



29 March 2021

(21-2559)

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Original: English

**UNITED STATES - SAFEGUARD MEASURE ON IMPORTS OF  
LARGE RESIDENTIAL WASHERS**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL**

The following communication, dated 26 March 2021, was received from the Chairperson of the Panel with the request that it be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body.

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Article 12.8 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) provides that the period in which a panel shall conduct its examination, from the date that the composition and terms of reference of the panel have been agreed upon until the date the final report is issued to the parties to the dispute, shall, as a general rule, not exceed six months.

Article 12.9 of the DSU provides that, when a panel considers that it cannot issue its report within six months, it shall inform the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in writing accordingly and indicate the reasons, together with an estimate of the period within which it will issue its report.

The Panel in *United States - Safeguard Measure on Imports of Large Residential Washers* (DS546) was established by the DSB on 26 September 2018 and composed on 1 July 2019.

The letter of the Chairman of the Panel to the DSB on 9 December 2019 indicated that the beginning of the Panel's work was delayed due to the lack of available experienced lawyers in the Secretariat, and that the Panel expected to issue its final report to the parties in the first quarter of 2021.

The dates for issuance of the final report indicated in that letter were based on the Panel's expectation that it would be able to hold its substantive meetings with the parties in 2020. However, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel was unable to organize in-person meetings with the parties in 2020. Though the Panel explored the possibility of holding the first substantive meeting through virtual and other means in 2020 itself, in light of the views of the parties, the Panel decided not to do so in 2020. Due to the resultant delay in the panel proceedings, the Panel now expects to issue its final report to the parties by the end of 2021.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the DSB.

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