



WTO ACCESSIONS AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF THE TRADING SYSTEM

AFRICA'S TOP TRADING PARTNERS
The U.S. is not the only country selling to Africa.

	1. China (\$109.1 billion in exports)
	2. United States (\$90.5 billion in exports)
	3. India (\$44.9 billion in exports)
	4. Germany (\$31.7 billion in exports)
	5. France (\$30.5 billion in exports)

Country	Stock Market Cap (US\$ billions)	Nominal GDP 2013 (US\$ billions)	Market Cap / GDP
South Africa	\$ 842.0	\$ 397.7	211.7%
Nigeria	\$ 62.5	\$ 300.0	20.8%
Egypt	\$ 52.0	\$ 254.0	20.5%
Ghana	\$ 43.0	\$ 39.0	110.3%
Kenya	\$ 18.0	\$ 43.0	41.9%
(Angola)	\$ 11.0	\$ 145.0	7.6%
Zambia	\$ 9.8	\$ 21.3	46.0%
Uganda	\$ 5.8	\$ 22.8	25.5%
Libya	\$ 3.3	\$ 91.3	3.6%



INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA
13-14 DECEMBER 2015



NAIROBI FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE

WTO ACCESSIONS AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

DOMESTIC REFORMS FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND DEEPER
TRADE INTEGRATION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA, 13-14 DECEMBER 2015

*“Reform-driven African Economies demand integration into the
Multilateral Trading System and value chains on the basis of
competition, undistorted and fair trade rules.”*

PROGRAMME

The Fourth China Round Table is sponsored by the Government of China, hosted by the Government of Kenya, and organized by the WTO Secretariat, as part of the agreed activities in the China-WTO MOU.

In July 2011, the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the WTO on the China LDCs' and Accessions Programme ("The China Programme"). The China Programme finances the WTO Accessions Internship Programme and the annual Accession Round Table process, designed to build capacity and technical skills in trade policy, including on accession negotiations, for least-developed and developing countries. The China Programme also funds the participation of LDCs in selected WTO meetings that LDCs themselves identify as priority.

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This programme for the Fourth China Round Table and documents circulated under the China LDCs' and Accessions Programme are designed wholly and exclusively for technical assistance and capacity building purposes and under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility. They are without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.



H.E. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta

President
Republic of Kenya



Mr. Roberto Azevêdo

Director-General
World Trade Organization



H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed

Cabinet Secretary for Foreign
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Republic of Kenya



H.E. Mr. Gao Hucheng

Minister of Commerce
People's Republic of China

PREVIOUS ROUND TABLES

Least Developed Countries Round Table on WTO Accession

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28-30 September 2009



First China Round Table: “Best Practices in the WTO Accession Process”

Beijing, China, 29 May - 1 June 2012



Second China Round Table: “The Future of the Multilateral Trading System: Perspectives of LDCs and Article XII Members”

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 15-18 October 2013



Third China Round Table: “Maximizing the Benefits of WTO Membership and Global Economic Integration”

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2-5 June 2015



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Fourth China Round Table will take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 13-14 December 2015. This will be the first in the Accession Round Table process to be held in Africa. The first three China Round Tables were held in Asia: Beijing, China in May 2012, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR in October 2013, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan in June 2015. The purpose of the China Round Table process has been to relate the results from WTO Accessions to the core objectives of domestic reforms, systemic updates of the rules of the Multilateral Trading System, market opening and integration into the inter-dependent global economy.

The China Round Table process provides a WTO-based economic policy and legal framework for dialogue on systemic themes and relates to these themes to regional priorities. The thematic focus of the Beijing Round Table was on accession best practices based on the exchange of experiences amongst Article XII Members and Acceding Governments. The Luang Prabang Round Table focused on the perspectives of Article XII Members on the future of the rules-based Multilateral Trading System. The Dushanbe Round Table was the forum for an exchange of views on how to maximize the benefits derived from WTO membership and post-accession implementation obligations and challenges.

In consultation with the WTO African Group and the LDCs' Consultative Group¹, identified priorities underscored:

- Trade integration and investment attraction;
- Integration into global and regional value chains;
- Economic diversification and approaches to value-added economic activities; and,
- Rights and obligations, and benefits of WTO membership.

different. It is based on economic transformation and a reform agenda, positive and promising on the evidence. Even if a good part of the Continent's growth remains commodity-based, Africa's rising success is about much more than tilling the fields, digging riches out of the earth, rent-seeking and "sharing" commodity-based receipts.

