

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR AMINA MOHAMED, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR KENYA DURING THE ACCESSION OF YEMEN INTO THE WTO: 5 DECEMBER 2013.

The Government of Kenya congratulates Government of Yemen for having successfully completed the accession process and subsequently joining the WTO as its 160th Member. We complement Yemen for putting in place domestic reform programme aimed at aligning its trade policy regime with the WTO multilateral norms. In this regard Kenya calls upon the international community to assist Yemen carry out its domestic reform process with view to implementing its multilateral commitments.

The admission of the Yemen is a historic milestone and it projects the WTO as a truly universal organization. We note and appreciate the challenges that Yemen has gone through leading to the accession. It is on this background that we applaud the accession as an opportunity to expand the number of the WTO players conducting trade along the contiguity of the Indian Ocean and which has been going on for the last 1000 years. This is therefore to convey Kenya's intention to encourage Yemen to join existing Regional Cooperation such as the Indian Ocean Rim to which Kenya will gladly to support.

The increasing of countries joining the WTO is an indication of the growing of the multilateral trading. As a new member Yemen should seize the opportunities created by the WTO multilateral trading system to boost its trade with rest of the world. Kenya stands ready and is willing to help to benefit from system.