
BANGLADESH

Statement of H. E. Mr. Tofail Ahmed, MP
Minister for Commerce
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
On behalf of Least-Developed countries

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the LDC Group.

2 I congratulate you, Mr. Chair, on your election. Let me thank the people and Government of Kenya for the excellent arrangements. Our appreciation to Director General, Azevado, for his leadership in engaging the entire membership towards an outcome in Nairobi.

3 We left Bali expecting that this Ministerial would focus on specific elements of Doha Work Programme for political guidance. For us, that still remains an unfinished task.

4 LDCs value WTO's contribution in advancing the multilateral trading system. Balanced rules and trade liberalization is key, especially in securing WTO's pre-eminent role in global trade and ensuring equitable benefit to all its members, especially the LDCs. Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, Hong Kong Ministerial decision on DFQF market access for LDCs and Decision on LDC services waiver are instrumental in achieving the 'developmental objectives' we set in Doha. LDCs deeply appreciate WTO members that accorded full effect to those decisions; and we urge others to step forward.

5 Despite these initiatives, LDCs' share in global trade is as low as **1.24%**. The same is just 0.72%, excluding oil. LDCs have as high as 61 billion dollars' trade deficit. In manufacturing alone, that deficit is 132 billion dollars. LDCs share in global services exports is only **0.68%**. Clearly, we must get our rules and decisions such that LDCs can get **commercially meaningful market access** in trade in goods and services. Expressed **'intention'** won't help us any longer, we want **firm commitment!** LDCs must have enough **policy space** to develop their manufacturing capacities. NAIROBI Ministerial must capture these.

6 Effective implementation of Aid for Trade and Enhanced Integrated Framework are crucial. We appreciate the extension of EIF second Phase. We urge all to ensure timely replenishment for full implementation of EIF.

7 The Declarations and Decisions we took in past fourteen years to conclude DDA, need re-affirmation. Our officials need to transform those Decisions to concrete actions for conclusion of DDA. As regional trading blocs led by major trading partners proliferate, LDCs risk marginalization in their markets. Therefore, conclusion of DDA becomes even more important. Those regional blocs need to ensure that export-interest of LDCs in their markets are not affected.

8 We applaud adoption of the TRIPS Council Decision for LDCs in extending transition period and other related waivers under the TRIPS Agreement on pharma products.

9 Our views and aspirations are contained in the LDC Ministerial Declaration that we adopted in Nairobi on 14th.

9 Finally, we commend the entry of Yemen, Seychelles and Kazakhstan as new Members in WTO. We also welcome completion of accession for Liberia and Afghanistan. We look forward to their formal adoption. *I thank you.*
