



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
Office of the Chief Negotiator on WTO Accession

Speech by

H.E. Sadiq A. Haji Ibrahim

Chief Trade Negotiator

Federal Government of Somalia

at the

**1st Working Party Meeting for Somalia's Accession to the World Trade
Organization (WTO)**

Geneva, Switzerland
17 February 2025

Your Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister, Chair of the Working Party, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, and Colleagues,

It is an honor to take the floor following the Deputy Prime Minister's opening remarks, reaffirming Somalia's steadfast commitment to WTO accession. Today marks a historic milestone for our country as we formally engage with WTO members to advance our accession process. This moment reflects Somalia's dedication to integrating into the global trading system, fostering economic growth, and creating new opportunities for our people.

Distinguished Delegates,

I take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to our partners who have been instrumental in supporting Somalia's accession journey. Our sincere thanks goes to the World Bank team, including Ms. Stella Ilieva from the Country Management Unit and Mr. Pierre Sauv , Senior Trade Specialist, at World Bank Geneva Office. We also greatly appreciate the invaluable contributions of consultants Mr. Axel M. Addy and Mr. Sharmarke A. Jama.

As Somalia's Chief Trade Negotiator, I am honored to present our trade regime, which reflects the current political, social, and economic realities of our country. Our team has worked diligently to prepare the necessary documentation, and we stand ready to engage constructively with members to ensure a smooth and transparent accession process.

Somalia firmly believes that WTO membership is a crucial tool for accelerating economic growth, fostering prosperity and development, and safeguarding long-term peace and national security. We are fully committed to undertaking the necessary reforms to modernize our trade and economic policies, ensuring alignment with WTO principles.

Distinguished Delegates,

We recognize that accession is a rigorous process requiring transparency, policy coherence, and sustained engagement. We approach this process with openness and a constructive spirit, ready

to work closely with WTO members to address concerns, provide necessary clarifications, and reaffirm our commitment to a rules-based trading system.

We look forward to productive discussions with members of this Working Party. We deeply appreciate the valuable support and guidance of WTO members and the Secretariat and anticipate a fruitful exchange today.

We stand ready to embark on this journey together and value the constructive engagement of all partners.

Thank you.