The seeds of reform and competitiveness have been sown and have taken hold. Sources of growth and development are deeper and more diverse. Several African economies, such as Kenya and Nigeria, have been rebased from lower-income to middle-income countries. Ethiopia is growing at one of the fastest rates. Reform-based progress has taken hold. Growth rates are outstripping those of most of the rest of the world. In 2014, six of the ten world's fastest growing economies were projected to be African. Returns on investments are amongst the highest in the global economy. Indices of human development, such as poverty reduction, education and health, are trending positively for the Continent as a whole, although there is much scope for improvement.

Africa is on the move. Opportunities abound. In the latest World Economic Outlook by the IMF issued for the 2015 Spring Meetings, Sub-Saharan Africa's economic outlook remains favourable and the region is set to register another year of solid economic performance, with a growth rate of 4.5 per cent for 2015. Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world, in fact, second only to emerging and developing Asia. But much remains to be done. There are governance challenges and failures which impose significant costs, particularly corruption, wasting resources, causing unnecessary hardship, squeezing opportunity, and frustrating growth and development. Stability is critical for predictable trade, growth and development. There are infrastructure deficits to be

¹ The consultative process on the Nairobi China Round Table was initiated at the joint briefing for the WTO African Group and the WTO LDCs' Consultative Group on 1 May 2015.

overcome to achieve significant gains for investment and growth. The spirit of African enterprise has engaged and is manifesting itself innovatively and creatively in a range of sectors in goods and services. Pent-up potential requires acceleration. If the Continent is to seize its moment, action will be needed on many fronts, both external and internal. Africa as an emerging market is a potentially strong source of growth in the global economy.

The Nairobi China Round Table will provide a timely context for an exchange of views on the way forward for Africa's deeper integration into the global market economy, including its contributions to the multilateral trading system. What does Africa offer the system and the global economy? What should Africa expect in return? Where is the give and take? What design, approaches and best practices are required for economic diversification, maximizing market opportunities, integrating into the knowledge-based economy, and writing multilateral and regional trade rules for order and predictability that are mutually advantageous? How do domestic and international policies interact to serve national interests?

Deepening mutual gains require give and take, fostered by an objective professional dialogue. If opening to trade and investment is treated as the sole objective of international cooperation, little will happen. If a trade partnership among countries, at different levels of development, and with varied priorities are to yield mutual benefit and shared prosperity, good faith engagement and trust will lead to shared solutions. This means ensuring that all countries are empowered to benefit from international cooperation, both through their own actions and bound commitments, as well as those of their trading partners. Multilateral commitments require domestic companion policies and need to reflect capacities for implementation, and flanking

support for various kinds to empower economies to benefit from the opportunities to trade. The mind-set must be give and take, not all give or all take.

In practical terms, governments need:

- Substantive engagement, constructively and flexibly, to conclude the Doha Round;
- Objective diagnosis of the handicaps and opportunities for deeper trade and economic integration into the rules- and knowledge-based economy; and,
- A shared view of trade multilateralism in shaping the future agenda of the WTO to ensure continued relevance and utility of the institution.

This Fourth China Round Table in the context of the first WTO Ministerial Conference in Africa provides a unique and welcome opportunity to address these issues, frontally.

13 DECEMBER 2015 / LOITA ROOM, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

(Invitation only; Sessions in English only)

9:00	Opening Ceremony Moderator: Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division, WTO	
	Welcome remarks	H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Kenya
	Special Remarks: Handover of the China Round Table and Report on the 3 rd China Round Table, held in June 2015 in Dushanbe and its Outcome	H.E. Mr. Saidrahmon Nazriev, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
	Opening Remarks	H.E. Mr. WANG Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce, China
	Official Opening of the 4th China Round Table	Mr. David Shark, Deputy Director-General, WTO
9:45	Group Photograph	
10:00	I. Special Session: Least Developed Countries: WTO Accessions and Post-Accession - Domestic Reforms and the Benefits of WTO Membership Moderator: Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Liberia	
	1. WTO Accession Negotiations and Domestic Reforms	Speakers [15 minutes each] 1. H.E. Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chief Negotiator for WTO Accession, Liberia
	2. WTO Accession and Post-Accession: Fostering Economic Opportunities and Development	2. Dr. Omar Zakhiwal, National Economic Advisor to President, Afghanistan
	3. LDCs' Accessions: Achievements to Date	3. H.E. Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh, Coordinator of the LDCs Consultative Group
	4. China's Aid for Trade on Post-Accession	4. Mrs. ZHAO Hong, Commissioner of Negotiation Department for WTO Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China
	5. Overview of Accessions of LDCs to the WTO	5. Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division
	6. WTO Accession Reforms and Competitiveness: Lessons for Africa and Low-Income Economies	6. Mr. Alexei P. Kireyev, Senior Economist, IMF
11:30	Coffee Break	
	Commentary	Representatives of Acceding Governments
	Open Discussion: All participants	
13:00	End of Session	

