

Statement by Ukraine's Deputy Minister for Economic Development  
and Trade – Trade Representative of Ukraine Nataliya Mykolska

10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO

(Plenary Session, 17 December 2015)

Madame Chair, Mr. Director-General, distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

I am honored to address, on behalf of Ukraine, the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

First of all, I would like to express gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for a warm and hospitable welcome extended to the Conference's delegates.

*I would also like to welcome the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the WTO.*

Since the last Ministerial Conference Ukraine has undergone critical developments, including a severe economic and trade crisis, mainly, due to an illegal annexation of Crimea, aggression in the East of Ukraine and the subsequent loss of production capacity in the conflict area, and barriers imposed by a major regional trading partner.

Despite the difficulties we are experiencing, the Ukrainian Government has launched and is consistently and vigorously implementing critical domestic reforms aimed, first of all, at macroeconomic stabilization. .

Since exports traditionally amounts for over 50 % of the country's GDP, trade is and will be a critical part of Ukraine's further economic recovery.

Thus, Ukraine remains strongly committed to a predictable rules-based multilateral trading system and further liberalization of global trade. This year Ukraine has ratified the Agreement on Trade Facilitation and has been invited to join the Agreement on Government Procurement. These agreements are seen as critical to our continued domestic reform efforts and to improve trade opportunities for our companies. We are quite close to ratification of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement.

We encourage other WTO Members to move forward with acceptance of the Trade Facilitation Agreement to further remove non-tariff barriers to trade and to reduce red tape and trade costs.

Ukraine fully supports the mechanism of the international trade rules enhancement included in the DDA modalities package.

Our contribution particularly aimed at finding practical deliverables by implementing creative solutions. To identify and to strengthen the positive effect of trade not only on the economy in general, but on the economies of all developing countries.

We would like to see more progress on many of the issues. In particular, the export competition pillar in agriculture is doable now and must reduce and eliminate “all forms of export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect.” Ukraine successively stands at this position.

Thus, we encourage Members to demonstrate flexibility in the interest of strengthening Multilateral trading system and find consensus on the Decision on Export competition.

We believe creating fair competitive rules for agriculture trade must also include domestic support and market access. Ukraine proposes to define clear timeframe for addressing other core AG issues like Market Access, Domestic Support and Public Stockholding in “PostNairobi” format. We remain concerned about the rigid distinctions made at the WTO between developing and developed countries.

Our collective challenge is to face today’s economic realities and to find more sophisticated approaches that go beyond this rigid and outdated country labels. Therefore, we can ensure that the WTO achieves fair trade liberalization and makes progress on shaping global trading rules.

Unfortunately, we face that some WTO Members are not complying with its obligations undertook and introduce politically-motivated trade restrictions. In the year ahead, Ukraine will be using all instruments available to enforce our rights

within WTO and to remove these barriers. We are looking for valuable, constructive trading relationships with all WTO Members with due respect to the WTO rules.

We look forward to being a reliable partner at the WTO that will contribute its perspective and experience to help forge solutions among members to move the WTO agenda forward.

Ukraine is open for business and trade, and we will be further reforming our economy, making it more business friendly for both domestic and foreign businesses.

As Ukraine is open for globalized and liberalized trade, we urge all of you to demonstrate your adherence to global one-level playing field for trade. AND As all of us know that **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.**

Thank you for your kind attention.