

SWEDEN MC10 STATEMENT

Thank you Mr/Madam Chairman,

I like to start to extend my **warm appreciation** to Kenya and to Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed for hosting this conference.

We had all hope for a successful conclusion of the **Doha Development Agenda**. This will unfortunately not be the case.

After 14 years of negotiations, we must inject a certain dose of “**constructiveness**” into the multilateral negotiations.

If not, the numbers of bilateral and regional trade agreements will continue to increase. And multilateral agreements are better than bilateral and regional agreements. That is the reason why we are all members of this organization. Our people and our companies prefer multilateral agreements.

For a **trade oriented country like Sweden**, WTO is the foundation of the multilateral trading system. The role and mandate of the WTO is an important pillar in a globalized world.

A strong, rules-based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system is a precondition for global value chains and for a functioning world trade.

We must not only defend this role and mandate but also **manage and develop it**.

The WTO must also be a beacon for free trade and **work against protectionism**.

Another important task for the WTO is to **support LDCs** into the world trade system. They must be able to embrace and take advantage of the world trade system.

I am therefore very pleased that Sweden was deeply engaged in the accession of Liberia. For both Liberia and Sweden, this has been a very positive exchange of experiences.

Besides Liberia, I would also like to welcome three other **new members: Kazakhstan, the Seychelles and Afghanistan**. Their accessions prove that the organisation has a certain power of attraction.

Looking ahead it is important that we can agree on how to use this multilateral forum as a platform for negotiations - and that we can solve also the difficult issues.

Sweden is a supporter of **plurilateral initiatives** that contribute to the modernization and development of the global trade regime.

These plurilaterals must be open to new members and be compatible into the WTO for future perspective of multilateralisation.

The **updated Information Technology Agreement** is one such good example, as well as an ambitious future **agreement on environmental goods**.

During the years of negotiations the world has changed and so has the pattern of world trade.

Do the Present trade rules and agreements correspond to current needs?

I think not.

Therefore Sweden would like to see a stronger emphasis on new issues like **e-commerce** and the wider issue of **digital trade**, but we are also willing to discuss issues that could be most effectively addressed multilaterally.

We, gathered here, all have a responsibility to preserve and develop the WTO for the benefit of global trade.

And trade contributes to growth and jobs.

And that is what our people expect from us.

Thank you.