



NAIROBI FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE

WTO ACCESSIONS AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. MR. YU JIANHUA, AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO THE WTO

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2015

Her Excellency Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed,

His Excellency Deputy Director-General David Shark,

His Excellency Vice Minister WANG Shouwen,

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

It gives my great pleasure to join you here at Fourth China Round Table in this beautiful city of Nairobi.

This is the first time for the China Round Table to be held in the Continent of Africa. It will provide a unique opportunity for sharing visions and inspirations on Africa's deeper integration into the global economy and trade .

The Round Table is the right response by China to contribute to the Aid for Trade initiative and is becoming an important part of the China Program jointly-operated by China and the WTO Secretariat. The purpose of the Round Table is quite clear, that is, to support acceding and newly-acceded LDCs to better integrate in the multilateral trading system.

On behalf of the Chinese Government, I would express my sincere thanks to the Government of Kenya for hosting this meeting and the Secretariat of the WTO for the meticulous preparation they have made for this meeting.

As such, it is really heartening to see that the Round Table has become a great platform for developing members and LDC members in particular to share best practices and growth outcomes.

It has become a model of successful participation in the multilateral trading system and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The LDCs are important members of the international community and their economic development and social progress are closely related with the world peace and stability. It is an inescapable responsibility of the international community to help the LDCs to achieve their development goal. Despite of the fact that rapid progress of economic globalization and regional economic integration, the LDCs have not been able to fully participate in the Global Value Chains and have not enjoyed the benefits of the economic globalization. The WTO reports show that per capita national income of LDCs is only 4% of that of developed countries.

Therefore, LDCs' accession to the WTO will enable them to fully participate in the multilateral trading system which is fair, balanced and beneficial to all. They will have wider access to more markets and be entitled to effective and legitimate protection offered by multilateral trade rules, and as a result, reduce poverty and realize development. Likewise, an increasing membership of LDCs will make the WTO more representative and inclusive, so as to consolidate and strengthen the multilateral trading system.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The majority of the WTO members are developing members. Trade among them accounts for over 40% of the total world trade in value and is still growing rapidly. Back in 2001 the WTO launched the Doha Round, which is the first development round and mandated to address development imbalance and development deficit in the multilateral trading system. In the past 14 years, the Doha Round has gone through a long and winding journey, but it has achieved significant outcomes such as Trade Facilitation Agreement. The advantage of the multilateral trading system lies in its offering a platform with the unified, non-discriminatory rules. This is the common property of all the 162 members, which has to be well protected and promoted. Let us join our efforts together to reaffirm the DDA framework and strive for a successful conclusion soonest possible.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our President Xi Jinping visited Africa two weeks ago and pointed out that "No matter how much development China has achieved, and no matter how much change the international situation has made, China will always be a reliable friend and sincere partner of other developing countries. This is the foundation of China's foreign policy. It has never changed in the past, it does not change now and it will never change in the future."

Just as an African saying goes, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." As the biggest developing country, China is always ready to share its experiences of reform and opening up, working with all members to preserve an open, transparent and inclusive

multilateral trading system, that is, fully address the concerns of members at various development stages, making the multilateral trading system to better respond to the demands of the developing community, and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Today's Round Table is historically significant as it convened on the eve of the WTO 10th Ministerial Conference. I hope all participants will have a candid and frank discussion on current situation, tasks, opportunities and challenges the WTO is facing. I also hope the discussions we are having today will help more LDCs join the WTO and participate in the multilateral trading system, so that they will be able to enjoy more benefit of the globalization.

I would wish our meeting a complete success.

Thank you.