

**Statement by the Separate Customs Territory of
Taiwan, Penghu, Kinman and Matsu on the
Accession of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in
Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday, 17 December at 16h30**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Khan, distinguished delegations, fellow members, on behalf of the government of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinman and Matsu, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to Afghanistan to the WTO family. It has been a long journey, but one, I'm sure, that you will feel has been worthwhile.

I think we all hold the government of Afghanistan in

the faith that exists in a strong multilateral rules-based trading system, with the WTO at its core. We are pleased to see how many other countries, including the LDCs, are keen to take the path towards accession to the WTO in the future.

And, finally, I must say, we shall enjoy having Afghanistan's active participation as a fully-fledged Member in the WTO, and we look forward to working closely with you.

Thank you.