

WTO Regional Dialogue on Accession for Greater Horn of Africa Closing Remarks

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OSHIKAWA, HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, THE
AMBASSADORS, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am delighted to give my closing remarks in this important forum which has brought together delegates from regional countries to have a dialogue on the WTO accessions for the greater horn of Africa.

From the dialogue that started on Monday the 28th of August 2017, it has emerged that it takes an average of 10 years for a country to accede to the WTO. However, it has taken the Horn of African countries intending to accede to the WTO an average of 5.4 years.

It is important to note that the concessions a country should give at the regional level should be more (maximum) than the concessions that it should make with countries that are thousands of mile away.

WTO helps countries intending to accede i

However, there is need for political determination and patience post liberalization and a rational opening of the economy important hence the need to look from within.

The requests from WTO may be too high targeting especially for most LDCs hence the need for a combination of technical assistance and local human capacity.

Acceding countries should build a professional negotiation