

**STATEMENT READ BY MR DLAMINI GIDEON, HONOURABLE
MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE
KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE
TENTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, 17 DECEMBER 2015**

Chairperson

Director General

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. My delegation would like to congratulate the Country, Government and People of Kenya on hosting the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference on African Soil, for the first time since the WTO was established. My delegation is also most grateful for the warm and friendly hospitality extended to us since we arrived in Nairobi. In the organization's 20th year, we feel honoured to share this milestone with a sister country and my delegation wishes to express its full solidarity and support for the success of this Conference.
2. Chair, my delegation wishes to associate itself with statements already made by the African and ACP Groups to reaffirm the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), and the Declarations and Decisions adopted at Doha and at the Ministerial Conferences

held since then. We further reaffirm the negotiating mandates, developmental principles and objectives of the DDA and reiterate our full commitment to conclude the DDA negotiations on these bases. The DDA framework under which this round of negotiations was established is fundamental to the most vulnerable in this organization because it embodies the notion that trade is not merely an end in itself but a means to development and prosperity. So long as trade does not deliver on inclusive growth and development, it shall remain an empty promise to the poor. It is therefore deeply regrettable that there has been a lack of meaningful progress in the DDA negotiations, and particularly that mere lip service has been paid to the development issues in the Doha Work Programme.

3. Agriculture remains of paramount importance for African countries in pursuing their developmental objectives. However, despite all efforts to advance the negotiations and achieve a balanced outcome across the three pillars of agriculture negotiations that were employed by the Membership, and especially by the countries that stand to benefit most from a change in prevailing multilateral rules, such as those in the African Group and ACP; it is lamentable that we have been unable to reach convergence on the core issues, and reform agriculture, the most trade-distorted sector in the context of WTO rules.

4. My delegation recognizes the work done to try and harvest an outcome in the Export Competition Pillar of the negotiations for Nairobi. We sorely regret that even as part of a small package, members have failed to find convergence and this pillar remains hanging. On return to Geneva, my delegation therefore strongly emphasizes the need for continued and sustained work on the other two pillars of agriculture, namely Domestic Support and Market Access, to bring them to a level of maturity commensurate with the Export Competition Pillar, in order to achieve a balanced outcome across all areas of agriculture negotiations to redress the imbalances inherited from the Uruguay Round. In this regard, Swaziland calls for stronger flexibilities in the agricultural negotiations to address the needs of Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs) and adopt specific measures with a view to fully implementing the Marrakesh NFIDC decision.

5. Chairperson, my delegation strongly underscores the centrality of development in the work of the WTO and stands firmly behind the principles under which the DDA was launched, especially, Less than Full Reciprocity and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) for Developing Countries, in particular for Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), Small and Vulnerable economies (SVEs), and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs). In this regard, Swaziland stresses the importance of protecting and building on progress achieved so far in the DDA negotiations, especially the

preservation of flexibilities so far stabilized across the spectrum in Agriculture, NAMA and in Services for these special groups.

6. The lack of significant progress and combative reception by many Developed Members on the original Agreement Specific proposals submitted by the G90 Group of Developing Countries, has been noted by my delegation. Many of those S&D specific proposals address the industrialisation concerns of my country and give us the policy space to be able to implement policies that protect and grow our nascent industries, in line with Africa's Industrial Development Agenda 2063, as well as the African Union's agenda on boosting intra- Africa Trade. However, to show flexibility and to move to middle ground, the G90 revised the initial 25 proposals three times to accommodate the concerns of other Members by reducing their ambition, tightening their scope and streamlining the wording to provide clarity and reduce Members' concerns. Even given this constructive flexibility, it is particularly discouraging that members could not agree to a considerable number of the S&D proposals that have been on the table for almost two decades. My delegation expresses hope that the proposals that have been brought for decision in Nairobi and encapsulated in the text of the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development in Special Session(CTD SS), will be harvested. My delegation would also strongly support that of the 25 specific proposals, those where agreement has not yet been reached in this Ministerial decision,

be taken up in the (CTD SS), with a view to achieving agreement on all by **2016**.

7. Before concluding my statement, Madam Chair, allow me to congratulate the Republic of Liberia as well as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of their formal accession to the WTO at this Ministerial meeting. I would also like to recognise that MC10 serves as the first Ministerial meeting for Seychelles and Kazakhstan as fully-fledged members of the organisation. Further, my delegation reaffirms its full solidarity with all African Countries, particularly LDCs, that are currently in the process of accession to the WTO.
8. In closing Madam Chair, my delegation recognises and applauds the achievements of this organization over the last two decades, especially in providing transparency in its regular bodies. We welcome the adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement as well as the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, both of which my Government is in the active process of ratifying, and we reiterate that the WTO shall remain the primary forum to negotiate Multilateral Trade Rules. In this vain, my delegation urges that post-Nairobi, all issues remaining unresolved , be addressed and concluded under the auspices and principles of the DDA and we caution against attempts to reinterpret, change, or as recently proposed by some members in this house, ABANDON the agreed mandates or deviate from the agreed principles in the negotiations.

I THANK YOU CHAIRPERSON.