



11 May 2020

(20-3512)

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Original: English

**CHINA – CERTAIN MEASURES CONCERNING THE PROTECTION  
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE PANEL**

The following communication, dated 6 May 2020, was received from the Chairperson of the Panel with the request that it be circulated to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).

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On 14 June 2019, the Panel informed the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) that, by decision of 11 June 2019, it had accepted a request by the United States pursuant to Article 12.12 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) to suspend its work in the proceedings *China – Certain Measures Concerning the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights* (DS542) until 31 December 2019. On 7 January 2020, the Panel extended, upon request from the United States, the suspension of its work until 29 February 2020. On 3 March 2020, the Panel further extended, upon request from the United States, the suspension of its work until 1 May 2020, with effect as of 1 March 2020.

On 5 May 2020, the Panel received a further request from the United States to suspend, with effect as of 1 May 2020, its work in these proceedings pursuant to Article 12.12 of the DSU, in light of ongoing consultations between the United States and China. This further request is for suspension until 31 May 2020.

Article 12.12 of the DSU provides that the Panel may suspend its work at any time at the request of the complaining party for a period not exceeding 12 months. This provision also indicates that if the work of the Panel has been suspended for more than 12 months, the authority for establishment of the Panel shall lapse.

The Panel hereby informs the DSB of its decision to accept this further request for suspension with effect as of 1 May 2020. The Panel's work therefore remains suspended until 31 May 2020.

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

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