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was substituted by the United Nations. If we are awkward and impractical and do not make the hard choices to renew the WTO and we lose it, we would have to re-create it and it would be infinitely harder to do so.

Apart from a weak global economy still dealing with the after-shocks of the global financial and economic crisis, we are faced with the risk of trade and economic fragmentation. Variable regional trading arrangements are useful and can generate welfare effects. They are complements to trade multilateralism, but not substitutes.

And if I may quote my friend and colleague USTR Michael Froman from his Op Ed in the Financial Times of yesterday, "Multilateralism still promises the greatest gains in theory"; and, I would to that "in practice as well".

The WTO represents something more and greater. In multilateral trade negotiations, parties are not just the like-minded – "like us". The world is not just composed of the like-minded. We reflect the rich and frustrating diversity of different priorities, different concerns and different approaches. This may not always approximate our goals, ideals, preferences and ambitions, but these are the cards that we have been dealt and which we must play.

In our diversity, we learn something more valuable. We learn to engage constructively, pragmatically and, realistically. We learn to construct a *modus vivendi* and a win-win for all. In our trade games, there are no winners that take it all. This is the immeasurable value of multilateralism.

So, this is what is at stake and what we have to address in Nairobi over the next few days.

But the odds are not stacked against us. To the contrary, I believe that the odds are in our favour. The results of year-long negotiations are not unfamiliar. Although they have been tough, there are self-binding commitments to success. The WTO has the full commitment of African WTO Members for a successful outcome. Our objective from this Nairobi Ministerial meeting is that it renews and strengthens the WTO. We would like it said that Africa restored to the WTO its élan, its capacity for trade rules and regulations and, its nimbleness in solving real world problems.

The outcome from Nairobi should modernize and update the WTO.

I would like to thank Roberto for his tireless efforts as Director-General to define the landing zones for a Nairobi outcome.

Over the next few days, as Chair of the Tenth Ministerial, I will work closely with him and Ministers, in different formats and configurations, to secure a meaningful outcome.

We shall do whatever it takes. Kenya and Africa are firmly fixed on ending 2015 on a high note for trade multilateralism. We ask the rest of the world to join us. With the support of the 162 Members of the WTO, I am hopeful that we shall succeed.

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