

TALKING POINTS BY AMB. (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMED CBS, CAV, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DURING FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE 13 DECEMBER 2015, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI.

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Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Kenya. It is my pleasure to see you here at what is the first of many events around the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference. I wish you all a productive and successful time here in Nairobi.

I will be brief, given the packed agenda for today's discussions and tomorrow's high-level panel session.

To start, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, to express my gratitude to the WTO Secretariat and the People's Republic of China for their support in organizing this event.

The purpose of the China Round Table process is to provide a platform for WTO Members and Observers to share their experiences gained through WTO Accession negotiations and the related domestic reforms which accompany those negotiations.

WTO Members must congratulate themselves on the recent progress made in numerous accession negotiations. Indeed this year has been momentous for WTO accessions.

From Africa, we welcomed the Seychelles as the WTO's  
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In Paris, in the margins of the OECD, earlier this year, I spoke of Africa's fundamental commitment to trade multilateralism; for Africa, for us, it is multilateralism first and last. We want to see the WTO more relevant, stronger and the first point of reference in writing non-discriminatory multilateral trade rules for trade opening for recovery and growth in the global economy.

Accession negotiations are one of the areas of the WTO that is working exceptionally well we all know that the only real market access that has been achieved in the WTO has been through accessions.

Distinguished Colleagues,

The theme for this Round Table is "Domestic Reforms for Competitiveness and Deeper Trade Integration in the Global Economy, with the focus on Africa."

Your discussions today are an opportunity to exchange views on the way forward for Africa's integration into the global economy and achievement of development aims.

To make the Organization work, we – as Ministers – must engage and drive it forward to deliver the results we need.

Distinguished Colleagues,

I must stress that, as the first WTO Ministerial Conference in Africa, MC10 underlines the importance of delivering on meaningful development outcomes in the WTO. It will also be a milestone in terms of the future of the Organization.

What we are able to deliver in the coming days will be crucial to the role of the WTO as a forum for trade negotiations in coming months and years.

I must warn you, we have many long days and nights ahead of us.



Implementing the TFA will mean helping to cut global trade costs as well as expediting the technical assistance that the Agreement provides for, including through the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility.

Before I conclude, I would like to apologise that Minister Gao will be unable to attend the High Level Session tomorrow morning. I had a detailed discussion with Minister Gao and he assured me that he has asked senior officials to represent him and who will be able to speak on his behalf.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, allow me to wish you once again a successful Round Table.

Thank You.