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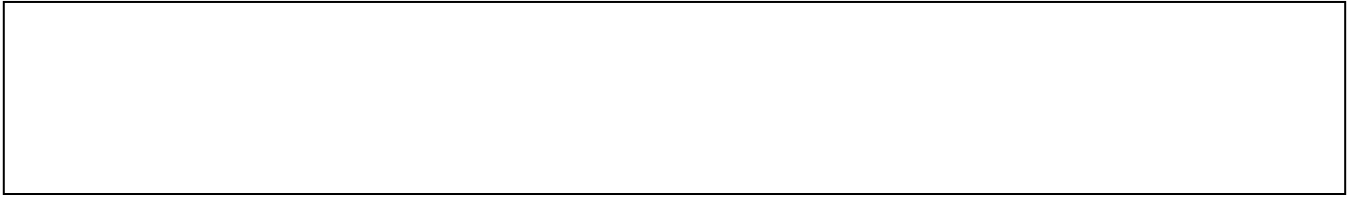
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)  
10TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Remarks by the President of the Republic of Liberia  
H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at signing of Accession Protocol of  
Liberia Accession to the WTO at the  
10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization

Nairobi, 16 December 2015

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18. Madam Chair, Liberia is endowed with over 40% of the tropical rain forest in West Africa, the largest in the region. Our country accounts for some of the most spectacular biodiversity in the world, including as a primary home to the pigmy pygmy. It is ideal for eco-tourism.
19. With over 580 kilometers of beautiful white sand beaches along the Atlantic, Liberia tourism has benefitted from the dare devils who dare to challenge some of the biggest waves in the world. Additionally, with so many beautiful lakes, lagoons, rivers and streams, coastal and marine tourism present great opportunities for investments. We therefore welcome investors in these sectors while offering our assurances of the most favourable incentives for investment.
20. Liberia is also largely a country with a youthful population of over 60%, most of who are under age of 25, which also presents opportunities for manufacturing and ICT.
21. Madam Chair, we recognize that our transition can neither be done alone, nor in isolation, but by forging partnerships based on the foundation of mutual respect with mutual benefits.
22. In closing, we salute our partners who have made this accession a resounding success and wish to assure all of you, that Liberia is open for business as a respectable partner. We also want to affirm that we fully subscribe to the common African position on strengthening the rules-based multilateral trading system for the Africa we want; founded on principles of respectable, fair, and transparent global trade with mutual benefits for all.
23. Mr. President, Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates, I take the opportunity of this occasion to extend warm congratulations to the people of Afghanistan on their accession to be celebrated tomorrow.
24. I also would like to once again congratulate our host President Kenyatta and the people of Kenya and say how proud I am of their leadership in hosting MC10, the first in Africa. I also want to thank Director General Azeze, Mr. Cheidu Osakwe and his team in the Accessions division for their support to our accession and celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WTO. Equally so, I want to recognize and thank the Government of Sweden and particularly Ambassador Joakim Re for his leadership as the Chair of our Working Party over the years.
25. Finally, today would not have been realized without the talents of our Liberian technicians, public servants whose skills and commitment made today possible.
26. Madam Chair, let me assure you that Liberia intends to serve as an active member to foster trade as a tool for driving trade and investment for development and poverty reduction. We believe this organization has a critical role to play.

27. Let me wish you all a successful deliberation and I look forward to celebrating with all of you a positive Nairobi outcome that fosters fairer and more equitable trade for the prosperity of all of our peoples in a world we all want to live in.

28. *Asante Sana.*