



SAMOA

Statement by the Associate Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour

Hon. Mene Sooalo

**To be delivered at the Plenary Session of the 10th WTO Ministerial
Conference, Nairobi, Kenya.**

Thursday 17th December 2015 at 11:30am

Madam Chairperson

Honorable Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I must first congratulate the people of Kenya for being such gracious hosts; for the warm welcome and hospitality during our stay here in your beautiful city of Nairobi. We have travelled far from Samoa over 2 days, a well worth journey to be present here at this 10th Ministerial Conference and celebrating 20 years since the establishment of the WTO.

Madam Chair, I thank you; and the Director General of the WTO, Mr Roberto Azevedo; for your tireless efforts, commitment and dedication to ensure a successful and meaningful outcome for the Nairobi Conference.

Madam Chair, from a small island economy in the Pacific, our message is simple. Samoa supports the multilateral trading system that recognizes the special circumstances of, and accord differential treatment for Small

Island Developing States, Developing Countries; Small and Vulnerable Economies; and Least Developed Countries.

Samoa acceded to the WTO in May 2012. In less than 2 years, Samoa graduated from LDC status in January 2014.

Samoa is a country in transition. We remain challenged to engage in international trade and integrate into the multilateral trading system. As a beneficiary of the EIF, Samoa has produced tangible results including the strengthening of its trade policy and institutional framework. The EIF is essentially the cornerstone of the implementation of Samoa's Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing Sector Plan; and the Trade Sector Support Programme. A number of activities have been implemented. Many more are in the pipeline. It is therefore important that Samoa continues to benefit from the EIF to continue to build on Phase 1 successes; and to ensure the full implementation and sustainability of all projects under the Sector Plan.

I urge the development partners to continue to support Aid for Trade, a global program providing key assistance for Samoa.

Madam Chair,

Samoa, with other Pacific Island countries supports the importance of continuing negotiations in the DDA to deliver meaningful development outcomes. The development dimension of the multilateral trade system should include appropriate and effective flexibilities in core areas of our interests in Agriculture, Services and NAMA.

Surrounded by the vast Pacific Ocean, **fisheries** is an integral part of our way of life! Fisheries provide food and livelihoods for our communities and the sustainable management of our fisheries resources is of utmost importance. Samoa does not support destructive and harmful subsidies that will contradict our work in food security; and efforts to fulfill the recently adopted 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, to eliminate harmful subsidies on fisheries by 2020.

Madam Chair,

The impacts of climate change on our islands are real. We are pleased that the SIDS challenges and priorities captured in the SAMOA Pathway are part of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Means of Implementation. We are encouraged with the outcomes of the recent Paris Agreement, and excited about positive outcomes from Nairobi.

Thank you for your attention.

Soifua