



Closing Remarks by

H.E. Salah Ahmed Jama

Deputy Prime Minister (DPM)

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

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

As we bring this historic inaugural Working Party Meeting to a close, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your active engagement, unwavering support, and the constructive dialogue we have shared today. We are humbled by this experience. This is a very positive beginning. For us, trade and membership in regional, sub-regional and global trading arrangements is a top priority.

As we will see in the upcoming Trade for Peace Conference, we have observed that where there is trade, economic activity, livelihood, there is less conflict and less violence. We have seen the practical dimension of peace-making.

Somalia's journey toward WTO accession is a testament to our nation's resilience, commitment to reform, and pursuit of renewal. We acknowledge the seriousness of this work. We fully recognize that this process demands steadfast commitment, transparency, and collaboration, and we are prepared to meet these challenges with determination and purpose.

For Somalia, WTO membership is not merely an end goal but a vital mechanism to achieve sustainable economic growth, attract investment, and create meaningful opportunities for our people. We are dedicated to aligning our trade policies with global standards, enhancing institutional capacity, and ensuring that our economic transformation is inclusive and equitable, benefiting all segments of society. We also appreciate the LDC accession framework and other arrangements that would be able to attend to our needs.

As we move forward, we count on the continued support of our partners—WTO members, development agencies, and the private sector. Your technical expertise, market access opportunities, and knowledge-sharing will be indispensable in ensuring that Somalia not only accedes to the WTO but does so in a manner that maximizes the benefits for our economy and our people.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm Somalia's unwavering commitment to this process. We are prepared to engage constructively, address concerns, and demonstrate our readiness to become an active and responsible participant in the multilateral trading system.

With your continued partnership, we are confident that Somalia's accession will not only bolster our economic future but also contribute meaningfully to the global trading community. Together, let us strive for a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous global trading system—one that ensures no nation, regardless of its past challenges, is left behind.

Thank you.