



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Sultan Bin Rashid Al-Khater

**UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND
COMMERCE**

OF

STATE OF QATAR

at the

WTO 10th Ministerial Conference

held on

December 15-18

in

Nairobi, Kenya

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Her Excellency Ambassador (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya.

HE Roberto Azevedo, Director General of the World Trade Organization

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality and efforts in hosting the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in this beautiful city of Nairobi.

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Newly Acceded Members and their integration into the multilateral trading system. In this context, we especially welcome the accession of Liberia and Afghanistan.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the WTO, I would like to recall the achievements made by this Organization in promoting multilateral trade and development; particularly the WTO's biggest undertaking and achievement, that is, the launch of Doha Development Agenda. I reaffirm my delegation's commitment to a successful conclusion of the DDA. At a time when the global economic recovery is slowing and international markets are fragile, our Ministerial Declaration is an opportunity to send a message, here from Africa, that our countries are united in the conviction that expanding international trade enhances economic development for the benefit of all Members, especially the least developed among us.

Although there has been differences amongst Member states' positions throughout the DDA negotiations. It is against the spirit and objectives of the WTO to bury the DDA in Africa at this critical juncture. Furthermore, it places the integrity of this organization at risk. We, therefore, come to this beautiful continent with development at the core of our agenda. We need to not push red lines, in this regard, we encourage members to re-calibrate and reach convergence on positions in order to strengthen the multilateral trading system within the framework of the DDA.

During the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly, our leaders have decided on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Qatar is pleased to announce that our National Vision, also set out for 2030, is fully aligned with this Agenda.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Sustainable development and climate change issues are amongst our top global priorities. I refer specifically to the 13th goal set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development whereby it urges action to combat climate change and its impacts. Therefore, we encourage members to intensify efforts with regards to trade and environment negotiations, and in this connection it is imperative that the WTO continue work on the environmental goods negotiations.

Qatar has always been a proponent for an all-inclusive multilateral trading system. Thus, we believe the inclusion of the Arabic language would contribute to achieving this goal and help better integrate members of the Arab Group in this organization.

With regard to Trade Facilitation, we have completed measures in-line with our category 'A' notification to modernize our transit infrastructure and with the inclusion of the customs single window in 2011 we are on track to develop and harmonize customs procedures to provide a fully transparent customs environment. Currently, we are at the final stages for ratifying the agreement and adopting the necessary related legal instruments.

As a small country, Qatar is highly dependent on foreign trade. We currently import over 90% of food to satisfy domestic consumption, which places us in a difficult position with regard to food security. For us, therefore, the expansion of flexibilities for net-food importing developing countries is a priority with regard to future agriculture negotiations.

We have the DDA mandate and we have the built-in flexibilities on the application of any packaged development outcomes we could reach in Nairobi within the broader framework of the DDA. There remains ambiguity towards what sort of outcome in Nairobi we are looking to achieve, however we believe that any outcome should be in line with the DDA mandate and should be without prejudice to the single-undertaking principle. We would further like to take this opportunity to emphasize the need for flexibilities for LDCs, NFIDC's, as well as, small and vulnerable economies in any feasible outcome we have here in Nairobi.

Nairobi presents us with a chance to reaffirm our commitments going forward with the Doha round while preserving the credibility of the WTO.

In that respect we are ready to intensify efforts to reach an outcome that allows us to regain traction towards the fulfillment

of the DDA mandate and to preserve a functioning and inclusive multilateral trading system.

Thank you,