

Statement
By
H.E Mr. Minelik Alemu GETAHUN,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative,
Head Delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
At
The 9th WTO Ministerial Conference 3-6 December 2013,
Bali, Indonesia.

Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank Indonesia for the hospitality accorded to us. We thank DG Azevedo for his strong leadership of the WTO.

Ethiopia is taking concrete measures to expedite our accession to the WTO. We have responded to three rounds of questions from Member States of the WTO, and submitted our initial Goods Offer and the required documents to the Working Party on Ethiopia's Accession. We have now finalized responses to the fourth round of questions, a number of documents and our initial offer on services for submission to the Secretariat to be considered at the upcoming 4th meeting of the Working Party. We thank Ambassador Steffen Smidt, Chairman of Working Party on Ethiopia's accession, the WTO Secretariat, UNCTAD, ITC and bilateral donors for the continued support to Ethiopia's Accession.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia is firmly convinced that trade is a proven engine for economic growth and that membership in the rule-based multilateral trading system will contribute to Ethiopia's drive towards sustainable

development. Ethiopia has been registering rapid economic growth over the last decade. The Government is thus determined to continue to successfully implementing pro-poor development policies and strategies to attain a middle-income status by 2025. To that end, the Government has been redoubling its efforts on its current five-year Growth and Transformation Plan-GTP with ambitious targets and commitment to continue consolidating economic measures, building a regulatory framework that ensures competitive market conditions, and successfully completing the accession to the WTO consistent with our development objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia welcomes the adoption of the General Council's Decision of 25th July 2012 on the Accession of LDCs aimed at strengthening, streamlining and operationalising the 2002 LDCs Accession Guidelines, pursuant to the MC8 Decision. The principles and benchmarks in goods and services, transparency in accession negotiations, and the principles of S&D and transitional period and the need for enhanced technical assistance and capacity building to help acceding LDCs are important improvements.

We call on all WTO Members to uphold these improved parameters for accession. We count on the WTO Secretariat, Member States and the EIF in continuing supporting our capacity building endeavours so as to prepare our institutions to WTO Membership.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we congratulate Yemen on its successful completion of the accession to the WTO. Yemen and Ethiopia enjoy rich historical and brotherly relations. We shall further enhance our economic ties and learn from Yemen's experience in our accession process.

I thank you,