

**SECOND REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON WTO ACCESSIONS FOR THE GREATER
HORN OF AFRICA**

TRADE FOR PEACE THROUGH WTO ACCESSIONS

Good morning.

Introductory remarks

On behalf of the WTO, it is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the Second Regional Dialogue on WTO Accessions for the Greater Horn of Africa. We appreciate the International Trade Centre, our partner organization, joining with us to make this event possible, and especially for its arranging the participation of representatives of the business community as well as a number of specialized experts.

Djibouti's Strategic Location in the Horn of Africa

My special appreciation is due to the Government of Djibouti for giving us its warm and gracious welcome.

Djibouti occupies one of the most strategic locations not only for the Horn of Africa but also for the world for trade, security, and h

With this Dialogue, a joint initiative of countries in the region, the Government of Djibouti is demonstrating what is required to sustain the multilateral trading system. Especially at a time when the system is facing challenges in all its functions, it is the responsibility of every single Member, regardless of its level of development, to make a net positive contribution to the system. This is indeed the essence of WTO Reform debate today. Making investments in WTO Accession generate one of the greatest dividends to the system. Each accession is the reaffirmation of the fundamental values and principles embodied in the system, and each accession strengthens the system.

WTO accession is a collective responsibility of all Members, and one of the most important features of the world trading system. It is also one of its finest features, demonstrating a desire to welcome new Members.

Recent Developments in the Greater Horn of Africa since the first Dialogue

The Greater Horn of Africa, with the largest concentration of Acceding Governments in Africa, is a region of strategic importance to the WTO. This is particularly true, for WTO Members as they are reminded of the origin of the multilateral trading system, which is founded on the promise that trade opening and integration is a key ingredient for fostering peace. This gathering is timely and significant as it is happening in the region where the promise of "trade for peace" is now being implemented through WTO accession.

Regionally, the international community welcomed the swift

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- An agreement to normalise ties between Eritrea and Djibouti signed in September 2018 in Djibouti, ending a decade-long conflict;
- The signing of a Tripartite Cooperation Agreement amongst Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia in September 2018 in Eritrea;
- The signing of a peace agreement between the government of South Sudan and the main rebel factions in September 2018, formally ending a civil war that commenced in 2013

Ethiopia. Sudan has been undertaking important reforms to remove WTO-inconsistent

The WTO Secretariat assists in providing a platform for conflict-afflicted acceding governments to share experiences and help each other progress. The theme of today's dialogue is a culmination of a series of activities on Trade for Peace since MC11 when the g7+ WTO Accession Group was launched. This group is a sub-group of the larger g7+ and comprises of conflict afflicted Acceding Governments (Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan and Timor-Leste) and WTO Members (Afghanistan, Liberia and Yemen). The activities held in Geneva thus far include:

- A seminar on WTO Accessions – Building Peace Through Trade, held on 19 September;
- During this year's WTO Public Forum, on October 4th of this year, a program on Trade for Peace in 2030: Integration of Fragile States as a Pathway Towards Peace and Resilience; and,
- A session, on 9 November, during Geneva Peace Week on WTO Accession for Peace and Nation-building.

Programme of the Dialogue and Concluding Remarks

Turning to this week's programme, in addition to addressing trade for peace, substantive discussions will take place on the WTO accession process. Acceding governments will be able to learn from their peers who are in the process of acceding as well as from those who have concluded the accession process. We will also have for the first time, representatives of the private sector give their perspectives on WTO accession. Participants will also benefit from a specialised training organized by ITC on "Launching a National Brand". On Wednesday, we will adopt an outcome document that hopefully will prompt leaders in the Horn of Africa, WTO Members and development partners to promote peace by building economic relationships through WTO accessions and deeper regional integration.

Trade does not prevent war. It does not guarantee peace. It does give peace a better chance. What you do here this week is of great importance not only to gfu4 (e a 2(un)-10 (c4.9)-12 (u4 (e a 2

Thank you.

