



16 November 2015

(15-6067)

Page: 1/3

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

Original: English

## **PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION IN DECLARATION OF 10TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

### **SUBMISSION BY BANGLADESH ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP**

The following communication, dated 13 November 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group.

1. We, the Ministers, have met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15-18 December 2015 at our Tenth Session. As we conclude our Session, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the excellent organization and the warm hospitality we have received in Nairobi.

2. We reaffirm the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. We also recall the Declarations and Decisions we adopted at Doha and at the Ministerial Conferences we have held since then and reaffirm our full commitment to give effect to them.

3. We acknowledge that international trade can play a major role in the promotion of economic development and the alleviation of poverty. We recognize the need for all our peoples to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains that the multilateral trading system generates. The majority of WTO Members are developing countries. We seek to place their needs and interests at the heart of the Work Program adopted in this Declaration.

4. We shall continue to make positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, and especially the least-developed among them, secure a share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.

### **1 PART I - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WTO AS AN ORGANIZATION INCLUDING ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

1.1. Least-Developed countries remain vulnerable and continue to face structural difficulties in the global economy. In 2013, the LDC current account deficit reached US\$40Bn<sup>1</sup>. <sup>2</sup>The LDCs share in world merchandise trade was at 1.24%, with a staggering deficit of US\$60.6 billion. The share of LDC global exports (excluding fuels) was 0.72%. LDC participation in world services exports was a paltry 0.68%. Investment inflows to the LDCs represented only 1.9% of global inflows<sup>3</sup>; and <sup>4</sup>the share of manufacturing value added for LDCs actually declined from 2% in 1992 to 1% in 2012. 400 million live on less than one dollar a day. This situation stresses that initiatives taken so far in favour of LDCs through flexibility to LDCs in the application of trade rules and disciplines and in undertaking commitments as well as some initiatives for increasing trade opportunities and capacity building activities over the last 20 years are not sufficient enough. Therefore, we

<sup>1</sup>The LDC Report of 2014, prepared by UNCTAD entitled: *Growth With Structural Transformation: A Post-2015 Development Agenda*

<sup>2</sup> WTO LDC Market access study 2014

<sup>3</sup>UNCTAD Investment Report 2013

<sup>4</sup>UNIDO Report 2013

underscore the continued importance of initiatives in more effective manner aimed at fully and meaningfully integrating LDCs into the multilateral trading system. In this regard, we put emphasis on legally binding, and commercially meaningful outcomes: On transparent, objective and simplified Rules of Origin, Duty Free and Quota Free Market Access, Services, and Cotton.

1.2. We recall the commitments made by Ministers at all of our previous sessions and the July Framework, as well as by the international community at the Fourth UN Conference on Least-Developed Countries in Istanbul, to assist least-developed countries secure beneficial and meaningful integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy.

## **2 PART II - DELIVERABLES FOR MC10: REGULAR WORK UNDER THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND RELATED DECISIONS; DDA DELIVERABLES**

### **REGULAR WORK**

2.1. We fully endorse the Decision adopted by the Council for TRIPS extending the transition period under Article 66.1 for Least Developed Country Members for certain obligations with respect to pharmaceutical products (IP/C/73), as well as the related waiver adopted by the General Council concerning Least Developed Country Members' obligations under Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement with respect to pharmaceutical products (document WT/L/..). We welcome the extension of the maximum flexibility accorded to the most vulnerable Members as a confirmation of the collective will of the WTO Membership to secure access to affordable medicines in these countries and as a concrete contribution to fulfilling targets on public health under the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2. We welcome the extension of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) into the second phase and the positive outcome of the Donors Pledging Conference held in Nairobi on 14 November 2015.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND LDCS ISSUES**

2.3. We agree on the following decisions taken in favor of LDCs at this Session:

- Cotton
- DFQF
- Preferential Rules of Origin
- Services waiver
- Agreement specific special and differential treatment Proposals
- [            ...            ]

## **3 PART III - FUTURE WORK OF THE WTO/POST NAIROBI**

3.1. We reaffirm our commitment to the WTO as the pre-eminent global forum for trade, including negotiating and implementing trade rules, settling disputes, delivering trade-related technical assistance and capacity building programmes, and supporting development through the integration of developing countries into the global trading system. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to the Doha Development Agenda, as well as to the regular work of the WTO.

3.2. We reaffirm the fundamental principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization. We also recall the Declarations and Decisions we adopted at Doha and at the Ministerial Conferences we have held since then and reaffirm our full commitment to give effect to them. The future work of the WTO should continue to give credence to the centrality to the development dimension.

3.3. We take note of the progress made under the Doha mandates to date in carrying out the Doha Work Programme. We recognise that more work needs to be done to enable us to proceed towards the full, successful and multilateral conclusion of the negotiations pursuant to paragraphs 45, 47 and 48 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration in fulfillment of the commitments we undertook at Doha. In those areas where we have reached a high level of convergence on texts, we undertake to maintain this convergence as the basis for further negotiations towards the

conclusion of the DDA. We direct the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee with close cooperation with the Chairman of the General Council to take the action necessary to enable us to move towards a successful and timely conclusion of the DDA negotiations. We shall continue to exercise close personal supervision of this process.

3.4. We strongly commit to addressing the marginalization of LDCs in international trade and to improving their effective participation in the multilateral system. Towards that end, we shall ensure that all issues of specific interest to Least Developed Countries shall be pursued on a priority basis with the view to strengthening them and making them, legally binding, and commercially meaningful.

3.5. We agree that special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular Least-Developed Countries, shall be an integral part of all future negotiations and shall be embodied in schedules of concessions and commitments and as appropriate in the rules and disciplines to be negotiated, so as to be operationally effective and to enable developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries, to effectively take account of their development needs, as set out in paragraph 13 and 16 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration

3.6. We underline the importance of Aid for Trade initiatives in trade-related capacity building; overcoming supply-side constraints; and infrastructure development; and facilitating integration of LDC economies in regional and global trade. Towards that end, we shall accord priority to the LDC projects and ensure that Aid for Trade will be available for projects identified by the recipient governments, particularly in the areas of trade development, trade-related infrastructure, building productive capacity and trade-related adjustment, in order to lower trade costs.

3.7. We recognize the contribution of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in mainstreaming trade in development policies of LDCs and building their trade capacity. This significant role in helping LDCs achieve their development objectives is duly recognized by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. We are determined to further intensify our efforts in securing the necessary level of financial contributions to the program with the view to enabling the delivery of predictable trade related support to LDCs, based on the program needs as set out in the EIF Phase Two Programme Framework.

---