



KENYA

STATEMENT BY

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GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE 7TH SESSION OF THE WORLD
TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya, let me start by thanking the Director General, Mr. Pascal Lamy and the Chairman of the General Council, Ambassador Mario Matus for their efforts and the leadership they provided in organizing this important Conference. I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Switzerland for its hospitality and their facilitation role which led to the successful convening of this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

The Seventh WTO Ministerial Conference comes at a critical time when the world economy is experiencing an acute economic and financial crisis. This 7MC therefore, gives us an opportunity to exchange views on how the WTO and the Multilateral Trading System can contribute to recovery and growth of the global economy and also assess the progress of the DDA negotiations. The relevance and credibility of WTO is tied closely to conclusion of the DDA especially in view of the current global financial and economic crisis.

The crisis has adversely affected the impressive economic growth in Africa and its impact has led to reduced trade finance, yet trade remains the real hope for African countries economic growth. Against this background, I wish to underscore the importance we attach to availability of funds for trade finance and the urgent need to conclude the Doha Development Round by 2010 in order to stimulate economic growth and secure real development gains particularly for developing countries. We urge therefore the major players to balance national interests with the DDA and take up their leadership challenge in advancing the negotiations towards their successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

As the (DDA) recognizes the linkages between trade and development we expect its outcome to facilitate developing countries to integrate into, and benefit from, the multilateral trading system. On cotton specifically, we expect a more ambitious outcome that will substantially accelerate the reduction of production subsidies in developed countries. Regarding preference erosion, commodities, special products and special safeguard mechanism, these are issues that underpin development, food security and livelihood in our countries and should therefore be central to the outcome of the round. In respect to Aid for Trade, its importance and additionality of resources

need not be overemphasized and WTO should therefore continue to play its proactive role in terms of coordination and its coherent implementation at national, regional and global levels.

Before I conclude, allow me to say a word in my capacity as the coordinator of the ACP countries. The Group is deeply concerned with the slow pace of the DDA and therefore urge members to take stock of the progress, initiate a roadmap and intensify efforts to conclude the round by next year and accordingly wishes to re-emphasize that the December 2008 Draft Modalities Texts should not be reopened. We reiterate the Group Declaration of 13th November, 2009 submitted to the WTO containing its concerns on various issues including preference erosion and SSM as we undertake to remain constructively engaged in the DDA negotiations.

In conclusion, we believe that the outcome of this conference will contribute in improving the global economic environment which should be translated into a dynamic process of economic growth and development particularly for the vulnerable developing countries.

I thank you all for your kind attention.