

Statement of Iceland
Ambassador Martin Eyjólfsson
WTO 10th Ministerial Conference (MC 10)
Nairobi, 16 December 2015

Firstly, let me welcome Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Liberia to the WTO family and thank Kenya for its warm welcome. Let us work together to make the first WTO ministerial in Africa a success.

Asante sana, Africa ... asante sana, Kenya!

Iceland's history has taught us the consequences of isolation and protectionism, but also the benefits of being integrated into the global trading system. That is why we are here to reaffirm our strong commitment to the WTO and the multilateral trading system. We are here to lend our full support to all those members calling for a rejuvenation of the WTO as *the* negotiating forum for multilateral trade liberalisation.

The Role of the WTO in the Global architecture

The lack of progress in Doha continues to raise concerns about the role and relevance of this organisation as a negotiating forum.

All of us share a collective responsibility to ensure that the WTO remains effective and relevant. This is first and foremost a question of political will and leadership, particularly from the major trading powers.

Trade is a foundational block of so many other human aspirations, from development, to environmental sustainability to peace and security.

The future role of the WTO must be seen in this broader political context. Earlier this year, our leaders agreed on the UN Sustainable Development Goals where the WTO features prominently as one of the key global implementing bodies.

This is a mandate and calling from our leaders at the highest level! We need to respond to it by dragging the WTO out of the zero-sum trade negotiating game and start delivering results.

Elements of Post Nairobi

Iceland remains committed to the goals of the Doha mandate. But we also believe that delivering results is more important than sticking to form. We need to learn from past mistakes and be ready to explore more workable solutions.

From Iceland's perspective, the WTO's post-Nairobi agenda should focus on the following:

- Development must remain at the heart of our future work. Here, the highest priority should be the further integration of the LDCs into the global trading system.
- We need to find more flexible working methods. We have to face the fact that the single undertaking has not delivered an outcome. We should be ready to move ahead on issues where there is potential to reach agreement.
- The WTO must be able to respond to the trade related issues of the 21st century, including environmental issues, sustainability, fish subsidies, renewable energy, etc. Our economies are not standing still; neither should the WTO.

Conclusion:

Check against delivery

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Iceland remains committed to work with all of you to strengthen the WTO and make sure all members benefit from the multilateral trading system.

Thank you.