



## **THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. AMELIA ANNE  
KYAMBADDE, MINISTER OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND  
COOPERATIVES, AT THE OCCASION OF THE  
ELEVENTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

**10<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

Chairperson  
My Colleagues, the Honourable Ministers,  
The Director General, Amb. Roberto Azevedo  
Ambassadors  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Salutations from the People of the Republic of Uganda.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to the Government of Argentina for the hospitality accorded to my Delegation and to the Director General of WTO for all the arrangements.

All of us gathered here do acknowledge that this 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference is yet another opportunity for us to build a stronger Multilateral Trade System that serves the needs of ALL its members, especially the LDCs.

Chairperson,

The founding principles of the WTO are designed to ensure that developing countries, especially, the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with the needs of their respective economic development.

According to the Sustainable Development Goal 17:10, we committed to rules based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade

Organization, including the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.

The 2016 UNIDO Report on Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries: Africa's Manufactured Value Added (MVA) accounted for just 1.6% of the global total in 2014. The exports of primary commodities accounted for almost 80% in comparison to about 20% for manufactured goods. This is why, in Uganda, we are undertaking structural reforms towards industrialisation such as infrastructure development; in affordable energy, roads, rail and ICT; Policy and regulatory framework; skills development and gender mainstreaming.

Chairperson,

Distinguished colleagues,

Have we achieved our goals and aspirations under the WTO? We must admit that we have registered minimal progress in the implementation of our decisions, which further calls for reformulation of Trade Policy instruments to facilitate structural transformation, industrialization and value addition, promotion of employment and increasing of household incomes. It is with the above aspirations that we support the G90 submission in line with Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want".

Chairperson,

Our vision as Government is to graduate Uganda into a middle-income country by 2020 and the national programmes I have alluded to above, are meant to fulfil these aspirations. The Multilateral trade rules, therefore, have to complement rather than constrain that endeavor.

Chairperson,

- **Agriculture**

Uganda is predominantly an Agricultural country with a population of 40million people of which 70% depend on Agriculture for subsistence and livelihood purposes. Therefore, 80% of our export earnings are derived from the Agricultural Sector.

It is, therefore, important that we undertake:

- The requisite reforms envisaged in Para 13 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration with the view to the substantial reductions of domestic support;
- Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration on an outcome on cotton in line with the C4 proposal;
- The Bali and Nairobi Ministerial decisions on a Permanent Solution on Public Stock Holding for Food Security Purposes, which should include future programs for LDCs; and the establishment of an effective and easy to use Special Safe Guard Mechanism.

Chairperson,

**Trade in Services:** On disciplining domestic regulation and governance, for Uganda, it is important to preserve the right to regulate for legitimate objectives as enshrined in the WTO General Agreement of Trade in Services. As we nurture the growth of our services sector, targeted technical and capacity building be extended to the private sector in order for them take advantage of the benefits in the international services trade.

**On e-commerce,** Uganda supports the African Group proposal to continue the 1998 work programme on e-commerce; which is exploratory in nature. The e-commerce market is highly concentrated with only 6 countries controlling 85% of Cross Border E-commerce, which is estimated at USD1.9 Trillion. Therefore, the suggestion of rulemaking would advantage those who have first mover advantage and prevent the rest of us from even catching up.

I propose discussions on e-commerce remain within the relevant WTO bodies, share experiences on how to develop digital industrial policies, bridge the knowledge gap and technological divide that currently exists. We need to put in place the requisite institutional and policy frameworks to build on our e-commerce readiness and most importantly protect our digital rights.

Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

We are all definitely aware that the Doha Round is meant to address the development needs and interests of Developing countries and LDCs. In this regard, we concluded the Trade Facilitation Agreement as a direct product of the Doha Work Program. However, many areas of the DDA remain outstanding including the reform envisaged in Agriculture; Cotton, Special and Differential treatment and other LDC specific issues. It is only rational that we conclude the Doha round before the introduction of new issues in the WTO negotiations.

Chairperson,

**Implementing all decisions:** As we adopt decisions, it will be plausible to set implementable targets within a determined timeframe in order for us to achieve tangible outcomes of our deliberations.

It is our earnest prayer that we comply with the September 2015 decision of the Heads of State and Government on the conclusion of the Doha Round in Goal 17.10 of the SDGs. We need to follow through with that instruction.

I thank you

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