



Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank the People and Government of the People's Republic of China for organizing this Round Table and for the invitation extended to me to take part in it. I would also like to thank the WTO and in particular the Accession Division Headed by Mr. Chiedu Osakwe for co-organizing this meeting.

The issues that this session is allotted to cover include:

- Preparing impact assessments—potential impact and benefits
- Creating a coordinating institutional structure for decision making on WTO accession
- Appointment of Chief Negotiator and composition of a negotiating team
- Cooperation with Parliament, business sector and the general public for “ownership”; and
- Coordination and collaboration among government agencies

I will try to address briefly all the topics in the order they are inscribed on the programme, with the exception of the last topic that is coordination and collaboration among government agencies which will be covered early on. By way of introduction though, I would like to say that Ethiopia attaches high priority to the accession process to the WTO, and thus accession is addressed at the highest level with a Council of Ministers decision clearly providing for effective coordination and follow-up of the accession process.

## Preparing impact assessments—potential impact and benefits

A number of impact studies have been conducted to assess the potential benefits and the costs that would arise from joining the WTO. Thus



- If during the accession process it is necessary to issue new policy or law or amend existing policies or laws, it would recommend that these be drafted by the relevant government institution;

The Council of Ministers decision provides for an effective coordination between the relevant

negotiating team is composed of the Steering Committee members with a supporting negotiating role assigned to the members of the Technical Committee. This has proven quite effective in both the multilateral setting with members of the Working Party and the bilateral settings.

Finally, in terms of cooperation with the business sectors and the general public for “ownership” an outreach programme was launched with a view to familiarize the business community. Thus far workshops, seminars, etc. were held in order to train regional Chambers of Commerce. We have an action plan to expand these activities.

Thank you for your kind attention.