

**STATEMENT OF HON. CARL HERMANN GUSTAV SCHLETTWEIN, MINISTER OF  
FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE 10<sup>th</sup> WTO MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE,**

**NAIROBI, KENYA, 17 DECEMBER 2015**

**Honorable Amina Mohamed, Chairperson of the WTO 10th Ministerial  
Conference;  
Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General of the WTO;  
Honorable Ministers;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

First, let me congratulate His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta and the people of Kenya for hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, the first ever on African soil.

**Madam Chair**

This Ministerial Conference is taking place at a time of severe uncertainties for the world economic outlook. The gap between rich and poor is widening, sovereign debt crises and vulnerabilities in financial institutions in both, developing and developed countries have led to slowing global economic growth, weakening currencies in especially developing economies and High unemployment figures. Commodity prices have crashed and are projected to remain low for some time.

Namibia as a small and open economy with a narrow-base is highly vulnerable to external shocks. Namibia's economy is highly dependent on international trade. According to the country report submitted to the WTO Trade Policy Review Body in 2015 Namibia' average trade to GDP ratio stood at 95.6% for the period 2011-13. The same report ranked Namibia 88th among world merchandise exporters (excluding intra-EU trade), and 85th among importers for the 2013/14 period. In services trade Namibia ranked 109th among exporters and 120th among importers. Unfortunately however, Namibia's exported goods consisted of commodities in raw form whereas the imports were by and large finished goods.

This ministerial conference should therefore be focused on strengthening the multilateral trading system to ensure fair trade and sufficient policy space to industrialize and diversify African economies. Africa and developing economies need deeper economic integration and enhanced trade; regional value chains aimed at improving value of natural resources and higher value share in commodities that

developing countries trade in must be achieved. The outcome of the 10th MC must also ensure that for the prosperity created through free trade to be meaningful it must be shared more equitably across the globe.

For this to happen, we cannot pretend that the DDA is no longer relevant. We believe the opposite is the case, the developmental aspects of the Doha Agenda must be invigorated and accelerated to achieve positive results for the developing world towards accelerated economic growth, improved production and supply capacity, more diversified economies, equitable value sharing across global value chains, reduced distortion in trade in agricultural and food commodities and reduced vulnerability for small economies.

### **Madam Chair**

With respect to specifically the Doha Development Agenda, we have noted with disappointment that despite resolutions taken by the MC 9 in Bali, that is to develop a timeframe for the rolling out of the remaining elements of the DDA, this was not implemented at all. We must continue to strive to find common ground, starting with a finalization of a detailed work programme with specific timelines and agenda issues to be negotiated with the aim of concluding the remaining DDA negotiations.

Namibia still holds the view that development oriented modalities must have substantial outcomes in strengthening and consolidating the special and differential treatment elements in each negotiating area of the Doha Work Programme, including in agriculture, NAMA and services.

We hold the view that agriculture accounts for the most trade-distorted elements of the international trading system and it remains the most important component of the DDA Programme. This is where a large part of our development gains will be derived from. Agriculture should also set the level of ambition for NAMA and Services.

On Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), my delegation urges other WTO Members to be sensitive to Africa's industrialization needs and strategies, and to carve out adequate policy space for Africa's developing and LDC countries to enable them to improve their industrial capacity and to diversify their economies.

I thank you