



THE REPUBLIC

OF THE GAMBIA

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT

STATEMENT

BY

**HON. MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, REGIONAL
INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

AT MC10 OF THE WTO

NAIROBI, KENYA, DECEMBER 15 - 18, 2015

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**Madam Chair,
Colleague Ministers,
Director General,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Let me join colleagues to thank the Government and People of Kenya for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation and the excellent facilities put at our disposal. Our thanks also go to the Director General of the WTO, Mr. Roberto Azavedo and his staff for preparing and facilitating the organisation of the Conference. Let me also welcome Liberia and Afghanistan's accession to the WTO.

The Gambia, like other LDCs, recognizes the importance of an inclusive development-oriented multilateral trading system. As an LDC, development is at the heart of our membership in the WTO and we therefore remain focused in our efforts to achieve a balanced outcome in the negotiations. In this respect, we continue to call for flexibilities in the application of non discriminating trade rules and disciplines and, the expeditious implementation of previous decisions in favour of LDCs to enhance our full and meaningful integration in the multilateral trading system.

The Gambia welcomes the progress made towards the operationalisation of the LDCs Services Waiver. We appreciate the efforts and commitments of the WTO members who have granted

preferences to enable the LDC service suppliers access their markets. We believe that the effective operationalisation of the service waiver will help the LDCs to improve on our services exports, which in the case of The Gambia, is one of the largest drivers of growth.

The Gambia also calls on WTO members and other development partners to provide the LDCs with enhanced technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen the domestic and export services capacity of the LDCs to enable us benefit from the operationalization of the waiver.

We also call for the full implementation of the Hong Kong Ministerial Decision on duty-free, quota-free market access for LDCs and for the removal of complicated and cumbersome rules of origin that hamper the ability of LDCs to effectively make use of these preferences.

Finally, let me emphasize that Aid-for-Trade remains an important area of interest to us as LDCs given its strategic role in supporting the development of trade-related capacities in our economies. The Gambia therefore welcomes the extension of the Enhanced Integration Framework (EIF) into the second phase and wishes to thank all the donors who made pledges at the conference.

The multilateral trading system remains and will continue to be the platform that avails us all the opportunity to discuss and agree on

multilateral trade rules that promote fair trade and support our development process. In spite of the current challenges in the negotiations, we should continue to be committed in DDA negotiations and be ready to give and take to reach a balanced outcome.

Let me conclude by once again congratulating the Government of the Republic of Kenya for successfully hosting this Conference. We look forward to a successful outcome to address the remaining issues on the DDA.

I thank you for your attention.