

EU Statement – WTO Accession of Liberia, 16 December 2015

Your Excellency Madame President of Liberia, Madame Chair,

- We are particularly happy to meet here, in Nairobi, to celebrate the accession of another African Member to the WTO.
- Madame President, let me congratulate your country for this significant achievement. We know you went through very difficult political and security circumstances. We salute your efforts to pass reforms and modernise Liberia's internal legal and policy framework.
- In the course of the accession process, we have taken due account of the specific constraints faced by Liberia as a least-developed country.
- We are convinced that this accession sets the right conditions for Liberia to fully integrate in global trade: it is now for Liberia to take advantage of it.
- We of course encourage Liberia to continue on the path of internal reforms. By acceding the WTO, Liberia is now given the opportunity to reap the benefits of a strong rules-based system ensuring a level playing-field for all players.
- The EU will continue to play its role and lend its support with technical assistance. Furthermore, Liberia already benefits from the EU Everything But Arms regime, and will continue to do so.
- We also welcome Liberia's accession as a clear signal that the WTO membership remains very attentive to facilitating the integration of LDCs in the multilateral trading system. The EU will continue to promote the

WTO as an Organisation that is open, inclusive, and mindful of those most in need.

- A number of countries are also knocking at the door and many have worked hard, some being very close to the finish line. We commit to work actively with a view to moving these accessions resolutely forward.
- Madame President, my last words will go to you, to the Chair of the Working Party of the accession of Liberia as well as to the Secretariat, to thank you and your teams for the hard work.
- The EU is very pleased to welcome our partner in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific group as a new member of the WTO family.