



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

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**PACIFIC GROUP MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
DELIVERED AT WTO 10TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
IN NAIROBI ON 17 DECEMBER 2015**

The following communication is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Fiji on behalf of the Pacific WTO Group Members.

1. We the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific WTO Group met in Nairobi, Kenya on 14 December 2015 on the margins of the Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference:
2. **Extend** our thanks to the Government and people of Kenya for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality in this beautiful country.
3. **Congratulate** the WTO on its 20th Anniversary and its achievements over the last two decades. The visible contribution of the WTO to the global trading system include, *inter alia*, retaining its position as a stable multilateral rules-based system in the world, its achievements an institution for development and in addressing trade disputes. We acknowledge in this regard the adoption of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and its benefits in reducing trade costs and look forward to the promised technical assistance and capacity building support that is associated with the agreement.
4. **Acknowledge** the increased engagement of the Small Island Developing States in the multilateral trading process, the Pacific Group has yet to fully benefit from the opportunities created under the multilateral trading system including global value chains. In this regard, there is an urgent need to adequately address development interest of the developing Members, especially LDCs and SVEs in the Doha Round of negotiations, which remain a concern to the Group.
5. **Emphasis** the importance of preserving a fair, predictable, inclusive and transparent, rules-based multilateral trading system, that promotes the rights of all Members particularly the small Members in the ever-evolving international trade environment, noting that the Pacific Group, constitutes LDCs and SVEs that are also are Small Islands Development States (SIDS), which attaches great importance to trade as a vehicle to achieve robust development and enhance our integration into the global trading system.
6. **Express** grave concerns on the watering down of the references to small and vulnerable economies (SVEs) in recent negotiations, particularly in preparation for this Conference. The Pacific Members are already in the margins of the global trading system. Based on WTO statistics, the Pacific Group's share of global merchandise exports averages 0.00% for 2012-2014. Similarly the Group's share of commercial services exports in global trade range from 0.00% to 0.02%. The Pacific Group renews the call for the WTO to ensure that the small and vulnerable economies like the Pacific are not left outside the multilateral trading system. The Pacific Group therefore reaffirms the importance of continuing work under the mandate of paragraph 35 of the Doha Declaration to frame responses for the full integration of small economies like the Pacific into the multilateral trading system to facilitate their successful integration.

7. **Stress** that fisheries is not only a trade issue but an integral part of the way of life for Pacific island nations. Fisheries provide food and livelihoods and the sector is crucial for Pacific development. As custodians of their oceanic resources for future generations, the Pacific Group accordingly have the responsibility to ensure sustainability for these. The Pacific Group urges Members to consider the extremely limited disciplines in the small package proposed by the ACP in addressing the two destructive subsidies to fisheries resources. This would help fulfill the recently adopted 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 which mandates all countries to eliminate harmful subsidies on fisheries by 2020.

8. **Express** disappointment that nothing had been agreed on the core issues and other DDA issues in the Geneva process for Ministers to endorse at this Tenth Ministerial Conference. Members are now faced with the challenge of reaching consensus on a possible Nairobi package. We urge Members to bridge the gaps in their positions and show flexibility in order to deliver a Nairobi package based on elements of the mini-package that are on the table.

9. **Emphasise** the importance of continuing negotiations on the DDA post-Nairobi to deliver development outcomes and that these negotiations including in the core areas of Agriculture, Services and NAMA, should also provide appropriate and effective flexibilities for LDCs and SVEs including the flexibilities provided in the 2008 modalities.

10. **Support** the statements made by the SVEs, ACP and LDCs.

Nairobi, Kenya
17 December 2015
