

**STATEMENT OF THE HON. GREGORY DOMINGO  
SECRETARY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
10TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
PLENARY SESSION  
16 DECEMBER 2015**

MADAM CHAIRPERSON AMB. MOHAMED,  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL AZEVEDO, FELLOW  
MINISTERS, DELEGATES AND FRIENDS:

GOOD MORNING.

THE PHILIPPINES CONGRATULATES KENYA FOR  
ITS WARM HOSPITALITY AND EXCELLENT  
HOSTING OF THE 10TH



GROWTH CANNOT BE INCLUSIVE IF IT DOES NOT HAVE A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED, MOST OF WHOM LIVE IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES.

TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU A STORY OF FILIPINOS CONSIDERED VULNERABLE, AND HOW THE WTO CAN FURTHER HELP THEM OVERCOME THEIR OBSTACLES.

THE STORY IS THAT OF

WHIS



ARTIFICIALLY COMPETITIVE. THESE FLEXIBILITIES INCLUDE, AMONGST OTHERS, HUGE AND HIGH CEILINGS IN TRADE-DISTORTING SUBSIDIES IN BOTH PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS.

SMALL FARMERS NEED SPECIAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST THE INFLUX OF IMPORTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MADE ARTIFICIALLY COMPETITIVE BY TRADE-DISTORTING SUBSIDIES. THEY ALSO NEED THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING THAT ENSURES FOOD SECURITY IN TIMES OF NEED.

IN THIS REGARD, THE WTO CAN DO MORE HERE IN NAIROBI TO CORRECT OR SAFEGUARD AGAINST EXISTING DISTORTIONS, AND PROVIDE THESE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITIES FOR FARMERS AND CONSUMERS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

TO ADDRESS THESE INEQUITIES AND IMBALANCES THE PHILIPPINES PUTS EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE SMALL AND RESOURCE-POOR PRODUCERS FROM MARKET VOLATILITIES THROUGH THE SPECIAL SAFEGUARD MECHANISM (SSM) AND PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES IN THE PHILIPPINES' OWN FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

AN EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SSM AND A RESPONSIVE PERMANENT SOLUTION ON PUBLIC STOCKHOLDING FOR FOOD SECURITY PURPOSES ARE ESSENTIAL TO A MEANINGFUL, BALANCED AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED OUTCOME AT MC10 IN NAIROBI.

AT PRESENT, FREE TRADE RULES FAVOR BIG BUSINESS, NOT NECESSARILY BY DESIGN BUT VERY LIKELY BY DEFAULT, BECAUSE WE

PROBABLY UNDERSTOOD THEIR NEEDS BETTER. SO TODAY, WE HAVE A FREE TRADE REGIME THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR SMALL BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN CROSS BORDER TRADE BECAUSE OUR RULES ARE CUMBERSOME AND DIFFICULT FOR THEY WERE CRAFTED FOR BIG TRADE FLOWS FROM BIG BUSINESS.

MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES (MSES), WHICH DO NOT HAVE ACCOUNTANTS, BANKERS OR LAWYERS TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE THRU THE MAZE OF TRADE RULES, ARE THE MOST AFFECTED. MSES

THIS IS UNFORTUNATE AS WELL FOR THE WTO BECAUSE WE HAVE FALLEN SHORT IN FULFILLING OUR MOST BASIC MANDATE WHICH IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MSE ISSUE HAS NOT YET MADE IT TO THIS MINISTERIAL'S AGENDA BUT I THANK THE CHAIR FOR MENTIONING IT YESTERDAY IN HER OPENING REMARKS.

WHILE WE CONTINUE OUR INTENSIVE WORK HERE IN NAIROBI AND AFTER NAIROBI IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE THE REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE DOHA ROUND IT IS MY HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT MSES WILL BECOME A MAJOR TOPIC OF CONCERN IN FUTURE MEETINGS.

FOR IT IS UP TO US –THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM - TO CHART A PATH THAT TRULY PROVIDES FOR INCLUSIVE TRADE AND ECONOMIC



A PATH THAT IS ALIGNED WITH THE GOALS OF  
THE 2030