging nature, based on the ordinary meaning of the text of that provision, in its context, and in the light of the treaty's object and purpose.
- 25. Fundamentally, Article XXI(b) is about a Member taking "any action which it considers necessary." The relative clause that follows the word "action" describes the situation which the Member "considers" to be present when it takes such an "action." The clause begins with "which it considers" and ends at the end of each subparagraph.
- 26. All of the elements in the text, including each subparagraph ending, are therefore part of a single relative clause, and they are left to the determination of the Member. Specifically, because the operative language is "it considers," Article XXI(b) reserves for the Member to decide what action it considers "necessary for" the protection of its essential security interests and which circumstances are present. In that sense, the phrase "which it considers" "qualifies" all of the elements in the relative clause, including the subparagraph endings.
- 27. While it is not clear why Norway addresses the Spanish and French texts of Article XXI(b) in response to the Panel's question regarding the English text of Article XXI(b), it appears that Norway is again advancing an interpretation that is based on the Spanish text of Article XXI(b) but is otherwise inconsistent with the ordinary meaning of the English text of the Article XXI(b) of the GATT. However, as the United States has explained, such an interpretation is inconsistent with the customary rules of treaty interpretation.

¹² While there are certain exceptions to this general definition of a "clause," it does not appear that "to prevent any contracting party from taking an action" would fall under those exceptions. Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 90, p. 22. *See* MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S GUIDE TO PUNCTUATION AND STYLE 233 (1st ed. 1995) (US-176).

- 28. The United States has extensively analyzed all three versions of the text in its prior submissions. ¹³ In particular, in Section II.D. of its Second Written Submission, the United States recognized that the interpretation that emerges based on the ordinary meaning of the text of the subparagraph endings in the English and French language versions, is not fully supported by the Spanish text. ¹⁴
- 29. Specifically, the Spanish text of the three subparagraph endings indicates that they must be read to modify the term "actions" in the main text of Article XXI(b); whereas the ordinary meaning of subparagraph endings (i) and (ii) in the English and French versions is most naturally read to modify the term "interests" in the chapeau. Thus, the United States argued, that the meaning that best reconciles the texts, having regard to the object and purpose of the treaty, must be adopted under Article 33 of the VCLT.
- 30. As the United States has explained, reconciling the texts leads to the interpretation that all of the subparagraph endings modify the terms "any action which it considers" in the main text, because this reading is consistent with the Spanish text, and also while less in line with rules of grammar and conventions permitted by the English and French texts. This reading of the text of the subparagraph endings does not alter the plain meaning of the main text or the overall structure of Article XXI(b), however. The terms of the provision still form a single relative clause that begins in the main text of Article XXI(b) and ends with each subparagraph ending, and therefore the phrase "which it considers" still modifies the entirety of the main text and the subparagraph endings. Therefore, reconciling the three authentic texts leads to the same fundamental meaning the United States has presented, committing the determination of whether an action is necessary for the protection of a Member's essential security interests in the relevant circumstances to the judgment of that Member alone.

Question 91. Please comment on the appropriate terminology to refer to the various parts of Article XXI(b), including the following possibilities:

- a. "chapeau" and "subparagraph" (as used in relation to Article XX) and, accounting for the additional layer of indentation in Article XXI, "subparagraph endings";
- b. "clauses" and "phrases" in the text of Article XXI(b) including variations such as an "introductory" or "adjectival/relative/dependent" clause/phrase or "subclauses".
- 31. In response to the Panel's question, Norway refers back to its response to the Panel's Question 90. As the United States explained in its own response to this question, while the interpretation of Article XXI(b) does not turn on the particular terminology used, the United States considers that the following terms most accurately capture the structure of Article XXI(b): chapeau of Article XXI, main text of Article XXI(b), and subparagraph endings of Article XXI(b). Furthermore, the United States considers that the following terms most

¹³ Second Written Submission of the United States, Section II.D; U.S. Response to the Panel's Questions 41-43, paras. 156-188.

¹⁴ Second Written Submission of the United States, Section II.D; see also U.S. Response to the Panel's Questions 41-43, paras. 163-166.

accurately capture the grammatical structure of Article XXI(b): independent clause ("Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prevent any [Member] from taking any action"); relative/dependent clause (from "which it considers" to the end of each subparagraph ending); and participial phrase (each subparagraph ending). The United States refers the Panel back to its response to the Panel's Questions 90 and 91.

