

**Statement by Mr. Qu Dongyu, Vice Minister of Agriculture
of the People's Republic of China on the Accession of Republic of Liberia**
Tsavo 2 Meeting Room, December 16, 2015

Your Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,
Your Excellency Madame Chairperson,
Honorable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to, on behalf of the Government of China, express my appreciation to the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference's decision to approve the accession of Liberia to the WTO. I would also like to extend our warm congratulations to Liberia.

As a Chinese saying goes, efforts will be paid off. Liberia spent eight years on hard negotiations for its accession. Nevertheless, as the experiences of China and many other WTO Members have shown, WTO membership will open a new door to economic and social development for Liberia and therefore will increase people's income and wellbeing. In my view, it will also help Liberia better integrate into the global economy and promote its economic development.

The accession of Liberia is of great significant to the WTO. At the 20th anniversary of the WTO, Liberia's accession not only demonstrates the WTO's appeal and vitality to the world, but also makes this organization more universal and representative. In addition, it serves as an example for other LDCs applying for WTO membership.

There is a Liberian proverb says if you have not had rice, you have not eaten. Liberia takes rice and fish as very important dishes. And we Chinese share the same habits. China has always supported Liberia's accession. Meanwhile, within the Aid-for Trade framework, China launched the China Programme in 2011 and Liberia is one of the beneficiaries. The Government of China renewed the arrangement on the China Programme with the WTO Secretariat on December 14, 2015.

Liberia is one of the important trade partners of China in Africa. China has offered sound south-south cooperation and investment to Liberia. Two weeks ago, China launched the **10 cooperative projects** with African counties, including Liberia.

Today's meeting marks the end of the accession process but also the dawn of its

integration into the multilateral trading system. China stands ready to enhance its cooperation with Liberia within the WTO framework and will work together to safeguard and promote the multilateral trading system.

Once again, please accept my warm congratulations on Liberia's accession and hope you all have a good stay in Kenya.

Thank you for your attention.