

Mr. Chairman,

Director General,
Members of the council,

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am very pleased to be here today

Allow me to convey to you, warm greetings from H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and on his name to thank the counsel of member states for approving us formally and Mr. Roberto Azevêdo WTO Director General for welcoming our membership application. I also would like to thank the WTO Secretariat specially office of Ms. Maika Oshikawa head of ... and her team with all other WTO offices who gave us a hand to facilitate and accomplish this process.

Mr. Chairman, many developing countries particularly LDCs, such as my own, are keen to join WTO because among others WTO promotes to lower trade barrier with fair competition without discrimination and encourages development and economic reform allowing them for special provision accession like giving them more time to regulate or adjust, greater flexibility, and other special privileges.

We all know how fundamental trade is for economic growth and job creation with the result of poverty alleviation, however domestic policy is a key factor to ensure that the gains of trade are better shared across the society. As we know, many other issues are related to trade which are also to a certain level priority to WTO, encourage good governance, support the environment and health and contribute to peace and stability and more.

Somalia as post conflict country is looking forward to gain from these important WTO support in order to rebuild the country for the future development and prosperity of its people.

Mr. Chairman, Somali population has a history of trade far longer than today.

In the ancient times, Somalia was an important center for commerce known as "The Land of Punt" since it is located in a strategic area and has the longest coast line in Africa. The Somali people enjoyed a lucrative trading relationship with Ancient Egypt and Mycenaean Greece. The Somalis traded myrrh, spices, gold, ebony, short-horned cattle, ivory and frankincense with the Ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Indians, Chinese and Romans through their commercial ports.

Today, there is archeological evidence of an old sophisticated civilization that thrived in the Somali peninsula.

Somalia has experienced many years of suffering, with prolonged civil war, famine and fleeing its population from the country. This resulted in many Somalis being refugees. In addition, foreign booty hunters robbing tons of its fish stock in unprecedented illegal fishing, and others dumping hazardous industrial waste in its waters. Today, with the rich history of trade Somalis continue their passion of business and trade, wherever they are and Somalia is recovering from a civil war over two decades, but with enormous potential to generate and benefit from its own wealth.

In line with the Vision 2016 plan, the Somali government made tangible progress on election, state formation, security and economic development. The Reviewing the constitution is one of the pillars of Vision 2016, where the constitutional Commission has finished first phase of the review and the second is in progress. Engaged to the political process of the nation building are all stake holders including women, youth and minority group.

The election of the Federal Parliament is in its last stage and soon the parliament will vote for the Speaker followed by the election of the president who will select the Prime Minister. The 2016 electoral process is not a universal suffrage election, as conditions are not yet in place for a one-person, one-vote ballot instead, a system of indirect elections which includes all the interim regions and different groups of the society is established. This electoral college this mechanism is electing both parliament houses, lower and upper or senate, with an eye towards universal elections by 2020

This process was reached by Somali Federal government, leaders from all Federal member states and interim Federal States and I am proud to inform that 30% of the lower and upper house of the parliament is allocated to women.

The new statehood is bound by a six-state composed federalism. The election model took into consideration the bicameral system of parliament as in the Provisional Constitution 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Our government have passed competitive investment laws and we are ready to welcome and directly support all investors in every sector. From green energy, to agriculture, infrastructure, telecommunication and the blue economy Somalia can become a world leader and a profitable home for investors and new enterprises with easy access to African, middle east and far east markets.

On the other hand, Somali Diaspora who has been linked to their country before and after civil war, do remittance reaching 2 billion dollars every year, besides they are returning for investing or capacity build to our key national institutions.

The Federal Government of Somalia has established very good cooperation with international financial institutions, like World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank

and more. The memorandum of economic and financial policies has been updated, a comprehensive roadmap for currency reform is established, and now a national development plan to reinforce the development strategy is in process. For 2016, real GDP growth is projected at 3.7 percent, driven by the telecommunication, construction and service sectors. The consumer price inflation is projected to remain low.

In terms of security, for the past four years, the National army and Amison have defeated Alshabab as a military force and nearly all areas under their control have been liberated. We are grateful of Amison and all other nations who is helping us in keeping Somalia secure.

We fully understand that the only way we can achieve long term stability and development both in Somalia and across the region is to form well trained and equipped and funded Somali national security Forces, Somali government is in the process to achieve this in the near future.

As we are aware majority of Somalis are pastoral and we are deeply concern about the drought in Somalia, mainly in the northern part, Puntland, Somaliland, part of Jubaland and South East.

Two consecutive seasons of drought across northern Somalia is driving tens of thousands of pastoralists into hunger and debt.

The impact of the drought can be seen across Somalia in the alarmingly high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition found in many areas. This is a challenge that needs to be addressed.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, Somalia is on track to achieving political and national stability through the Somali Federal Government's "Vision 2016" plan for a political transformation.

It is recognized the potential and strategic value of Somalia for international security trade. What is necessary is that our partners to continue supporting Somalia's fruitful journey towards democratization, stability and sustainable development.

I thank you Mr. Chairman