Question 92. Regarding evidence on the Panel record concerning the measures at issue, please comment on:

- a. "national security" as used in the Section 232 legislation (as well as the Department of Commerce Reports and Presidential Proclamations on steel and aluminium) in relation to the terms "its essential security interests" in Article XXI(b); and
- b. "imports" of products "in such quantities or under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security" in the Section 232 legislation (as well as the Department of Commerce Reports and Presidential Proclamations on steel and aluminium) in relation to the terms "other emergency in international relations" in Article XXI(b)(iii).
- 32. In response to the Panel's question, Norway states that it "cannot address, in a vacuum, a defence that has not be made out by the United States." Norway further claims that it cannot "speculate on what 'essential security interests' the United States might assert are implicated" or "speculate, on behalf of the United States, as to which subparagraph of Article XXI(b) might provide a basis for its defence." Norway asserts that the invoking Member must specify a subparagraph ending and must furnish certain evidence to support its invocation. Norway is wrong.
- 33. As the United States has explained in its response to the Panel Questions 35-38 and 92(b), Article XXI(b) does not require the responding member to specify a subparagraph ending or to furnish reasons for or explanations of an action for which Article XXI(b) is invoked. What is required of the party exercising its right under Article XXI(b) is that the Member consider one or more of the circumstances set forth in Article XXI(b) to be present. The invoking Member's burden is discharged once the Member indicates, in the context of dispute settlement, that it has made such a determination.
- 34. Fundamentally, Article XXI(b) is about a Member taking "any action which it considers necessary." The relative clause that follows the word "action" describes the situation which the Member "considers" to be present when it takes such an "action." The clause begins with "which it considers" and ends at the end of each subparagraph ending.
- 35. All of the elements in the text, including each subparagraph ending, are therefore part of a single relative clause, and they are left to the determination of the Member. Thus, as

¹⁵ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 92, paras. 62-63.

¹⁶ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 92, paras. 62-63.

relevant to the Panel's present question, whether a Member considers its action necessary for the protection of its essential security interests and whether the Member considers such action to be "taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations" within the meaning of in Article XXI(b)(iii), are left to the determination of the Member invoking that provision.

36. Therefore, the text of Article XXI(b) does not require the Member exercising its right under Article XXI(b) to identify the relevant subparagraph ending to that provision that an invoking Member may consider most relevant. Norway cites nothing in the text of Article XXI(b) that suggests one or more specific subparagraphs must be invoked.

Question 93. Please comment on the analysis and findings of the panel in Saudi Arabia – Protection of IPRs in relation to the legal standard under Article XXI(b), including the panel's application of Article XXI(b) to the position taken by the respondent in that dispute.

- 37. Norway suggests the findings of the panel in Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs are "highly significant". Norway also makes much of the arguments made by Saudi Arabia to support its invocation of Article 73(b)(iii). Norway fails to acknowledge, however, that the panel in Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs merely "transposed" the Russia Traffic in Transit panel's analysis. In fact, nowhere in its response to the Panel's Question 93 does Norway appear to acknowledge that the Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs panel relied on the analysis of the Russia Traffic in Transit panel's analysis.
- 38. As explained in the U.S. response to the Panel's Question 93, simply transposing the approach of a prior panel as the *Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs* panel explicitly did is not consistent with the function of panels as set out in the DSU. Moreover, as the United States has explained in Section III.B. of its First Written Submission, there were numerous errors in the analysis of *Russia Traffic in Transit* panel report. The *Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs* panel report is erroneous for the same reasons, and that report therefore does not provide any additional relevant guidance to the Panel in this dispute with respect to the interpretation of Article XXI(b).
- 39. As the United States explained in response to the Panel's Questions 35 to 38 and 92(b), the text of Article XXI(b) does not include any language requiring the invoking Member to provide an explanation or produce evidence to justify its invocation. The text does not indicate the Member must notify the circumstances underlying the invocation, explain the action, or provide advance notice as it might under other provisions of the WTO Agreement. It may be that a Member invoking Article XXI nonetheless chooses to make information available to other Members, and the United States has made plentiful information available in relation to its actions under Section 232. Neither the U.S. decision to make this information available, nor evidence that Saudi Arabia may have presented in its own dispute, changes the terms of Article XXI(b).

