

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY UGANDA ON BEHALF OF THE LDCS GROUP, DURING THE LAUNCH EVENT OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY, 22 JULY 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the LDCs Group.

We thank you for arranging this meeting. We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you, Mr. Director General for your great efforts in finding a solution to the question of Assistance and Support for Capacity Building to Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries.

We may recall that under the initiative of my brother and friend, Ambassador John Kakonge the Coordinator of the ACP Group, and with my other brother and friend, Ambassador Nkopane Monyane, the Coordinator of the African Group, together we had been in constant consultation with you, Mr. Director General, on this matter for quite some time. Unlike some other processes in the WTO, these efforts on your part have today instilled some confidence of the members of Developing and the Least Developed World in you.

We are however delighted to share in this outcome because it attempts to alleviate some of the problems we have been raising in the past.

We have considered the concept note of this Facility. We take note of the fact that it will, inter alia, facilitate needs assessments, scheduling of commitments, enable project preparation, and create harmonious linkage between the recipients and the donors. It will also address some soft projects under the TFA. We welcome it as a first step to finally concluding discussion on this matter.

The LDCs will be interested in sealing this launch with an affirmative legal architecture housing the Facility. Nonetheless, we look forward to the harmonious implementation of the TFA.

To conclude, Chair, we would like to express our appreciation to, and commend, those Partners that have made it possible for this launching event to take place. We thank you once again Mr. Director General for your personal involvement in this matter. We look forward to more mutual collaborations with you for further detailed discussion on the same in the near future.

Thank you, Mr. Director General.