Mr. Chairman,

Director General, Members of the council,

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am very pleased to be here today

Allow me to convey to you, warm greetings from H.E.

WTO offices who gave us ahand to facilitate and accomplish this process.

Mr. Chairman, many developing countries particularly LDCs, such as my own, are keen to join WTO because among others WTO promotes to lower trade barrier with fair competition without discrimination and encourages development and economic reform allowing them for special provision accession like giving them more time to regulate or adjust, greater flexibility, and other special privileges.

We all know how fundamental trade is for economic growth and job creation with the result of poverty alleviation, however domestic policy is a key factor to ensure that the gains of trade are better shared across the society. As we know, many other issues are related to trade which are also to a certain level priority to WTO, encourage good governance, support the environment and health and contribute to peace and stability and more.

Somalia as post conflict country is looking forward to gain from these important WTO support in order to rebuild the country for the future development and prosperity of its people.

Mr. Chairman, Somali population has a history of trade far longer than today.

In the ancient times, Somalia wæ æ æ æ æ oT Land o P p is located in a strategic area and has the longest coast line in Africa. The Somali people enjoyed a lucrative trading relationship with Ancient Egypt and Mycenaean Greece. The Somalis traded myrrh, spices, gold, ebony, short-horned cattle, ivory and frankincense with the Ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Indians, Chinese and Romans through their commercial ports. Somalia has experienced many years of suffering, with prolonged civil war, famine and fleeing its population from the country. This resulted in many Somalis being refugees and more. The memorandum of economic and financial policies has been updated, a comprehensive roadmap for currency reform is established, and now a national development plan to reinforce the development strategy is in process. For 2016, real GDP growth is projected at 3.7 percent, driven by the telecommunication,