

*Dear Mrs. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary,  
Dear Mr. Director General Roberto Azevedo,  
Dear Ministers, Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like - first of all - to thank and also congratulate Kenyan authorities for the excellent organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10), as well as for their generosity and hospitality.

The current trade and economic situation is on the recovery path and we hope that the outcome of our work, here in Nairobi, will bring a new impetus to the international trade and to the economic growth of the world.

Romania (as a European Union Member) is fully committed to contribute to the success of MC 10 with the aim to achieve balanced, meaningful and tangible results.

We believe in the central role of the multilateral trading system as a predictable and transparent framework for the fight against protectionism and an efficient way to address present and future global challenges.

The development is a central issue in these negotiations and EU has been engaged constructively towards a comprehensive outcome, in particular for LDCs (Least Developed Countries) on pharmaceutical products, services waiver and possible solution for the preferential rules of origin.

Where better to address these issues than at the first ever Ministerial Conference held in an African country, and when better than now at the WTOs 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Export competition for trade with agricultural products should include all forms of support, i.e. export subsidies, export credits, agricultural exporting State Trade Enterprises and food aid, for the benefit of most WTO Members, mainly developing and least-developed countries.

The conclusion of revised Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and significant progress in the Environmental Goods Agreements (EGA) should boost international trade and provide strong benefits in terms of growth and jobs and should constitute a relevant platform for pursuing further plurilateral formats anchored within the WTO system.

While addressing the issues herewith, for a post-Nairobi outlook we need to prioritize WTO efforts aimed at the remaining unaddressed DDA issues, paying special attention to those which can be most effectively addressed multilaterally and to consider the addition of new issues in the WTO negotiating agenda, taking into account today's economic realities.

The impact of the globalization process and the accelerated technology progress (i.e. the digital economy), reflected by the strengthening of global value chains, require an increasing need to broach new areas and disciplines whose weight in international trade is becoming more prevalent.

*Dear colleagues,*

We have a great opportunity in front of us. We call on members to make all reasonable efforts to restore and foster the trust and confidence in the multilateral trading system.

We believe that the European Union has shown itself as a reliable partner, in the development and meaningful integration of LDCs in the global economy.

Romania is fully committed to a strong rule-based multilateral trading system and we support its further strengthening in response to current and future trade challenges.

Last but not least, we congratulate Kazakhstan on their status as a new WTO Member and we warmly welcome the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for their accession to the WTO. We

look forward to the further accession of other countries from the Western Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Caucasus region.

Thank you!