

As delivered

**Introductory Remarks by Ambassador Dr. ZHANG Xiangchen
at the 7th China Round Table**

Astana, 26 September 2018

Distinguished Ambassador Zhanar Aitzhanova,
Distinguished DDG Ambassador Alan Wolff,
Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

I would like to thank, on behalf of Chinese government, the government of Kazakhstan and the WTO Secretariat, for their good preparation and careful organization of the 7th China Round Table, and welcoming all the participants for your coming.

I am very pleased that Kazakhstan has taken this positive step, coming at a critical moment in global trade. This clearly shows Kazakhstan's commitment and engagement to the multilateral trading system. As a matter of fact, Kazakhstan has been an active member since its accession nearly 3 years ago. Ambassador Zhanar Aitzhanova and her team in Geneva have been actively engaged in various occasions. Zhanar is capable, and a good friend to me. We two Missions have kept close cooperation and mutual support in many areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

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China has always attached great importance to LDC's accession to the WTO. We have provided support of various kinds in line with our own capability. China remains the only member that promises not to ask market access requests for LDCs application of the membership. Today's Round Table is a good example, which is one of the five pillars of "China Programme", with the other 4 pillars being the internship programme,