

**Address at the Opening Ceremony of the Third China
Roundtable on WTO Accessions by Madam Zhao Hong**

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Commissioner of Negotiation (DG Level)

Dushanbe, 2 June 2015

Honorable First Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Davlatali Said

Honorable Deputy Director General Mr. David Shark,

Honorable Ministers,

Colleagues and friends,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to come to the picturesque city Dushanbe to attend the Third China Roundtable on WTO Accessions. First and foremost, please allow me to extend on behalf of Mr. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of China, his heartfelt thanks to the Tajikistan Government for its excellent work in preparing for this meeting, and his appreciation for the WTO Secretariat's dedications and efforts in bringing new members into this organization!

We all know LDCs are important members of the international community. Their economic growth and social progress have a bearing on world peace and stability, thus the international community shares a common responsibility in helping and assisting in fostering their economic and social development. Yet despite of the rapid development of economic globalization and regional economic integration, LDCs have not yet got fully integrated into the global value chain to share the benefit of globalization. Statistics from the WTO show that today per capital income of LDCs is just 4% of the average level of developed countries. Therefore, by joining the fair, equitable and universally beneficial multilateral trading system that WTO represents, LDCs could gain greater market access opportunities so as to shake off poverty and move forward. Once in the global value chain and economic globalization, LDCs would contribute significantly to the lasting and sustainable prosperity of the world.

Meanwhile, participation of more LDCs will add to the representation and inclusiveness of the WTO, and make the multilateral trading system stronger. LDCs need to be assisted in their domestic reforms so that they can join the big family

of WTO at an earlier date. They will enjoy effective and due protection of multilateral trade rules, as well as greater market access opportunities that other countries would offer after becoming part of this trade family.

The China Roundtable on WTO Accessions is an important undertaking under the framework of the China Program signed between China and the WTO Secretariat. Through dialogues on LDCs' accession to the WTO, the Roundtable creates a platform for WTO members and the acceding parties to communicate and exchange ideas. It reflects China's sincere support to LDCs, and it has effectively assisted LDCs to better participate in the multilateral trading system in its own way.

Thanks to the efforts of the Secretariat, three Phases of the China Program have been successfully implemented and all parties concerns have been satisfied. Last month, China and the Secretariat signed the MOU for the fourth Phase, in which China pledged to increase its contribution by 25% to USD 500,000. The scope of the new Phase will be expanded to holding South-South Dialogue and supporting LDCs' Trade Policy Review follow-up activities. We hope that this program

could continue to assist the LDCs that have acceded and those who are still in the process of acceding.

Colleagues and friends,

As a developing country, China is a natural friend of the LDCs. We believe LDCs are an integral part of the world economy and the potential driver for future economic development and trade. To the best of its capacity, China is willing to scale up its support to the LDCs through various means. Since the launch of the WTO's aid for trade initiative, China has taken a series of diversified and substantive measures to help the LDCs for its trade and economic development. China has pledged not to demand market access for LDCs who applied to accede into this organization. China also started to grant DFQF treatment to certain products from the LDCs since 2005. And in 2015, the coverage of DFQF products has been extended to 97 percent of all tariff lines of goods that China imports from the LDCs. Since 2008, China has continuously been the largest export market for the LDCs.

Dear colleagues and friends,

China will continue to support the Secretariat in its effort to help LDCs participate in the multilateral trading system and economic globalization. We hope by sharing experience in the following 3 days, we can identify the best practice in the transition from accession to membership, and maximizing the benefits of WTO membership and global economic integration for LDCs.

In conclusion, I'd like to wish the Third Roundtable on the Accession of LDCs to the WTO a complete success.

Thank you.