

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE JOSEPH MWANAMVEKHA, M.P, MINISTER
OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE AT THE TENTH WTO MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE:**

NAIROBI, KENYA – 15 – 18 DECEMBER 2015

Let me join those that have spoken before me in thanking the Government and the People of the Republic of Kenya for graciously hosting this Ministerial Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Nairobi. I would also like to express my appreciation to you, Madam Chairperson; the Director General of the WTO; and the Chairman of the General Council as well as the Secretariat of the WTO for the pivotal role you have played in organizing this important Conference.

I would like to preface my statement by underlining the need for the multilateral trading system to be responsive to the needs and economic conditions of member states, particularly the least developed country member countries such as my country, Malawi. As we are all aware the outcomes of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations had inherent serious imbalances which have negatively affected efforts by least developed countries to integrate into the global economy.

In 2001, the whole WTO membership met in Doha, Qatar and agreed on the development agenda which was acceptable to all of us. The Doha round generated high hopes of sustainable economic growth and prosperity among developing countries and least developed countries. The progress of the DDA to date, 14 years since the launch of the negotiations, is rather disappointing and not reflective of the high hopes instilled at the beginning of DDA. May be it is high time a question is asked as to what can be done in the multilateral trading

system that can achieve the development objectives envisaged in the DDA. Perhaps, there is need to devise global econometric models that would equitably take care of concerns of all players, particularly developing countries, including LDCs.

The Malawi Government believes that the multilateral trading systems would be meaningful to LDCs if its outcome entails the establishment of a fair and pro-development rules-based trading system, which enhances our trade potential and creates sufficient policy space for our continued development. Malawi therefore advocates persistently that development is intrinsic in the multilateral trading framework. In this respect, my delegation fully associates itself with the Statements made by the coordinators of the ACP, Africa, and LDCs Groups.

As a country which has premised its development on a trade based economic strategy, Malawi is committed to the WTO and its ability to help create an international trade environment and rules-based system as an integral part of global economic and trade governance. In this respect, Madam Chairperson we welcome the proposed package for LDCs on duty free quota free; preferential rules of origin; services waiver; TRIPS extension; and cotton issues as LDCs' deliverables for Nairobi.

Given our geographical challenge as a landlocked Least Developed country, Malawi has a vital stake in the negotiations on Trade Facilitation. Malawi fully endorses the objectives of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF) and the country has technically finalized all the necessary steps leading to the acceptance and ratification of the protocol for ATF and is just awaiting signature of the State President as protocol demands. We therefore call on our developed country partners to guarantee that our requests for technical and financial assistance will be entertained as detailed in the national schedule of commitments. In addition, due to the vital importance of this agreement

towards facilitating trade, I would urge those countries that have not yet ratified or are in the process of ratification to expedite the ratification process so that the benefits to be realized from this agreement are realized soon.

LDCs like Malawi are unable to take full advantage of the preferential market access opportunities offered to them due to a number of trade-related supply side constraints. These include high transport costs, stringent Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements and private standards, buyers' requirements and complicated Rules of Origin, trade procedures and documentation. Measures to address these constraints will make a significant contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and assist the Malawi Government in implementing its developmental plans and agenda. For this reason, Malawi is requesting additional resources through Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) initiatives to deal with these supply side constraints. I would like to support continuation of the EIF Phase 2 programme to realize its sustainable objectives. In particular I wish to appalude donors for massive contribution towards the EIF Trust Fund. The guiding principles of the programme, namely ownership by LDCs, more substantial and predictable financial resources, more effective coordination and governance of the programme, and a focus on the results, are a recipe for success ahead. We are confident that initiatives such as EIF and Aid for Trade will help Malawi diversify her export base and improve our participation in world trade which is currently very negligible.

Malawi acknowledges the role played by the EU, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, and the World Bank, in assisting developing and least-developed countries in building their capacities in the trade sector among others and in particular, I call for increased and continued support to Malawi. Malawi also appreciates the bilateral technical assistance provided by development partners.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Malawi's commitment to the WTO and the multilateral trading system. Malawi, like any other least developed country, will strive to contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system despite our limited financial and human resources. My delegation is hopeful that MC10 will be another opportunity to deliver on these pressing issues. We however, call on a heightened sense of urgency, mutual understanding and flexibility to close the gaps in all the negotiating areas.

Thank you for your attention.