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NAMIBIA

Statement Circulated by the Hon. Wilfried I. Emvula,
Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry

Like those delegation who spoke before me allow me to thank you and the Swiss Government for the excellent reception accorded to us since our arrival here in Geneva.

I wish to reaffirm Namibia's commitment to the multilateral trade system and to underscore the importance of having in place an open, fair and non-discriminatory rule-based trading system.

It is however, important to point out and to seek the understanding of our WTO partners when it comes to the difficulties facing developing and net food-importing economies such as ours in the implementation of these very important agreements.

In meeting our obligations it is imperative that we maintain a balance between effecting the necessary policy adjustments and paying due attention to formulating and implementing strategies and policies that promote economic development and address social challenges we face.

These in our view requires technical, human and financial resources and it is the lack of such capacity that influences our ability to implement these agreements and thus meet our obligation, and hence our call for extension of the deadlines.

Additional technical support will certainly help us to speed up this process. To that effect we wish to add our voice to those who called for increased support towards technical assistance. At the same time, we wish to express gratitude to those Members who continue to provide resources towards such much needed support.

In our view technical assistance should not only be limited to capacity building. For our economies to take advantage of market access provisions we need to strengthen our supply side measure. Thus additional support towards enhancing supply side measure would be critical.
