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جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية الصومال بمكتب الأمم
المتحدة بجنيف وبالوكالات المتخصصة بسويسرا

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other
International Organizations in Geneva

STATEMENT

H.E Mrs. FADUMA ABDULAHI MOHAMUD
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

W T O ACCESSION

Geneva, 7 December 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Director General,
Members of the Council,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I am very pleased to be here today.

Allow me to convey to you, warm greetings from H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and on his behalf to thank the Counsel of Member States for approving us formally and Mr. Roberto Azevêdo WTO Director General for welcoming our membership application. I also would like to thank the WTO Secretariat, especially the office of Ms. Maika Oshikawa Officer in Charge of Accession Division and her team with all other WTO offices who gave us a hand to facilitate and accomplish this process.

Mr. Chairman, many developing countries particularly LDCs, such as my own, are keen to join WTO because among others WTO promotes to lower trade barriers with fair competition without discrimination and encourages development and economic reform allowing them for special provision accession such as giving them more time to regulate or adjust, greater flexibility, and other special privileges.

We all know how fundamental trade is for economic growth and job creation with the result of poverty alleviation however; domestic policy is a key factor to ensure that the gains of trade are better shared across the society. As we know, many other issues are related to trade which are also to a certain level a priority to WTO, encourage good governance, support the environment and health and contribute to peace and stability and more.

Somalia as a post conflict country is looking forward to gain from these important WTO support in order to rebuild the country for the future development and prosperity of its people.

Mr. Chairman, the Somali people have a history of trade far longer than today. In the ancient times, Somalia was an important center for commerce known as "The Land of Punt" since it is located in a strategic area and has the longest coast line in Africa. The Somali people enjoyed a lucrative trading relationship with Ancient Egypt and Mycenaean Greece. The Somalis traded myrrh, spices, gold, ebony, short-horned cattle, ivory and frankincense with the Ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Indians, Chinese and Romans through their commercial ports.

Today, there is archeological evidence of an old sophisticated civilization that thrived in the Somali peninsula.

Somalia has experienced many years of suffering, with prolonged civil war, famine and the fleeing its population from the country. This resulted in many Somalis being refugees. In addition, foreign booty hunters robbing tons of Somalia's fish stock in unprecedented illegal fishing, as well as dumping hazardous industrial waste in its waters. Today, with a rich history of trade, Somalis continue their passion of business and trade, wherever they are and Somalia is recovering from a civil war over two decades, but with enormous potential to generate and benefit from its own wealth.

In line with the Vision 2016 plan, the Somali government made tangible progress on election, state formation, security and economic development. Constitutional review is one of the pillars of Vision 2016, where the Constitutional Commission has finished the first phase, of the its review and the second is in progress. Engaged to the political process of the nation building are all stake holders including women, youth and minority group.

The election of the Federal Parliament is in its last stage and soon the parliament will vote for the Speaker followed by the election of the President who will select the Prime Minister. The 2016 electoral process is not a universal suffrage election, as conditions are not yet in place for a one-person one-vote ballot, instead, a system of indirect elections which includes all the interim regions and different groups of society is established. With this mechanism this Electoral College elects both parliament houses, lower and upper, with an eye towards universal elections by 2020.

This process was reached by Somali Federal government, leaders from all Federal Member States and Interim Federal States. Today, I am proud to inform you that 30% of the lower and upper house of the parliament is allocated to women.

The new statehood is composed of six Federal states. The election model took into consideration the bicameral system of parliament as in the Provisional Constitution 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Our government has passed competitive investment laws and we are ready to welcome and directly support all investors in every sector. From green energy, to agriculture, infrastructure, telecommunication and the blue economy, Somalia can become a world leader and a profitable home for investors and new enterprises with easy access to African, Middle East and Far East markets.

Private sector is the main machine of the economy due to long ongoing civil war. On the other hand, the Somali Diaspora who has been linked to their country before and after the civil war, engage in remittance of significant amount. They are also returning to invest in or capacity build our key national institutions.

The Federal Government of Somalia has established a very good cooperation with international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, African Development Bank and more. The memorandum of economic and financial policies has been

updated, a comprehensive roadmap for currency reform is established, and a national development plan to reinforce the development strategy is now in process.

For 2016, the real GDP growth is projected at 3.7 percent, driven by the telecommunication, construction and service sectors. The consumer price inflation is projected to remain low.

In terms of security, for the past four years, the National Army and AMISOM have defeated Al-Shabab as a military force and nearly all areas under their control have been liberated. We are grateful to AMISOM and all other nations who are helping us in keeping Somalia secure. We fully understand that the only way we can achieve long term stability and development both in Somalia and across the region is to form a well-trained, equipped and funded Somali National Security Forces. The Somali government is in the process to achieve this in the near future.

Lastly I cannot help but to mention the issue of current drought in Somalia. The majority of Somalis are pastoral and we are deeply concerned about the drought in Somalia, mainly in the northern part, Puntland, Somaliland, part of Jubaland and South East. Two consecutive seasons of drought across northern Somalia is driving tens of thousands of pastoralists into hunger and debt. The impact of the drought can be seen across Somalia in the alarmingly high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition found in many areas. This is a challenge that needs to be addressed.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, Somalia is on track to achieving political and national stability through the Somali Federal Government's "Vision 2016" plan for a political transformation.

In addition, it is recognized the potential and strategic value of Somalia for international security trade. What is necessary is that our partners to continue support Somalia's fruitful journey towards democratization, stability and sustainable development.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.