HIGHLIGHTS – 2015

ACCESSION OF LIBERIA



On 6 October 2015, the Working Party on the Accession of Liberia adopted the Accession Package, by consensus and ad referendum. The Working Party concluded its mandate and agreed to transmit the Package to the Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi for formal action.

HIGHLIGHTS – 2015

ACCESSION OF AFGHANISTAN



On 11 November 2015, the Working Party on the Accession of Afghanistan adopted the Accession Package, by consensus and ad referendum. The Working Party concluded its mandate and agreed to transmit the Package to the Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi for formal action.

HIGHLIGHTS – 2015

ACCESSION OF SEYCHELLES



On 25 March 2015, President James Michel signed the Instrument of Acceptance of the Accession Protocol and handed it to the Director of the Accessions Division, who received it on behalf of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

Seychelles became the 161st Member of the WTO on 26 April 2015.

ACCESSION OF KAZAKHSTAN



On 27 July 2015, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo signed the Protocol of Accession of Kazakhstan, following the adoption of Kazakhstan's Accession Package by the General Council.

Kazakhstan became the 162nd Member of the WTO on 30 November 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS – 2015

WTO 20TH ANNIVERSARY ACCESSIONS EVENTS, 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2015 SECOND GLOBAL SEMINAR ON WTO ACCESSIONS



Participants at the 2nd Global Seminar on WTO Accessions debated on the systemic results and impact on domestic reforms from 20 years of WTO accession negotiations, including broader effects on international cooperation.

SAUDI ARABIA 10-YEAR WTO ACCESSION ANNIVERSARY SESSION



This special anniversary session commemorated the 10 years of Saudi Arabia's WTO membership and celebrated its role in the Multilateral Trading System.

13 DECEMBER 2015 / LOITA ROOM, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

(Invitation only; Sessions in English only)

14:00	II. Round Table Discussion: African Perspectives on the Future of the Multilateral Trading System – What are the Issues?	
	Moderator: Mr. Patrick Low, Former WTO Chief Economist	
		Speakers [15 minutes each]
	1. Rising Africa in World Trade? A Story of Traditional Commodities and New Products	1. Mr. Michael Finger, Former WTO Senior Economist
	2. African Trade Integration: Participation in Global Value Chains	2. Prof. Bernard Hoekman, Director for Global Economics, European University Institute
	3. PTAs in Africa: Lessons for and from the Tripartite FTA and the Continental Free Trade Area	3. Mr. Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa
	4. Trade Rules, Industrial Development Policy and Competitiveness	4. Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division, WTO
	5. Driving Economic Growth through Trade Policy Reforms and Investment Attraction in the Open World Economy: The Experience of China	5. Ms. Yuan Yuan, Director, Division of Trade Policy Review and Notification, Department of WTO Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China
	6. Trade Policy Trends in Africa: Empirical Evidence from 20 Years of WTO Trade Policy Reviews	6. Ms. Maika Oshikawa, Accessions Division, WTO
15:30	Coffee break	
	Commentary:	H.E. Mr. Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade and Industry, Lesotho, and Coordinator of the WTO African Group
		Mr. David Hartridge, Senior Trade Policy Advisor, White & Case LLP and former Director, WTO Trade in Services Division
	Open Discussion: All participants	
17:00	Closing Session	
	Closing Remarks	Representative of the WTO
		Representative of the Government of China
		Representative of the Government of Kenya

14 DECEMBER 2015 / MARA BALLROOM, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

(English-French Interpretation provided)

