

Address by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry of India

At the Plenary Session of the

10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO

*16 December 2015*

1. It is an honor for me to participat

7. However, Madam Chairperson, the situation could be more encouraging. The reform process which was started after the Uruguay Round in the form of the Doha Round appears to be in jeopardy. Negotiations have spilled over into Nairobi, which makes matters very complicated. The manner and haste with which important negotiating meetings are being convened does not inspire confidence.
8. The DDA may have run into obstacles but it is in our collective interest to continue to work on all pillars, keeping its development dimension intact. We are of the firm view that this Ministerial must clearly re-affirm the Doha Development Agenda and all Ministerial Declarations and Decisions taken since 2001 when we launched the Doha Round. These are all important. Let us not waste time negotiating which of these we should reaffirm and welcome.
9. We must respect our negotiating mandates and work within the established framework of the DDA and the tried and tested WTO principles.
10. It is our duty to safeguard the legitimate interests of poor farmers and the food



16. Services sector is equally important for developing countries for growth as well as job creation. Besides the accelerated flow of goods, easier flow of services is, therefore, equally important. The liberalization of services trade, particularly in Modes 1 and 4, needs to figure high on the development agenda. A special initiative on Services sector is needed. To achieve this, it is imperative to put in place a simple and transparent regulatory framework that encourages growth in the Services sectors.
17. An open, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral trading system contributes to maximizing gains for all its Members. Plurilateral approaches by definition impinge on the multilateral trading system and cannot be a substitute for it. It is important that such arrangements complement, and not segment, the multilateral trading system.
18. I have taken careful note of calls by some members to commence work on