¹⁷ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 93, para. 70.

¹⁸ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 93, paras. 83-118.

- 40. Norway is also mistaken in its hyperbolic suggestion that the panel's report in *Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs* represents "the ultimate rejection" of U.S. arguments in this dispute. In fact, Norway's suggestion is a misrepresentation (one would hope inadvertent, rather than deliberate) of the content of that panel report. Although the panel in *Saudi Arabia Protection of IPRs* acknowledged that the U.S. interpretation of Article XXI(b) differed from that of the parties, that panel did not engage any of the arguments and evidence provided by the United States. Instead, as noted in the paragraphs above, the *Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs* panel simply "transposed" the approach of the panel in *Russia Traffic in Transit*.¹⁹
- 41. This decision by the Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs panel is notable, and regrettable, because the United States presented arguments and evidence in support of its interpretation that were in addition to the arguments and evidence it had presented in Russia Traffic in Transit. And in this dispute, the United States has provided even further support for its position. The panel in Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs nowhere grappled with the specific arguments and evidence presented by the United States in that dispute. Accordingly, the panel's report in that dispute in no way responds to the U.S. arguments put forward in this dispute.
- 42. Norway also highlights the order of analysis of the panel report in *Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs*, and emphasizes that "the Panel must begin by assessing Norway's claims, before turning to the US defence." Contrary to Norway's argument, however, the DSU does not specify the order of analysis that a panel must adopt and the Panel may consider the issues presented in any order that it sees fit. As explained in Section V of the U.S. Second Written Submission, whatever the Panel's *internal* ordering of its analysis, in light of the U.S. invocation of Article XXI(b) and the self-judging nature of that provision, the sole *finding* that the Panel may make in its report consistent with its terms of reference and the DSU is to note its understanding of Article XXI and that the United States has invoked Article XXI. No additional findings concerning the claims raised by the complaining Member in its submissions would be consistent with the DSU, in light of the text of Article XXI(b). Accordingly, the Panel should begin by addressing the U.S. invocation of GATT 1994 Article XXI(b).
- 43. The United States also notes the findings of the panel in Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs regarding DSU Article 3.7. Article 3.7 provides, among other things, that "[b]efore bringing a case, a Member shall exercise its judgment as to whether action under these procedures would be fruitful." In Saudi Arabia Measures Concerning the Protection of IPRs, Saudi Arabia argued that Qatar "had not exercised sound judgment in taking action under Article 3.7 of the DSU" due to "the comprehensiveness of the diplomatic and economic measures imposed by Saudi Arabia and other Members in the region, and the underlying rationale for those measures." The panel in that dispute rejected Saudi Arabia's argument, however, based on the discretion granted to Qatar under Article 3.7. As that panel explained, "[g]iven the discretion granted to complainants in deciding

¹⁹ Saudi Arabia – Protection of IPR, para. 7.243.

²⁰ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 93, paras. 78-82.

²¹ Saudi Arabia – Protection of IPRs, para. 7.19.

whether to bring a dispute under the DSU, the Panel does not consider that Qatar failed to exercise its judgment within the meaning of Article 3.7 in bringing this case."

44. This finding is consistent with the U.S. view of Article 3.7, as expressed in response to the Panel's Question 48. As the United States observed there, the terms of Article 3.7 provide no basis for a panel to opine on whether or not a Member has exercised its judgment "before bringing a case." Once a dispute has been brought, the Member has exercised its judgment, and the provision imposes no ongoing obligation. DSU Article 3.7 shows that for certain obligations, the drafters chose to impose obligations but did not permit a panel to look behind the decision of a Member in carrying out that obligation. Similarly, given the terms of Article XXI, an adjudicator cannot assume for itself the authority to second-guess the determination of a Member as to the necessity of its action for the protection of its essential security interests.

Question 94. Please comment on the effect of Article 11.1(c) of the Agreement on Safeguards in relation to measures that fall under Article 11.1(b) but are not "measures provided for in Article XIX of GATT 1994" or an "emergency action on imports of particular products as set forth in Article XIX of GATT 1994" under Articles 1 and 11.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards.

