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**MINISTRY OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA'S EIGHTH TRADE POLICY REVIEW

The Eighth Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Malaysia was held on 8 and 10 February 2023 at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Malaysian delegation to the 8th TPR was led by Datuk Seri Isham Ishak, Secretary General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Other Ministries and agencies involved were Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Plantation and Commodities; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change; Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living; Bank Negara Malaysia, Royal Malaysian Customs Department and Malaysia Palm Oil Board.

For this year, Malaysia had received a total of 367 questions from 28 WTO Members with a majority number of questions from the United States, India, Australia, the European Union and ASEAN Member States. These questions have covered a number of areas such as trade openness, intellectual property rights, food security, halal certification, financial services, sustainable development, e-commerce, SME development, free trade agreements, standards, as well issues related to trade and gender. For record, the number of advanced written questions received by Malaysia for the 8th TPR reduced from 476 received in 2018 that reflect Malaysia's efforts to improve its compliance to the WTO and maintain an open and transparent trading environment.

In his remarks, Datuk Seri Isham Ishak stressed Malaysia's commitment to uphold rule-based multilateral trading system, as well as to implement economic reforms and good practices in the areas of trade, investment and environmental sustainability.

37 WTO members made intervention by raising questions and provided positive comments on Malaysia's trade and investment policies during the two-day TPR exercise. Most of the members have commended Malaysia on its economic performance despite challenges posed by the pandemic, as well as Malaysia's continued efforts to improve its domestic legislation to meet the international standards especially in the areas of intellectual property and labour rights.

Members also commended Malaysia's productive contributions in the regional trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Members observed these developments as a building block for progressive multilateral trade liberalisation.

Malaysia was applauded for her active participations in the WTO discussions, such as Joint Statement Initiatives on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) and e-Commerce, the Cairns Group and WTO Reform meetings. Currently, the Permanent Mission of Malaysia in Geneva is led by Ambassador Syahril Syazli Ghazali.

TPR is an exercise mandated in the WTO agreements, as part of the transparency obligation, where the WTO Members' trade and trade-related policies and measures are examined and evaluated. Previous TPR of Malaysia were held in 2018.

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