



Trade Negotiations Committee

**REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE
ON DUTY-FREE AND QUOTA-FREE (DFQF) MARKET ACCESS FOR LDCS**

GENERAL COUNCIL ON 7 DECEMBER 2015

1.1. I have been reporting regularly to Members, including at the General Council and in Room W meetings, on the progress being made on the implementation of the decision on providing duty-free and quota-free (DFQF) market access to LDCs.

1.2. The implementation of the DFQF Decision has remained under regular review in the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD). Notably, a special meeting of the CTD was held in September, exclusively focusing on DFQF market access for LDCs. This meeting allowed Members an opportunity to have an in-depth exchange of views on issues concerning the implementation of DFQF market access for LDC products. A specific proposal was made for a study by the Secretariat on this subject. However, consultations undertaken by the Chairman of the CTD on the parameters of this study were not conclusive. As a result, work on a study could not be initiated.

1.3. The CTD also conducted its annual review on this subject at its November meeting on the basis of a Secretariat report, which showed that efforts continue to be made by Members to advance DFQF market access for LDC products. Notwithstanding this, there is no doubt that more could be done towards improving DFQF market access opportunities for the LDCs.

1.4. The implementation of DFQF market access for LDCs remains a sensitive issue, on which Members' perspectives do not necessarily match. Finding common ground on this issue, especially with regard to the implementation of DFQF access in certain markets, has therefore been challenging.

1.5. In the LDC submission for the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(15)/W/18) it was indicated that the LDC Group would like to have a decision on DFQF as part of the deliverables for outcome. A similar position was expressed in the ACP submission (WT/MIN(15)/W/2). As of today, no specific textual proposal has been tabled.

1.6. DFQF market access remains an important issue for the LDCs and a specific textual proposal would be a necessary first step towards making further progress.

1.7. I hope, given necessary accommodation from all sides, we can strive for a decision on DFQF as part of a development outcome at MC10.
