

WTO 10th Ministerial Conference Plenary Statement

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Mr./ Madame Chair, Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

Thailand would like to start off by expressing our sincere appreciation to Kenya for the warm hospitality provided to all of us here in Nairobi.

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the WTO, an organization that provides both the fundamental and legal rules for international commerce to enhance stability, predictability, transparency, and inclusiveness in world trade.

As a major trading nation, the WTO remains Thailand's priority. It is the main forum to help subdue trade protectionism and the only option when it comes to promoting broad-based, inclusive development and growth through trade.

That is why we continue to contribute actively in this house to ensure the constant strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

With that in mind, Thailand has submitted our ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in October this year. We have also submitted the notification to provide DFQF market access to LDC products, and only the formality of submitting the instrument of acceptance remains with regard to the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement. As for the LDC Services Waiver, we are undertaking necessary domestic procedures to grant the preferential treatment in line with the Bali Ministerial Decision.

With this being the first Ministerial Conference held in the African continent, we look forward to highlighting the importance of LDCs to the multilateral trading system through the delivery of outcomes on development and LDC issues that contribute to inclusive development and growth.

Mr. / Madame Chair.

Although these are certainly important outcomes, the delivery on Export Competition is mandatory for a successful MC 10. It would eliminate billions of dollars of Export Subsidies and disciplines on all export measures and will greatly benefit all members, especially developing ones.

In this regard, Thailand would like to urge all members to de-link Export Competition to other issues, in order to reach an outcome and mark MC10 in Nairobi as a historic event.

Thailand also acknowledges the contribution of members on a plurilateral format and welcomes the conclusion on the schedule of concession for the ITA expansion, covering products worth 1.3 billion dollars in trade annually. This illustrates the gains that we can achieve with cohesion and political will. This also signifies another step forward in line with the Thai government's goal of a digital economy.

Mr. / Madame Chair.

While there is currently no doubt regarding the importance and the centrality of the multilateral trading system, its credibility going forward is at greater risk than never before.

To reinforce the credibility and prominence of the multilateral trading system, we must deliver substantially meaningful outcomes here in Nairobi, as well as to commit ourselves to a Post-Nairobi work that entails substantial agriculture reform and meaningful liberalization in NAMA with S&D for developing countries as an integral part, as the highest priority, in accordance with the Doha Mandate.