



NAIROBI FOURTH CHINA ROUND TABLE

WTO ACCESSIONS AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

HIGH LEVEL SESSION: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES
ON THE FUTURE OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the High-Level Session of the Round Table for China's LDCs and Accession Program

Vice Minister Wang Shouwen

14 December 2015

Honorable President Uhuru Kenyatta,

Director-General Azevedo,

Secretary Mohammed,

Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great privilege to speak on behalf of Minister GaoHucheng of China at this High-level Session of China's LDCs and Accession Program in this beautiful and vibrant city of Nairobi.

The WTO was founded in Africa by the Marrakesh Agreement to establish the World Trade Organization. Now, the WTO Ministerial Conference is being held in an African country. I understand 43 of the 54 African countries have joined the WTO. Joining the WTO means opening domestic markets for foreign products and services as well as attracting foreign investment. Yesterday, the 4th China Round Table discussion was very productive. Participants all agree that more trade and investment brings about jobs and prosperity, peace and stability. China has benefitted a lot from WTO accession, and so will LDCs. In fact, some LDCs have graduated themselves from LDCs designation thanks to joining the WTO.

China already sponsored three Round Tables since the inception of the China Program. We are very glad to note that under the leadership of the WTO Secretariat, the Program has scored fruitful results in promoting LDCs' accession to the WTO. Today we are holding this Round Table for the first time in Africa, making it particularly meaningful, special and relevant. To further help the LDCs' WTO accession process, China has pledged half a million US\$ to the China Program for 2016. Director General Azevedo and I signed the agreement to that effect just half an hour ago in this room.

The MC10 will be opened here tomorrow. We must use this opportunity to push forward the Doha development mandate and deliver balanced, meaningful and development-oriented outcomes to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 SDGs, and in particular to allow trade a bigger role in poverty reduction and development promotion.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

The recent Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) achieved great success. We are very confident that the outcome of the summit will further energize China-Africa relationship and broaden cooperation scope.

Last year, China-Africa trade reached US\$ 200 billion, making China Africa's top trading partner. Meanwhile, China's investment stock in Africa totaled US\$ 30 billion, 60 times that of the year of 2000. In the next five years, China will import goods worth US\$ 10 trillion and invest over US\$ 500 billion overseas, creating immense opportunities for African economies. China is fully committed to the specific tasks set out at the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC. China is determined to implement the "ten cooperation programs" covering industrialization, agricultural modernization, trade and investment facilitation, infrastructure development, and so on. We very much hope these efforts will boost the comprehensive upgrading and sustainable development of China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, bringing real and enduring benefit and friendship for the people of Africa and the people of China.

In conclusion, on behalf of the government of China, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the Kenyan Government, President Kenyatta and Secretary Amina Mohammed for their warm hospitalities and able organization, and my thanks also go to the WTO Secretariat for their exceptional preparations for this Roundtable.

Thank you all for your attention.