



17 December 2015

(15-6689)

Page: 1/2

**Ministerial Conference
Tenth Session
Nairobi, 15-18 December 2015**

Original: English

**MINISTERS/HEADS OF DELEGATIONS MEETING OF THE GROUP
OF ARTICLE XII MEMBERS - GROUP OF RECENTLY
ACCEDED MEMBERS (RAMS GROUP)**

NAIROBI, KENYA, 17 DECEMBER 2015

The following communication, dated 17 December 2015, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on behalf of the following Members of the Group of Article XII Members: Albania; Armenia; Cabo Verde; China; Ecuador; Georgia; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Republic of Moldova; Mongolia; Oman; Panama; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu; Tajikistan; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Tonga; Ukraine and Viet Nam.

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. **We**, the Ministers/Heads of Delegations of the group of WTO Members that have acceded under Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement (the Group of Article XII Members, also known as the RAMs Group) met in Nairobi on 15 December 2015.
2. **We** recognize that developments in world trade pose various challenges to the multilateral trading system and to the functioning of the WTO. We strongly urge all Ministers and Heads of delegations participating in the MC10 to give the clearest possible directions for the future work of the WTO on the road ahead, and beyond.
3. **We attach** great importance to the continuation of the current round of negotiations and to achieving a successful and balanced conclusion. We urge all Members to find a viable solution to the current impasse in the negotiations. We believe that a successful completion of ongoing negotiations will provide a much-needed boost to the global economy and trade, which in our view is essential in enabling Members to properly respond to their respective economic, financial and trade challenges, and to ensure that a level playing-field is established for all.
4. **We believe** that negotiations on the remaining issues should be completed by building on what has been achieved to date, and respecting the mandates agreed by the whole Membership as well as certain basic principles favouring the developing country Members, such as less-than-full reciprocity, and special and differential treatment.
5. **We emphasize** the significance of the Group of Article XII Members, which now represents more than 20% of the WTO's total Membership, and the substantial contributions that their accessions have already made to both the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and to the further promotion of global trade.

6. **We recall** that the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration recognized "the special situation of recently-acceded Members who have undertaken extensive market access commitments at the time of accession", and stated that "[t]his situation will be taken into account in the negotiations".
 7. **We have committed**, at the time of our accessions, to a level of liberalization well in excess of that committed to by the original WTO Members. We, Article XII Members, have paid a high price in advance, on the expectation of the original Members undertaking to match our level of commitments upon the conclusion of the Doha Round. In order to ensure a balanced outcome in negotiations, the original WTO Members should make every effort to match the level of our commitments on completion of the ongoing negotiations.
 8. **We are committed** to efforts to facilitate WTO Membership accession negotiations, in particular for the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs). We congratulate the two acceding LDCs, Liberia and Afghanistan, as well as Yemen, Seychelles, and Kazakhstan, on their joining the WTO from our last Session, and we look forward to welcoming more new Members in the coming years.
 9. **We note** that the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the first Agreement that we have managed to conclude collectively as WTO Members, is nearing implementation. We call on Members who have not yet completed their domestic ratification processes to follow-up on this as soon as possible.
 10. **We urge** all Members to engage cooperatively and constructively in the post-Nairobi work towards a successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations that is not only appropriate and sufficient to cope with the particular challenges being faced at the present time, but ambitious enough to benefit future generations as well.
-