

STATEMENT

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

Plenary Session,

Tenth Ministerial Conference (Nairobi, 15-18 December 2015)

Madame Chair/Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director-General,

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

On behalf of Hungary, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Kenya for hosting the Conference. It is a great honour to be here and we truly appreciate the warm welcome of the people of Kenya.

This Ministerial Conference is a historic one, for two reasons.

It is the first time that a WTO Ministerial Conference is organized on the African continent. Hungary attaches great importance to the intensification of its foreign trade relations with African countries which is reflected in our “Opening to the South” strategy. Hungary wishes to revitalize the traditionally very good relations we have had with many African countries and to build new ones in trade and development cooperation. We concur with those views that the deliverables to be adopted in Nairobi should give a major emphasis to the interests of this continent.

Secondly, the WTO is commemorating its twentieth anniversary. At this juncture I would like to underline that Hungary attaches great importance to an open, strong and rules-based multilateral trading system. We came to Nairobi to have a sincere discussion and provide guidance for the Organization on its post-Nairobi work and to do our utmost to reach a meaningful and balanced package.

After twenty years, we have to take stock in the WTO. During the last fourteen years, we made several attempts to advance the multilateral trade negotiations in the framework of the Doha Development Agenda, with only limited success. We could not achieve major progress in the core substantial issues.

The world economy has significantly changed in the last two decades. Hungary welcomes the success of those countries which have increased their share in the global economy, partially by reaping the benefits of open markets and free trade. This increased role, however, has to be adequately reflected both in the multilateral rulebook and in the contributions of these Members in the WTO.

As a consequence of the stalemate in the DDA negotiations, the WTO is missing the opportunity to respond to new challenges in the world economy. In order not to become obsolete but remain a vital, vibrant organization capable of producing meaningful results for business, the right of the Members to bring new issues of concern to the WTO should be recognized. Work on the outstanding issues of the Doha Development Agenda should continue with a focus on rules, but negotiations should not

be tied to the original DDA framework. We should open the door to fresh ideas. The WTO's credibility and future is at stake.

Let me now turn to the package of deliverables to be adopted in Nairobi. Even though the expected outcome is limited, it should be balanced. The package should have a focus on issues important for least developed countries and should contain a horizontal solution on export competition, which encompasses all four pillars of export support measures with disciplines of equal strength.

Finally, Hungary wishes to welcome the new Members joining the WTO, especially the two LDCs, Afghanistan and Liberia, who are acceding during this Conference. We urge Members to speed up other accession negotiations, including those of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.