

*Contribution of Germany by Matthias MACHNIG, Trade Minister and State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy to the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference*

**I. Introduction**

Madame Chair,  
Director-General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by **thanking** the country of Kenya for its wonderful hospitality – and for having organised this conference so well.

The fact that it is taking place in **Africa** is a signal to show the importance of the developing world within the WTO. And that the multilateral trade system is the central framework of global trade policy.

I take the opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to **Afghanistan, Kasachstan und Liberia** as new WTO members of the WTO.

In the preparatory process to this conference we have faced intensive and difficult discussions. Let me quote the first President of the independent Kenya **Jomo Kenyatta** who once said: ***“Let us forget the past and look forward to the future.”***

Indeed, I think it is here and now our responsibility to make this conference a success. Success can only mean meaningful, responsible, credible results and to shape the future work of the WTO.

A strong WTO with a functioning negotiating pillar is good for development.

It is the integration into the global trading system which helps most to overcome poverty and underdevelopment.

Developing countries advanced in economic terms during the last decades, when they were prepared to open markets and to attract investment. This is the main trigger to boost development.

## **II. TF-Agreement**

Since the global financial crisis of 2008, there has been a widespread temptation to introduce measures restricting trade.

But restricting trade is not the way out of the crisis. It is even a wrong answer. And it is a hurdle for the economic growth in developing countries.

The conclusion of the WTO **Agreement on trade facilitation** in Bali provided the right response at the right time. It is now the time for the entry force and to implement the Bali agreement.

Germany stands ready to work with partner countries and private-sector companies. I am therefore delighted that this conference will be the launch pad for the **'Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation'**.

### **III. The Nairobi Agenda**

Here in Nairobi we need to achieve **tangible results**.

One of the key elements is **export competition**. According to the Doha mandate, the aim is to **eliminate all kinds of export competition measures that distort trade**.

In our view, it is important to follow this mandate.

In addition, it is also important that we agree on a substantial **package of measures that benefits the least developed countries**.

The LDC's are the countries most in need. We cannot treat them in the same way as the broad variety of developing and emerging countries.

Every member has to contribute according to its level of development.

**How to proceed after this conference in Nairobi is one of the most disputed questions.**

Fourteen years after the launch of the Doha Round, we cannot continue with business as usual. We should stop playing Mikado. We need results for the Doha issues.

**We also have to face the realities of today's trade.**

And we need a common understanding for a post Nairobi work plan with clear defined issues and an ambitious timetable.

There is a broad range of trade related matters which are not reflected in the Doha mandate.

WTO negotiations have to reflect this - otherwise WTO goes on the side-lines when it comes to new issues like digital trade.

These three elements:

- results in the Doha-round
- a clear post Nairobi work plan and
- addressing new relevant issues for trade in the WTO must be realised.

Therefore we need more flexible approaches in our negotiations.

#### **IV. Concluding remarks**

This Conference offers a lot of **opportunities**.

The United Nations adopted an **ambitious 2030 sustainable development agenda** in September this year. The WTO and trade policy must contribute to achieve these development goals.

So let me conclude by citing Julius Nyerere: ***“There is no time to waste. We must either unite or perish”***.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your kind attention.