

LDC Webinar – CTS Chair concluding statement

We have reached the conclusion of our webinar. Let me offer some personal closing remarks

Let me first of all thank all of our speakers, who have put a lot of time and effort in preparing their interventions and tailoring them to our information needs. They have enriched our collective reflection. Without them, the webinar could not have happened, and we should all be very grateful for their contribution.

We heard welcome remarks from the WTO Director-General, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the Minister of Chad, His Excellency Mr Kampard, and by Commissioner Mr Emmanuel Mutahunga, representing the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives of Uganda. Their opening messages reminded us of the context of this event and set the overall background for our discussions.

The first session of the webinar provided an overview of the landscape of LDC services trade. We were presented with the most recent and disaggregated information currently available. We saw initial data of the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on LDC services trade. At the global level, we learnt that few LDCs export services, that their exports are concentrated in a few sectors and that they reach relatively few markets. The national perspectives from Bangladesh, the United Kingdom and Turkey confirmed this overall picture.

One message that came through loud and clear is that there are significant services trade data gaps when it comes to LDCs, both for sectors and bilateral partners. We also learnt about some of the work under way to try

assistance and capacity-building measures and programmes to help integrate LDCs into the world economy, and enable their service suppliers to take advantage of export opportunities, including t