

**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING
THE PARTNERS' CONFERENCE ON PROJECT OF TRANSFERRING
TECHNOLOGIES AND KNOW-HOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COTTON BY-PRODUCTS IN EIGHT AFRICAN COUNTRIES,
7TH OCTOBER 2019 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Chairperson;

I thank you for the flow.

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to join other distinguished speakers, who have spoken before me, to congratulate and thank WTO, UNCTAD and ITC for coming up with this very important project on cotton by-products in Eight African Countries, of which Tanzania is one of them. The Government of Tanzania, welcomed this project with much appreciations, given the huge potentials it has in cotton by-products.

I also wish to thank all Partners who have joined hands in supporting the implementation of this important and viable project in Africa.

Chairperson;

Cotton is one of the main strategic crops in Tanzania, which contributes substantially to the country export earnings and employment. Other crops with similar contribution are Coffee, Cashew nuts, Tobacco, Tea, and Cloves. In 2018, cotton export generated forex earning of about 68.4 Million USD.

The cotton sector employs more than 500,000 cotton farmers covering an area of 412, 000 acres under cultivation.. For the 2018/2019 season, the harvest was about 132, 928.76 tons of cotton. About 50% of cotton produced in the country is used as raw materials for domestic textile industries and the rest is exported. With the current efforts and excellent leadership geared to enhance and promote industrialization in the country, the domestic value addition is expected to tremendously increase and hence according more benefits to the farmers and the Government.

Currently, the Government is implementing the Cotton to Cloth Strategy (C2C) and we have seen some increase in the cotton utilization rate by the domestic industries. Irrespective of the increasing domestic utilization of

cotton, yet external markets for cotton and its products remains vital for Tanzania and many other LDCs. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to urge all WTO members to continue to improve the implementation of earlier decisions commitments related to Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF) market access for LDCs.

Chairperson;

The potential of cotton by-products to contribute to increased income and welfare of the people within the cotton sub-sector has no doubt at all. Making full use of cotton by-products will not only bring economic and social benefits but also positive environmental impacts. Burning of cotton stalks as previously done by Tanzania and many other LDCs releases a lot of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Also, the option of leaving them on the field, easily becomes the source of spreading insects from one season to another. As such, proper use of cotton stalks can significantly contribute to reduction of carbon dioxide and prevention of insect infection and at the same i the income of farmers.

Chairperson;

While there is considerable potential for cotton by-products to generate complementary source of revenue, such potential is generally overlooked, and these markets are underdeveloped. There are several reasons attributing to the underdevelopment of cotton by-products. These include the lack of adequate input support to farmers, lack of proper technologies, lack of adequate infrastructures, shortage of enabling policies to support the development of cotton by-product industries; among others.

In Tanzania utilization of cotton by-products is very low. We mostly focus on cotton lint. However, as I mentioned earlier on, that the cotton by-products has a lot of potentials and it is an area where farmers and government could benefit more if well developed. For these reasons, I wish to reiterate that the joint project by WTO, UNCTAD and ITC on transferring technologies and know-how for the development of cotton by-products in Eight African Countries, is welcomed.

Chairperson,

Before I conclude my remarks, allow me to once again, thank all Partners supporting this joint project and would like to pledge our commitment to

strongly cooperate with partner institutions to making the implementation of this project a success in Tanzania and elsewhere.

I thank you very much.