

Statement by H.E Mustafa Elitaş
Minister of Economy of Turkey
(KICC Conference Center, Tsavo 2)

Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking Government and people of Kenya for their warm hospitality, excellence and professionalism in organizing this Conference. Our thanks go also to Director General Azavedo and the Secretariat.

Esteemed colleagues,

In the last four decades, for the first time, global trade grew less than global economy. At this juncture, it is important that we remain committed to a strong and efficient WTO and multi-lateral trading system to spur global economic growth and sustainable development.

A successful WTO Ministerial Conference here in Nairobi would demonstrate that system still serves for promoting inclusive economic growth and development.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to have a consensual outcome in all areas in Nairobi. However, we should not disregard the significant achievements recorded in Doha Development Agenda. The Bali Package was an important milestone in restoring the credibility of multilateral trading system.

Although we could not achieve to establish post-Bali work programme and advance in many of the major DDA issues, we believe that we could still have chance to deliver some fair and meaningful outcomes through this Conference.

First of all, any outcomes on the possible elements of the package to be agreed should be balanced and development oriented. Our decisions should not disregard the principles of Special and Differential Treatment and Less Than Full Reciprocity for developing countries.

This Ministerial Conference - first in Africa- should deliver concrete results for Least Developed Countries.

On this occasion, I would like to note that Turkey this year has granted preferential treatment in services to LDCs which goes beyond market access commitments. As an emerging development partner for LDCs and believing that it is a collective and shared responsibility to help LDCs, Turkey calls other WTO Members that have not yet done so far to submit their notifications as soon as possible.

Esteemed Colleagues,

What we will deliver in Nairobi would be significant for advancing Doha Development Agenda. After Nairobi, building on these achievements, we should keep working on the outstanding issues of Doha work programme, agriculture being the most pre-eminent of them. We should not divert our focus from Doha framework and should put our political will on the table. With this understanding, we must reaffirm our commitment to pur-

sue negotiations to conclude DDA within the framework of the previous Ministerial Decisions and Declarations as well as the General Council Decisions.

Turkey stands ready to play its part to engage constructively in all efforts in the post-Nairobi period.

Turkey also welcomes the progress in the negotiations on plurilateral agreements under the auspices of the WTO, on the MFN basis, such as ITA and EGA.

On this occasion, I also would like to welcome Afghanistan and Liberia as the new members of WTO.

I thank You.