

**DRAFT INTERVENTION BY H.E. NKOPANE MONYANE AT THE OCCASSION OF A LAUNCH OF THE
WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT FACILITY (TFAF) 22 JULY 2014, WTO**

DG, Excellencies and Colleagues,

On behalf of the African Group it gives me a great pleasure to partake in this momentous launch of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF). It is quite an achievement that finally the G90's longstanding and persistent call for a simple, predictable, accessible and non bureaucratic technical assistance funding facility has paid off. It is worth pointing out that this achievement is not without a heritage. To this end, we have to recognize that today's achievement is pillared on the shoulders of the giants and visionaries who espoused the idea of the establishment of the TFAF within the WTO System at the inception of negotiations on Trade Facilitation.

Ambassador John Kakonge's huge acumen in development finance as well as unwavering pursuit of action was awesome. In the similar vein, Ambassador Christopher Appah's diplomatic experience and strategic thinking fuelled the process. The African Group is grateful to these great G 90 Coordinators and I add my personal word of appreciation and gratitude.

Worthy of recognition is not only the positive reception of this idea which in turn triggered its coming into fruition today but also the vigorous questioning and skepticism that helped crystalize the idea. This therefore leaves me the great honor to pay tribute to the donor communities' goodwill and support for the establishment of TFAF.

It will be remiss of me not to pay my respect to the DG for having taken heed of the legitimate concerns expressed on numerous occasions including during the TNC and GC meetings and of course during consultations with my G90 counterparts. It is through the convening power of the DG's office and his personal attention and understanding of the concerns expressed by the African Group that this day has been made possible. DG's diplomatic acumen has once again cashed in results that will ensure that no single African Member of the WTO will be left without requisite assistance for the implementation of TFA. We thank you DG.

Turing to the TFAF itself, it is quite assuring that all the elements of the African Group's concern have been weaved into the architecture of the TFAF. In this regard, the match making and resource disbursement amongst many aspects of the Facility will go a long way in ensuring coherence among the donors and branding TFAF the **'Facility of Last Resort.'**

The establishment of the TFAF is certainly not an end in itself. Rather, it will take the collective goodwill of Members to ensure that TFAF delivers results as per its state objectives and more importantly by feeding it with requisite funding. It is through adequate funding that the Facility will flourish and be of benefit the most indigent Members of the WTO, particularly the African Countries. In this vein, the African Group commends Norway for having broken the ice and paving the way for other donors to spark the facility into life. It must be ensured that there is sustainable flow of resources into the facility. As the saying goes, the proof of the pie is in the eating.

Lastly, but hopefully with a lasting impression, the African Group recognizes the development dimension of the TFAF as a critical feature. This is clearly walking the talk with respect to development being at the Centre of the DDA. It is our fervent hope that this is maintained in the rest of the DDA's work.

Thank you.