

India calls for decisive action against non-tariff barriers at WTO

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India has called for decisive action against non-tariff barriers and restoration of the paralysed dispute settlement mechanism as it pushed for comprehensive World Trade Organization (WTO) reforms during high-level ministerial discussions in Paris. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal outlined India's reform agenda at a mini-ministerial gathering of 25 WTO member countries.

The minister emphasised the need to address trade distortions and strengthen multilateral governance ahead of next year's crucial ministerial conference. While speaking to reporters, Piyush Goyal articulated India's three-pronged

approach to WTO modernisation.

"India made a strong pitch for addressing non-tariff barriers that certain countries use to deprive others of market access, taking necessary action against non-market economies, and ensuring we have a strong dispute settlement mechanism," he said. Further, Mr Goyal expressed scepticism about the effectiveness of the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA), saying that while some members have promoted the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement as an alternative, "only one or two members spoke about that, but there doesn't seem to be much consensus or traction to that idea. I haven't heard of any cases resolved through MPIA."

