



Madam. Chairperson;

I am here with an important message. Now that years of intensive negotiations has finally cleared all the misunderstandings around Iran's nuclear activities, we are taking the next step towards integrating more deeply into the global economy. We are doing this by opening up our trade and investment regime, while pursuing bilateral and regional integration with our trading partners. Nonetheless, we firmly believe that regionalism is not a substitute but a complement to the multilateral trading system. Finalizing our WTO membership is therefore a priority for the Iranian Government.

As the largest non-member economy in the world, our full membership will be a win-win for all and a significant step towards creating a truly universal organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you are fully aware, the history of Iran's accession bid is as old as the history of the WTO itself. But, we are not here to linger in the past. We

have to focus on the future. Therefore, I am happy to announce that Iran's Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime, which was once submitted in 2009, has now been fully revised and updated reflecting all the laws and regulations entered into force over the past few years. We are ready to submit that document to the secretariat upon the first meeting of the Working Party of Iran's accession. That meeting is still pending due to lack of decision on the appointment of a chairperson. I hereby seek support of the entire membership to facilitate the process of the formation of our working party as soon as possible.

We are also fully prepared to submit our offers' lists for both goods and services upon the receipt of any interests from members for entering into bilateral market access negotiations.

As an acceding country, we truly believe that trade should remain consistent with "development" objectives, especially Sustainable Development Goals.

In conclusion, Ms. Chairperson, as this is the first Ministerial Conference ever held in Africa, my hope is that Nairobi will be remembered not only for making a leap forward in achieving Doha development objectives, but also for moving towards the WTO's goals of inclusiveness