

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT

STATEMENT

BY

HON. MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT

AT MC10 OF THE WTO

NAIROBI, KENYA, DECEMBER 15 - 18, 2015

Madam Chair,

Colleague Ministers,

preferences to enable the LDC service suppliers access their markets. We believe that the effective operationalisation of the service waiver will help the LDCs to improve on our services exports, which in the case of The Gambia, is one of the largest drivers of growth.

The Gambia also calls on WTO members and other development partners to provide the LDCs with enhanced technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen the domestic and export services capacity of the LDCs to enable us benefit from the operationalization of the waiver.

We also call for the full implementation of the Hong Kong Ministerial Decision on duty-free, quota-free market access for LDCs and for the removal of complicated and cumbersome rules of origin that hamper the ability of LDCs to effectively make use of these preferences.

Finally, let me emphasize that Aid-for-Trade remains an important area of interest to us as LDCs given its strategic role in supporting the development of trade-related capacities in our economies. The Gambia therefore welcomes the extension of the Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF) into the second phase and wishes to thank all the donors who made pledges at the conference.

The multilateral trading system remains and will continue to be the platform that avails us all the opportunity to discuss and agree on

multilateral trade rules that promote fair trade and support our development process. In spite of the current challenges in the negotiations, we should continue to be committed in DDA negotiations and be ready to give and take to reach a balanced outcome.

Let me conclude by once again