

**STATEMENT OF HON. CARL HERMANN GUSTAV SCHLETTWEIN, MINISTER OF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE 9TH WTO
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, BALI, INDONESIA, 05 DECEMBER 2013.**

**Honorable Gita Wirjawan Chairman of the WTO 9th Ministerial Conference;
Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the WTO;
Honorable Ministers;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

This Ministerial Conference is taking place at a time when world leaders are struggling to manage the current economic crisis, which by and large is collateral damage caused by the financial and debt crisis in mainly the developed economies. Global economic growth rates slowed and unemployment rates reached unprecedented levels with the youth being hit hardest. To address this economic imbalance and to create opportunities for the unemployed in our economies must remain a priority for all of us.

Mr. Chairman;

Regarding the **Doha Round of negotiations**, I wish to express my concern at the current impasse. The negotiations have now been repackaged into a piecemeal agenda, which in our view needs a closer look to ensure that its outcome is without prejudice to the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

As it stands, major issues in Agriculture, Services, and Non-Agricultural Market Access, have been left out and are at risk of passing into oblivion. Fundamental differences, which have kept us busy for the past twelve years will not be resolved by this mini package. We are losing the opportunity to conclude the Doha Development Agenda in a comprehensive and balanced manner. We therefore urge Members to support an all inclusive and comprehensive post-Bali work programme. This post-Bali program should be concrete and time bound and integral part of the so called Bali package.

Mr. Chairman;

Let me turn to the so-called Bali-Package. The Republic of Namibia recognizes that Trade Facilitation measures can reduce the cost of doing business, it can create additional jobs and it could induce economic growth. To be able to comply with the obligations in the agreement significant investments have to be made by the developing countries. Therefore, the cost to build the required capacities and potential gains must be equitably spread between developed and developing economies. This can only be ensured by a balanced approach where the obligation to comply with new rules is matched by binding provisions for assistance and capacity development.

In addition the envisaged trade facilitation agreement must include effective operational rules that, when implemented, enable special and differential treatment and bring about development as its main deliverable. We support the position of the African and ACP Group which advocates that “the obligation on developing countries and LDCs to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement should be based upon their acquisition of capacity to implement, including through fulfilling, by developed countries, the obligation of delivering binding, new and long-term technical and financial assistance and capacity building necessary for African countries to achieve full implementation capacity”.

On **Agriculture**, we recognizes the fundamental importance of food security and its linkages with agricultural productive capacity development. We maintain that agricultural produce should preferably be secured from local farmers, but also by sourcing food on world markets. Equally important is to reduce wastage, food price escalation and to safeguard food production capacity. My concerns with the current situation are twofold. On the one hand the proposed package does not sufficiently promote the development of agricultural productive capacity in developing countries and on the other, many agricultural products are produced under a variety of support programs, which skew prices and accessibility. A better balance should be found here too.

Mr. Chairman;

Lastly, we note the low ambition level maintained in the package for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), but nevertheless support it, since it aims to improve the results of better integration of LDCs in global trade.

I thank you.