



**TALKING POINTS BY AMB. (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMED CBS, CAV, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DURING FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE 13 DECEMBER 2015, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI.**

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**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Welcome to Kenya. It is my pleasure to see you here at what is the first of many events around the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference. I wish you all a productive and successful time here in Nairobi.



I will be brief, given the packed agenda for today's discussions and tomorrow's high-level panel session.

To start, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, to express my gratitude to the WTO Secretariat and the People's Republic of China for their support in organizing this event.

The purpose of the China Round Table process is to provide a platform for WTO Members and Observers to share their experiences gained through WTO Accession negotiations and the related domestic reforms which accompany those negotiations.

WTO Members must congratulate themselves on the recent progress made in numerous accession negotiations. Indeed this year has been momentous for WTO accessions.



From Africa, we welcomed the Seychelles as the WTO's 161<sup>st</sup> Member and will have the pleasure of doing similarly for Liberia in just a few days' time.

I would also like to welcome Kazakhstan, which became the 162<sup>nd</sup> Member two weeks ago and Afghanistan into the WTO family as they too have successfully completed their respective accession negotiations in recent months.

This is the first China Round Table to take place in Africa and it is important that we do not forget those who are still on their journey to WTO Membership, particularly those in Africa. It is my sincere hope that the discussions over the coming days, examine how we can facilitate their entry in the shortest timescale possible.



In Paris, in the margins of the OECD, earlier this year, I spoke of Africa's fundamental commitment to trade multilateralism; for Africa, for us, it is multilateralism first and last. We want to see the WTO more relevant, stronger and the first point of reference in writing non-discriminatory multilateral trade rules for trade opening for recovery and growth in the global economy.

Accession negotiations are one of the areas of the WTO that is working exceptionally well we all know that the only real market access that has been achieved in the WTO has been through accessions.



**Distinguished Colleagues,**

The theme for this Round Table is “**Domestic Reforms for Competitiveness and Deeper Trade Integration in the Global Economy, with the focus on Africa.**”

Your discussions today are an opportunity to exchange views on the way forward for Africa's integration into the global economy and achievement of development aims.

It is my hope that these discussions will prompt thinking and preparation for accession and post-accession opportunities and challenges, as well as the management of future participation in the WTO as fellow Members.



To make the Organization work, we – as Ministers – must engage and drive it forward to deliver the results we need.

### **Distinguished Colleagues,**

I must stress that, as the first WTO Ministerial Conference in Africa, MC10 underlines the importance of delivering on meaningful development outcomes in the WTO. It will also be a milestone in terms of the future of the Organization.

What we are able to deliver in the coming days will be crucial to the role of the WTO as a forum for trade negotiations in coming months and years.

I must warn you, we have many long days and nights ahead of us.



As you will know, in Geneva, Members were not able to find consensus on a number of important elements of the Nairobi Declaration nor more specific decisions under consideration.

We cannot allow the WTO to lose its significance not only for its systemic importance, but as a vehicle for development. It is a system we have all invested in, both through the lengthy accession processes and our continued engagement. I urge all Members to work with me, as Chair, together for a successful and balanced outcome for MC10.

While we still must finish negotiating on the outcomes for MC10, it is essential that we do not forget those which we have already agreed to implement. I call on those present, who have yet to do so, to ratify and implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. 57 WTO Members have ratified the TFA to date.



Implementing the TFA will mean helping to cut global trade costs as well as expediting the technical assistance that the Agreement provides for, including through the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility.

Before I conclude, I would like to apologise that Minister Gao will be unable to attend the High Level Session tomorrow morning. I had a detailed discussion with Minister Gao and he assured me that he has asked senior officials to represent him and who will be able to speak on his behalf.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, allow me to wish you once again a successful Round Table.

**Thank You.**