

**10th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference
15-18 December 2015, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Statement by HE Mrs. Zhanar Aitzhanova
Minister of Economic Integration of Kazakhstan
at the Plenary Session**

Wednesday, 16 December 2015

Dear Minister Amina Mohamed,
Director General Roberto Azevedo,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

This is a big honor for me to address such a distinguished audience as a new, 162-nd member of the WTO. Today – 16-th of December - the day when Kazakhstan is celebrating 24th anniversary of its independence.

Our journey to WTO membership was not an easy one and was full of challenges. This is proved not only by length of our accession process (almost 20 years of 24 years of our independent history we were inspiring to become a WTO member), but also by the complexity of issues that we addressed jointly with our WTO members in the course of our accession process.

Kazakhstan's accession was possible thanks to bold market economy and trade liberalization reforms undertaken by the government under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, as well as his political commitment and personal involvement. This was also possible thanks to constructive engagement, continued support and creativity of our Working Party members and the able team of the Secretariat.

in Astana. The theme of EXPO – Energy of future, about alternative energy sources, clean technologies, environment and sustainable development.
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