

Statement by HE Mr. John Chen-Chung Deng, Minister of Economic Affairs of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on the accession of Liberia to the WTO

Thank you, Madam Chair,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to Her Excellency, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and her distinguished delegation from Monrovia. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the Director-General, the WTO Secretariat, and its Accession Division for having conducted excellent work on the accession of Liberia.

We are impressed by the fact that Liberia has undertaken profound domestic reforms and adjustments in recent years for its WTO accession. The negotiating team of Liberia has done an admirable job in this complex and challenging process. Moreover, as an African country, the adoption of Liberia's accession to the WTO at the MC10 in Kenya, is of great significance to Africa as a whole.

We warmly welcome the accession of the Republic of Liberia to the WTO. We convey our congratulations to the government and people of Liberia on this historical occasion. We deeply believe Liberia's accession will be another indication of the WTO's success in assisting LDCs in their effort to join the organization. It will not only serve Liberia's interests but also bring positive effects to the multilateral trade system and

benefits to WTO members.

I thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving me the floor.