

Republic of Yemen

MC10 Plenary Statement

*(Member)*

Yemen delegation would like, first, to extend sincere appreciation to the Kenyan authorities for the excellent arrangements extended to hosting this tenth Ministerial Conference, and to congratulate H.E. Minister Amina Mohamed for her election as Chairperson of MC10 and the Honorable Deputies, whom we trust shall navigate this Session to a successful outcome. I equally would like to commend the WTO Director-General, the General Council Chairman, the three Ambassadors facilitators and the WTO Secretariat for their tireless effort and dedication throughout the challenging preparation process in Geneva.

At the outset, Yemen Government renews its commitment to the rules-based Multilateral Trading system represented by WTO. As the most recently acceded Least-Developed Member, Yemen is keen to take its share of responsibility to maintain the integrity of this system and organization. MC10 is a unique occasion to take stock of different WTO functions, including negotiations under remaining Doha Development Agenda issues. Consequently, MC10 is expected to take actions to enhance work of the WTO on different important issues relevant to its wide membership, as well as the operationalization of the decisions of the Ninth Conference in Bali particularly on the LDCs priorities. It is quite timely to address some of the most pressing issues, concerns, and interests related to these least advantaged Members.

Although the DDA negotiations have exceeded its original intended time, one should recognize that considerable progress has been made over the years on several issues. The non-conclusion of DDA has clearly limited LDCs ambition to address some key impediments. Consequently, DDA continue to be a relevant unfinished business and needs to deliver on the development mandate. I am confident that with constructive political will, progress shall be made to wrap up this trade negotiations round in the very near future. Concluding the DDA would assist in delivering the needed trade contribution to world economy and achieving the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals. This shall also in turn clearly demonstrate the benefits and relevance of the Multilateral Trading System and WTO.

In that respect, Yemen reaffirms the importance of continuing multilateral negotiations in Geneva with a view to finalizing the remaining DDA issues as soon as possible. Second, the focus on development and interests of developing and Least Developed Countries should continue to be at the forefront of the outcome of such

negotiations. To that effect, Yemen associates with LDC Ministers and Arab Ministers declaration and communique, dated 14 and 15 December respectively. Yemen supports the introduction of the Arabic language in the WTO, calls for the acceptance of Palestine and the League of Arab States requests as observers to WTO as well as actions on different areas of priorities and interests to members, especially LDCs.

Since Yemen accession in June 2014, Seychelles and Kazakhstan have joined WTO. During MC10, two fellow LDCs shall sign their respective protocol of accessions, namely Afghanistan and Liberia. Yemen welcomes the four friendly countries to the WTO family. Likewise, Yemen reiterates support for the early accession of other Arab, LDC and developing countries to WTO. We continue to believe that acceding countries should not be requested to undertake commitments and concessions that go beyond their respective levels of development and existing WTO principles and rules within a transparent and reasonable timeframe. In the meantime, we firmly believe that recently acceded LDCs should be treated equally as original LDC Members, particularly in terms of Special and Differential Treatment and the application of waivers in favor of LDCs.

Yemen fully appreciates the assistance of all international, regional and bilateral development partners, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme which we celebrated its extension to a second phase for the benefit of LDCs. Meanwhile, Yemen continues to call for additional targeted technical and financial assistance particularly in the important post-WTO accession as well as post-crisis phase. Support to Yemen, and indeed most recently acceded LDCs, is quite vital for commitments' implementation purpose that were quite ambitious in the case of those respective LDCs. It is equally important for their meaningful integration into the Multilateral Trading System and global economy. Yemen looks forward to seeing concrete steps in support of such crucial stage. For that matter, we welcome WTO Director General integrated initiative for a "post-accession Strategy" for Article XII Members, in particular for the newest acceded LDCs. We hope that Yemen shall benefit from this new facility, as soon as it overcomes the current adverse circumstances.

Last, I sincerely wish this Ministerial Conference all the success it deserves, and hope that we can accomplish the sought after outcome, with development dimension and concerns of LDCs at the heart of its results. Yemen is quite optimistic that the spirit of compromise that prevailed during Paris Climate Change Summit few days ago can inspire all to reaching a significant tangible outcome in Nairobi. This will be the best way to celebrate WTO twentieth anniversary.

I thank you, for your kind attention.

