

Statement by H.E. Mr. Jae-do Moon  
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Republic of Korea

Let me first join to thank the government and people of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this 10th WTO Ministerial Conference. Korea welcomes Kazakhstan on its first time participating as a WTO member. We also congratulate and welcome Liberia and Afghanistan for their accession to the WTO at this Conference.

The multilateral trading system embodied in the WTO has been instrumental in providing an enabling environment for economic growth and development. Many countries, including Korea, have made the best of trade opportunities, in pursuit of their poverty reduction and growth strategies.

Helping Members replicate these success stories has become an important part of WTO's work, as demonstrated by increasing activities related to the Aid for Trade. In this regard, Korea is very pleased to have been part of the Pledging Conference for the Second Phase of the Enhanced Integrated Framework, which was a great success.

Having first-hand experience in trading its way out of poverty, Korea will do its best to make further contributions to this worthy endeavor.

We all came here determined to make the first Ministerial Conference in Africa, a success.

This depends on two things:

what we deliver here, and what we tell the outside world the WTO is up to.

First, we should not allow ourselves to leave Nairobi empty-handed.

Issues remaining on the table, while limited in scope, have a great bearing on the livelihood of many people in the developing world. We have to do all we can in order to meet the expectations of Africans who are our dear host.

While there remain significant gaps, they are not insurmountable. We must and can deliver, if all of us exercise the same spirit of compromise as seen in Bali and in Paris at the COP 21.

It is also important to conclude the ITA expansion negotiations, which will become a significant achievement here in Nairobi. Being an MFN-based plurilateral agreement, it will bring benefits of liberalization to all WTO Members. Every party should exercise flexibility, rather than repeatedly maintaining its original position. We also would like to invite non-participants to consider joining this important Agreement.

Second, we need to present a credible path on how to navigate challenges the WTO faces. There is no denying that there are different perspectives on the WTO's negotiating function.

Addressing this issue should start with acknowledging the reality as it is while respecting different views, all of which I believe should have good reasons. My sober assessment is that we need more time.

Korea therefore proposes that we Ministers instruct the officials to continue deliberations to identify how best to conduct WTO negotiations, with the understanding that remaining DDA issues need to be addressed.

On all these matters, Korea is prepared to work with other Members with an open mind, to ensure that the WTO continues to play the role as a bed-rock of the multilateral trading system. Thank you.