



NAIROBI FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE

WTO ACCESSIONS AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

SPECIAL SESSION: LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: WTO ACCESSIONS AND POST-ACCESSION – DOMESTIC REFORMS AND THE BENEFITS OF WTO MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, 13 December 2015

*Statement by Mrs. Zhao Hong, Commissioner of Negotiation Department for WTO Affairs,
Ministry of Commerce, China*

"China's Aid for Trade on Post-Accession"

Honorable Minister Amina Mohamed,
Honorable Deputy Director General David Shark,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to attend this Round Table and share with you China's "aid for trade" efforts since its accession to the WTO. China and Africa share a common future and enjoy widespread common interests. The convening of this Round Table in Kenya has reflected the spirit of unity, friendship, cooperation and development between China and Africa. Please allow me to first express my heartfelt gratitude to the Kenyan government for its considerate organization and logistics

sectors like finance, scientific research and professional and technical services. The cumulative investment value amounted to 100 billion USD, including more than 30 billion USD worth of FDI. It is noteworthy that railway has become a new highlight in China-Africa economic cooperation. The Mombasa-Nairobi Railway Project cooperated by China and Kenya, and the costal railway project signed by China and Nigeria will both help improve the local transport networks, accelerate economic development and create more jobs.

Third, enhance market access and expand import of goods. With a view to effectively promoting the export of developing countries and LDCs to China, starting from 2005, China has been applying zero import duty to commodities of 190 tariff lines from 26 LDCs in Africa. After that, the Chinese leaders committed to give duty-free treatment to 97% of tariff lines of goods that China imports from the LDCs with whom it has diplomatic relations. With the full implementation of the relevant measures in 2015, China has made its contribution to earnestly honoring the commitment to Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration and promoting the negotiation of DFQF issue in DDA. To date, 33 LDCs with diplomatic relations with China enjoy the above treatment, while similar arrangements with other countries are being made. Since 2008, China has, for many consecutive years, been the largest export market of LDCs' products, and imported one fourth of LDCs' total exported goods.

Fourth, strengthen support and help integrate into the multilateral trading system. In order to help LDCs participate in the multilateral trading system, China has begun to donate to the WTO Aid for Trade Initiative since 2008, and sponsored the "China Program" in 2011. Under its framework, China held the first Round Table in Beijing in 2012 and issued the Beijing Declaration, exerting positive impact on the efforts to streamline the procedures for LDCs to join the WTO. The following two Round Tables also bear rich fruits. By holding Round Tables on the accession of LDCs and funding the internship of staff from LDCs etc, China, with its concrete actions, has played a proactive role in pacing up the accession process of LDCs and made major contribution to support the participation of LDCs in the multilateral trading system and economic globalization.

Ladies and gentlemen,

China always holds that the LDCs need the WTO and the WTO needs the LDCs. The accession of more LDCs to the WTO family is not only conducive to their effective involvement in the multilateral trading system represented by the WTO, integration into the economic globalization process, getting out of poverty and realizing rapid and comprehensive development, therefore helping with the sustainable stability and prosperity of the world, but also can further enhance the universal and representative nature of the WTO, and consolidate and strengthen the rule-based multilateral trading system.

In the future, China will adhere to the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith in forging its relations with Africa, actively implementing the important outcomes including the Ten Cooperation Plans proposed by President Xi Jinping at the Johannesburg Summit of The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), adapt to the trends of times,

