

**MALAYSIA'S STATEMENT  
ON THE ACCESSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN  
17 DECEMBER 2015**

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**Malaysia and ASEAN Member States welcome the accession of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the WTO, the ninth least developed country to join the organisation since 1995. This is a significant step. We hope the accession will help accelerate the integration of Afghanistan into the global economy and contribute towards her economic and political stability. This in turn will attract investment, create jobs and overall raise the quality of lives of the people of Afghanistan.**

**The road to Nairobi has been a long one for Afghanistan. It has taken more than 11 years. The political will and diligent efforts by Afghanistan to reform her domestic rules and legislations to be aligned with the rules of the multilateral trading system are highly commendable, given the challenges by a least developed country like Afghanistan**

**Bilateral trade between Malaysia and Afghanistan reached USD78.5 million last year; an increase of 91.2% from the previous year and we look forward to a continuous upward trend.**

**Malaysia's major exports to Afghanistan in 2014 were among others palm oil, electrical & electronic products, chemicals & chemical products and other manufactures while imports from Afghanistan include manufactured goods.**

**Malaysian companies have a presence in Afghanistan's Islamic Finance and Insurance.**

**Together with other ASEAN Member States, Malaysia will continue to support Afghanistan in its economic transformation efforts and its full integration into the multilateral trading system.**