- 45. In its response to the Panel's Question 94, Norway attempts to rewrite Article 11.1(c) and Article 1 and Article 11.1(a) of the Agreement on Safeguards to import an abstract concept of "safeguard measures." According to Norway, Article 11.1(b) measures "may, but need not be, 'safeguard measures' under Articles 1 and 11.1(a)," and "under Article 11.1(c), when an Article 11.1(b) measure is taken consistently with a GATT 1994 provision, and the measure is not a safeguard measure, it is carved out of the prohibition in Article 11.1(b)." Norway's argument is incorrect and does not reflect the text of Article XIX or the Agreement on Safeguards.
- 46. Norway appears to acknowledge that (1) there may be some overlap in the scope of measures covered by Article XIX of the GATT 1994, Article 11.1(b) of the Agreement on Safeguards, and other provisions, and (2) such measures could be carved out from the Agreement on Safeguards including from Article 11.1(b) by Article 11.1(c). Specifically, Norway suggests that two Members could bilaterally negotiate a voluntary export restraint to relieve critical shortages of food essential to the exporting Member, and that such a measure, although "in principle" subject to Article 11.1(b), could be taken pursuant to GATT 1994 Article XI:2(a) and therefore "would be carved out of the *Safeguards Agreement*, including the prohibition in Article 11.1(b)." This result would occur, according to Norway, because

²² Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 94, paras. 122, 124 (stating that "under Article 11.1(c), when an Article 11.1(b) measure is taken consistently with a GATT 1994 provision, and the measure is not a safeguard measure, it is carved out of the prohibition in Article 11.1(b)" and that "Article 11.1(c) does <u>not</u> operate to carve 'safeguards measures' out of the scope of the *Safeguards Agreement*").

²³ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 94, paras. 123-124.

²⁴ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 94, paras. 125-126.

"[t]his export-side measure would not be a safeguard measure, because safeguard measures involve import duties or import quotas."²⁵

- 47. Norway does not explain on what basis it defines "a safeguard measure" for these purposes, merely asserting that a safeguard measure is a measure "involv[ing] import duties or import quotas." Regardless of what definition Norway may have invented for that term for purposes of its response, Article 11.1(c) does not refer to the concept of a "safeguards measure," nor does Article 11.1(c) condition its application on the basis of whether a measure is (or is not) a "safeguard measure." Instead, Article 11.1(c) provides, "This Agreement [the Agreement on Safeguards] does not apply to measures sought, taken or maintained by a Member pursuant to provisions of GATT 1994 other than Article XIX." Thus, when a measure is "sought, taken or maintained by a Member pursuant to provisions of the GATT 1994 other than Article XIX" the Agreement on Safeguards, including Article 11.1(b), "does not apply." The text does not call for a determination of whether the measure is what Norway calls a "safeguard measure."
- 48. Norway's argument also ignores that measures sought, taken, or maintained pursuant to other provisions of the GATT 1994 other than Article XIX, could "involve import duties or import quotas," meaning that following Norway's logic under Article 11.1(c) the Agreement on Safeguards, including Article 11.1(b), "does not apply" to such measures. For example, in the face of increased imports causing injury, a Member might increase its ordinary customs duty within its bound rate. If a Member does so pursuant to Article II of the GATT 1994, the Agreement on Safeguards, including Article 11.1(b), "does not apply." A Member might also impose an import prohibition or restriction pursuant to GATT 1994 Article XI:2(b) or (c), and the Agreement on Safeguards, including Article 11.1(b), also "does not apply". This would be the result even though the measure would also "involve import duties or import quotas" and according to Norway therefore constitute a "safeguard measure."
- 49. Norway's attempt to define the concept of a "safeguards measure" in isolation does not withstand scrutiny, because it is not supported by the text of the Agreement on Safeguards. Rather, as the United States explained in its response to Question 94, if a measure could be understood to fall under Article 11.1(b) but was "sought, taken or maintained by a Member pursuant to provisions of GATT 1994 other than Article XIX " Article 11.1(c) provides that the Agreement on Safeguards "does not apply" to such a measure.
- 50. Norway also asserts that Article 11.1(c) "does not affect measures whose legal basis includes Article XIX of the GATT 1994," but this assertion has no bearing in this dispute. The measures at issue here were taken pursuant to Article XXI, and not pursuant to Article XIX, as the United States has repeatedly made clear, including in communications to WTO committees and in connection with this dispute. ²⁸

²⁵ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 94, para. 125.

²⁶ Norway's Response to the Panel's Question 94, para. 125.