

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MR SOSTEIN GWENGWE, M.P, MINISTER OF  
INDUSTRY AND TRADE AT THE NINNTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE,  
BALI, INDONESIA, 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

On the onset, I would like to join those that have spoken before me in thanking the Government and people of Indonesia for graciously hosting this Ministerial Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival. I would also like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman; the Director General of the WTO; and the Chairman of the General Council as well as the Secretariat of the WTO for your remarkable role in organizing this important Conference.

I would like to preface my statement by underlining the need for the multilateral trade system to be responsive to the needs and economic conditions of member states, particularly the least developed country member countries such as my country, Malawi. As we are all aware the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations has inherent serious imbalances which have negatively affected efforts by least developed countries to integrate into the global economy.

In 2001, the whole WTO membership met in Doha, Qatar and agreed on the development agenda which was acceptable to all of us. The Doha round generated high hopes of sustainable economic growth and prosperity among millions of the people, more specifically the poor. These hopes should not fade away. This is why our mandate has, was and still is to address the development deficit we inherited from the Uruguay Round. It is my expectation; that the Doha Development Round will therefore, address these imbalances. An ambitious outcome of the Doha Development Round is crucially important to create employment and through that, prosperity and economic growth in all parts of the world.

The Malawi Government believes that the Doha Development Round will be meaningful to LDCs if its outcome entails the establishment of a fair and pro-development rules-based multilateral trading system, which enhances our trade potential and creates sufficient policy space for our continued development. As a country we are cognizant of the progress that has so far been made in the Doha Development Round negotiations particularly on the Bali deliverables. We need to preserve what has been agreed

As a country which has premised its development on a trade based economic strategy Malawi is committed to the WTO and its ability to help create an international trade environment and rules-based system as an integral part of global economic and trade governance. In this respect, Mr. Chairman, Malawi is concerned with the delays in the conclusion of the Doha Development Round negotiations. We welcome the proposed package on Agriculture, Trade Facilitation and more importantly the LDC deliverables for Bali.

Given our geographical challenge as a landlocked country, Malawi has a vital stake in the

Malawi acknowledges the role played by UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, the World Bank, and IMF in assisting developing and least-developed countries in building their capacities in the trade sector among others and in particular, I call for increased and continued support to Malawi. Malawi also appreciates the bilateral technical assistance provided by development partners.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Malawi's commitment to the WTO and the multilateral trading system. Malawi like any other least developed country, will strive to contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system despite our limited financial and human resources.