08:30	Welcome Coffee	
09:00	Opening Ceremony of the High Level Session	
	Moderator: Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division, WTO	
	Opening of the High Level Session	Mr. Roberto Azevêdo, Director-General, WTO
	Opening Remarks	H.E. Mr. GAO Hucheng, Minister of Commerce, China
	Introductory Remarks	H.E. Mrs. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Kenya
	Special Remarks Africa's First WTO Ministerial Conference: Importance of Africa's Perspectives and Contributions	Government of Kenya
09:45	Group Photo – Heads of Delegation only	
10:00	III. High Level Session: International Economic Cooperation and African Perspectives on the Future of the Multilateral Trading System	
	Moderator: Mr. Chiedu Osakwe, Director, Accessions Division, WTO	
	1. Trade and Development	Speakers [10 minutes each] 1. Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
	2. African Union Priorities in the WTO	2. H.E. Mrs. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union
	3. Economic Diversification in Africa's Number One Economy	3. H.E. Mr. Okechukwu E. Enelamah, Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Nigeria
	4. Trade, Investment and Development	4. H.E. Mr. Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa, and Host of the 6th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
	5. Integration into Global Value Chains - How is it done? The Example of Textiles and Apparel	5. H.E. Mr. Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade and Industry, Lesotho, and Coordinator of the WTO African Group
	6. Stories and Narratives from Capacity Building from Africa for Integration into Global Value Chains – Contributions from ITC	6. Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Centre
	7. Investment and Trade Rules: Increasing Stock of African FDI Flows	7. Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD
	8. Deepening African Integration: Intra-African Trade for Development and Poverty Reduction	8. Ms. Anabel González, Senior Director, Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank Group
	Open Discussion: All participants	

ROUND TABLE DOCUMENTATION

CHINA ROUND TABLE DOCUMENTATION

- Dadush, U. and C. Osakwe (2015), *WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons from the WTO at Twenty*, Cambridge University Press; launched by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo on 30 September 2015, and copies of the book were forwarded to all Accession Chief Negotiators.
- WTO (2012), “Beijing Statement: Beijing High Level Round Table on Best Practices in WTO Accessions for LDCs, Beijing, China, 29-31 May 2012” in document WT/L/856, WT/COMTD/LDC/20, WT/ACC/LAO/35, WT/ACC/YEM/36, 6 June 2012
- WTO (2013), “Luang Prabang Statement: Second China Round Table on the Future of the Multilateral Trading System – Perspectives of Article XII Members and LDCs, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 15-17 October 2013” in document WT/ACC/20, WT/GC/153, WT/MIN(13)/2, 22 October 2013
- WTO (2014), “Dushanbe Statement: Third China Round Table on Post Accession – Maximizing the Benefits of WTO Membership and Global Economic Integration, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2-4 June 2015”, in document WT/ACC/24, WT/MIN(15)/1, WT/GC/170, WT/COMTD/LDC/23, 8 June 2015
- WTO (2015), Reports of the First, Second and Third China Round Tables on WTO Accessions [documents to be issued]

BACKGROUND PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE*

- Low, Patrick, Maika Oshikawa and Chiedu Osakwe, “Policy Brief: African Perspectives on the Future of the WTO”
- Finger, Michael, “Rising Africa in World Trade? A Story of Traditional Commodities and New Products”
- Hoekman, Bernard, “African Trade Integration: Participation in Global Value Chains”
- Karingi, Stephen, “PTAs in Africa: Lessons for and from the Tripartite PTAs and the Continental Free Trade Area”
- Osakwe, Chiedu, “Trade Rules, Industrial Development Policy and Competitiveness in African Economies”
- Yuan, Yuan, “Driving Economic Growth through Trade Policy Reforms and Investment Attraction in the Open World Economy: The Experience of China”
- Kireyev, Alexei P., “WTO Accession Reforms and Competitiveness: Lessons for Africa and Low-Income Economies”
- Oshikawa, Maika, “Trade Policy Trends in Africa: Empirical Evidence from 20 Years of WTO Trade Policy Reviews”
- TBC, “Africa’s Participation in the WTO and Other Trade Agreements: Views from the Private Sector”; author to be identified.

* These papers will form part of the book “African Perspectives on the Future of the WTO”, to be published by the Cambridge University Press in 2016.

WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo launching the Book, “WTO Accessions and Trade Multilateralism: Case Studies and Lessons at Twenty”, published by the Cambridge University Press.



Geneva, 30 September 2015, WTO