

## SEVENTH CHINA ROUND TABLE

### EURASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: ACCESSIONS AND THE EVOLUTION OF WTO RULES

26- 27 SEPTEMBER 2018 , HILTON HOTEL, ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

Closing session - Remarks by Mr Li Chennang, Assistant Minister of Commerce, China

27 September 2018

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Dossayev,  
Honourable Director General Azevêdo,  
Honourable Ministers,  
of Kazakhstan and the WTO Secretariat for the hard work and thoughtful arrangements for this Round Table.

Over the past two days, delegates had positive and constructive communication on topics like the contribution of joining the WTO to the multilateral trading system.

In this connection, I would like to share with you my observations on three points.

First, the successful Round Table meeting demonstrates the sense of responsibility of all sides for the multilateral trading system. Economic globalization is facing tremendous impacts from unilateralism and protectionism, and the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core is faced with severe challenges.

Against this background, the broad consensus forged at this Round Table on a series of issues on WTO accession is a full recognition of the WTO's role as well as strong evidence of the real actions taken by Members to uphold the authority and efficacy of the multilateral trading system.

Second, we still have a long way to go to help developing countries, especially, the LDCs to integrate in the multilateral trading system. As the uncertainty of the international economy is on the rise, developing countries, especially the LDCs, have a more imminent demand for a more predictable and transparent external environment for growth. So this Round Table meeting discussed the concrete issues and challenges in terms of accession process, and relevant countries expressed their willingness to join the WTO as soon as possible. These are the requirements and hopes for our work in the future.

Third, China always commits to supporting the LDCs to integrate into the multilateral trading system. China has offered zero tariff treatment for 97% of tariff lines of products imported

