



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**STATEMENT BY PROF. ELISANTE GABRIEL LAIZER, PERMANENT
SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE ELEVENTH WTO MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA,
10 - 13 DECEMBER, 2017**

**Madam Chair,
Honourable Ministers;
Your Excellences Ambassadors;
Distinguished Delegates;**

Good afternoon,

I feel greatly honoured to address this gathering of the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. At the outset, allow me to join other speakers who have spoken before me to express my delegation's sincere gratitude to the Government and Peoples of the Republic of Argentina for hosting this memorable event of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) for the first time in South America. My delegation is very grateful for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities put to our disposal since our arrival in this beautiful city of Buenos Aires.

Madam Chair;

Allow me to commend you as well as the Director General of the WTO Mr. Roberto Azevedo and the entire Secretariat for your dedicated efforts in preparing for this Ministerial Conference.

Madam Chair,

Tanzania strongly believe that the WTO is still a relevant body to deliver on fair, inclusive and rule based multilateral trading system. The entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017, elimination of agriculture export subsidies, and improvements on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights-TRIPS are some of the recent demonstrations that the WTO can deliver positive results. Our collective effort needs to be stepped up to ensure that these issues are implemented timely and contribute in improving peoples' livelihood in the entire

WTO membership.

In this regard **Madam Chair**, my delegation expresses concern on the slow progress of negotiations on the remaining DDA issues and members not fully implementing some of the previous decisions which were adopted since the launch of DDA. My delegation therefore urges all of us to honour our obligations that we have committed. In these circumstances, we call for conclusion of negotiations of the outstanding issues as opposed to recalibrating the Doha development agenda by adding more issues. Consistent to the July framework and the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration, my delegation believes that such a move will overload the DDA and therefore undermines its conclusion. Hence, we would not support the inclusion of new issues at this point of in time.

Madam Chair,

The WTO Dispute Settlement and Understanding (DSU), has for long been heralded as one of the effective pillars in the WTO. The well-functioning of DSU was mainly attributed by the independence nature of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB). The appointment of Appellate Body Members was done on time and taking into account the reflection of groups and regional representations. However, currently we have noted with concern some distortions on this well-established pillar particularly by the actions of some members to block the process of appointing new Appellate Body Members. We call upon members to rescue DSU from becoming defunct. Members should exercise flexibility and caution, allowing the appointment process of new Appellate Body Members to continue without being interfered.

Madam Chair,

We call for the MC11 to come up with a Ministerial Declaration that further unifies the membership and strengthen the multilateral trading system. A Declaration that guides the future work of the WTO by reaffirming the DDA and subsequent agreed work programmes. Tanzania reiterates that any outcome from MC11 and decisions should ensure meaningful integration of the LDCs into the multilateral trading system and global economy at large. This can be achieved through addressing the supply side constraints; structural transformation, industrialization and trade diversification.

Madam Chair;

Finally, as we align ourselves with the statement of LDCs Group, African Group, G33 and ACP Group we would also like to register our support to the Republic of South Sudan to obtain an observer status in the WTO while in the process of accession. We

urge other members to offer flexibility by accepting their application and welcome our dear brothers and sisters to our enlarged WTO family.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.