

**PLENARY SESSION: STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
HONOURABLE MICHAEL BIMHA: MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
AND COMMERCE: ZIMBABWE.**

Thank you Madam Chair

Let me start by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this conference and for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Lesotho on behalf of the Africa Group.

Chair, over 70% of Zimbabwe's population depends on agriculture as a source of employment and livelihoods. As such, addressing the imbalances in the Agreement on Agriculture, particularly on domestic support is of priority to Zimbabwe. Accordingly, we call for this pillar to be prioritised and vigorously pursued if we are to have a balanced outcome beneficial to the majority of our populace. This sector is key to our industrialization efforts.

In light of this, we need outcomes on effective Special Safeguard Measures to protect our farmers against import surges and price declines and a permanent solution to the public Stockholding for food security purposes.

My delegation is deeply concerned that we are likely to harvest a small and unbalanced package of outcomes at this Ministerial Conference.

The DDA has failed to deliver development outcomes because some among us have not been seriously engaging in these negotiations. We therefore urge all of us to engage constructively. The playing field should be levelled and future DDA negotiations should address the needs of the small and poor nations.

We therefore call for the reaffirmation of the DDA and its principles. It will be important that negotiations post MC10 continue under the current architecture and in line with previous Ministerial Decisions. This is what will deliver the development mandate, significantly contributing to the achievement of goal 17.10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063. I must emphasise that development should remain central to future negotiations.

We wish to acknowledge that in its 20 years of existence, the WTO has made achievements in the areas of trade liberalization, Dispute Settlement and Trade Policy Review. The WTO made a landmark achievement in 2013 when the Trade Facilitation Agreement was adopted. Let us therefore keep this momentum and all work towards the successful conclusion of the DDA.

As regards new issues, my delegation would not be amenable to taking them up before the conclusion of the DDA. This is the position that we all agreed to in paragraph g. of the July package in a General Council Decision in 2004.

Zimbabwe remains committed to the success of the Multilateral Trading System and is not in favour of the proliferation of plurilateral approaches that undermine the functioning and pre-eminence of this global rule setting organisation.

We are of the view that Regional Trade Agreements should remain complementary and not substitute the Multilateral Trading System. The Multilateral Trading System is the only trading platform that it is inclusive and allows small economies such as our own, to have a voice as well as participate in setting the global rules of trade.

We reiterate the need for a transparent, inclusive and member - driven process in all of our future work. In that regard, Zimbabwe is ready to engage in a positive and constructive manner.

We should ensure that we have a balanced outcome of the negotiations and that the DDA is not buried in Africa.

Lastly I would like to warmly welcome Seychelles, Afghanistan, Liberia and Kazakhstan to the WTO family.

I thank you