

**STATEMENT BY H.E. WILLIAM RUTO, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE
DURING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) PUBLIC
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exchanging what we have for what we need is the essence of trade. This is true for trade at all times in all places. It is a critical feature of prehistoric bartering as well as modern, hi-tech complex and sophisticated transactions.

In turn, this therefore means that the interests of 1.1 billion Africans is vital to global governance, and that activity on a global scale also affects the individual. Trade matters to the people of Africa, because trade matters to everyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

African Leaders have recognized that trade is important for national development and the integration of the continent into the global economy. It is for this reason that African Leaders through the African Union have made clear pronouncements

Third, Africa considers Trade to be an important tool for wealth creation and economic growth. This is at both community and country levels. When people trade they are able to get goods and services to satisfy their own needs and those of their nations and hence create opportunities that are fundamental for improvement of livelihoods.

Fourth, We expect Trade to create employment opportunities in Africa. When a business thrives it employs the owner and the family. As the business expands, it will require additional labour and skills, which necessitates employment of people with the needed skills. This employment creation is important as it ensures that people share in the prosperity and wealth created through trade.

Fifth,

It is for these reasons that many African Governments have tried to put in place laws and regulations that protect personal rights and guarantee ownership of property and wealth, which cannot be taken away without proper compensation.

At the regional economic groupings in Africa robust mechanisms have been put in place to provide for disputes resolutions through government recognized mechanism including regional legal courts for litigation where necessary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Africa intensifies efforts to increase intra Africa trade, which currently stands at 10%, compared to 60%, 40%, 30% intra-regional trade that has been achieved by Europe, North America and ASEAN respectively, the continent is cognizant of the fact that this is an interdependent world and Africa cannot trade in isolation. It is for this reason that the continent attaches great importance to the multilateral trading system and the principles that it stands for. This explains why many African Countries are Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) while some who are not members are at the various stages of accession.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations, we in Africa are concerned that members have not been able to conclude the negotiations in over a decade (13 years), which has placed development at its core. The new momentum from the WTO Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013 should be taken forward to achieve an outcome that addresses the development needs and aspiration of the developing and least developed countries. We urge the Membership to expedite the preparation of the post Bali Work programme that will be instrumental in accelerating the process towards the conclusion of the Doha Round.

Thank You.