



Republic of Sudan
Ministry of International Cooperation

Opening Speech

By

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Minister of International Cooperation

At The

3rd Working Party Meeting of Sudan Accession to the
WTO

Geneva, 31st January ,2017

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE MERCIFUL THE COMPASSIONATE

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Sudan Delegation is delighted to attend the 3rd meeting of the working party on the accession of Sudan, after 13 years of stagnancy since the 2nd working party meeting which held in March 2004.

At the outset, may I, Mr. Chairman, respectfully introduce Sudan delegation to this historic Meeting!! It includes the Chief National Negotiator, Undersecretaries of the ministries, Secretary General, Parliamentarians, Permanent Representative, Ambassadors, Senior Officials, National Experts and leading businessmen. The delegation is from various government authorities as well as the private sector to demonstrate how firmly we are committed to the process of our WTO accession, particularly in the context that we are marching towards the conclusion of our accession by this year's WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina.

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Mr. **RYOSUKE KUWANA**, chairman of Sudan working party and the WTO secretariat for the excellent preparation and guidance, that led to this important phase of our accession process.

Mr. Chairman,

Sudan applied to join the WTO on 11th October 1994, and the Working Party on Sudan Accession was established on 25th October 1994, Sudan submitted the Memorandum for Foreign Trade Regime in 1999, and answered two patches of Questions total of (561 questions) during the period 2000- 2003, and conducted two meetings of the working party in 11th July 2003 and 10th March 2004, respectively. Today, I am really hopeful that we, the Sudanese delegation would be able to convince you that all of our efforts and your efforts back then have been rejuvenated with a concrete outcome of the "updated" Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime, and other related Negotiating Inputs which Khartoum has carefully and tirelessly worked on for today's official reactivation of the accession process of Sudan.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to take this opportunity, to firmly assure you the political commitment and readiness of the Government of Sudan to accede to the WTO. A High Committee chaired by the Vice President supervises the accession process and comprises of 21 ministers and involves other stakeholders as private sector and parliament.

Technically, and substantively, since 1992, Sudan has taken domestic and institutional reforms pursuing a progressive opening up of our economy to the world, enhancing ties and harmonization with global economy.

Sudan has adopted the five -year programme 2015-2019 for economic reforms to achieve progressive increase in the national production and directing it towards exports, improvement of living standards of all

citizens, attainment of welfare and justice, inclusive and balanced growth.

The Government of Sudan has adopted the Comprehensive National Dialogue with all political forces to discuss issues of the country and to reach a new political and social comprehension to pave the way for sustainable peace.

Mr. Chairman, Sudan welcome the Executive Order by the U.S. Treasury Department of January 13, 2017 which provides for revocation of the sanctions provisions Executive Orders 13067 and 13412 which lift 20 years' of economic sanctions on Sudan.

We believe this resolution will contribute towards increasing trade, attracting foreign direct investment and end the economic isolation that affected the Sudanese citizens for two decades.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Sudan has developed a roadmap guided by our Chairman after reactivation of its accession process at the General Council meeting in July 2016. The roadmap has outlined our desire to conclude the accession process by the 11th Ministerial Conference in December 2017.

We appreciate the valuable technical support by the WTO Accession Division Team which assisted in submitting and circulating Sudan accession documents in due time.

During the last period, Sudan has circulated a comprehensive set of updated documents to the Working Party such as ; Updated Memorandum for Foreign Trade Regime, Legislative Action Plan, Checklist of SPS and TBT, Action Plans for implementation of Sanitary

and Phytosanitary Agreement- Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement- WTO Trade- Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement, Revised Tariff Offer, Revised Services Offer, Domestic support and Export Subsidies in Agriculture, and Sudan has replied to questions by working party members. Further, we are constructively ready to respond to any questions that any Member might have, today.

Mr. Chairman,

Sudan as a least developed country, urges WTO members to facilitate and accelerate Sudan accession process; ensuring the General Council decision of 25th July 2012 of the accession of LDCs aimed for strengthening, streamling and operationalizing the 2002 LDCs guidelines; which we believe would attribute more balance, fairness to the multilateral trading system.

Sudan Delegation will be available until 5th of February for Bilateral Negotiations in all matters of our economic and trade policy.

And we hope this meeting will contribute toward acceleration and facilitation of Sudan accession to the WTO to be finalized according to the agreed roadmap by the 11th Ministerial Conference next December in Buenos Aires.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, My delegation believe that Sudan with its great potentials of human resources and national resources including agriculture, livestock, minerals; will contribute positively in the multilateral trading system when given a chance to accede to the

WTO. In addition to that, joining the WTO will benefit Sudan to improve its economy, trade and development.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.