

Nairobi Package – The Final Outcome of Tenth Ministerial Conference of WTO

The WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 19 December 2015, the first such meeting hosted by an African nation. The Conference was chaired by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, H.E. Amina Mohamed. The Conference was opened on 15 December by Kenya's President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta. During the opening session, the Conference was also addressed by Ms. Mohamed, DG Azevedo and the Chair of the WTO's General Council, Fernando de Mateo. They were joined at the Opening Ceremony by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, whose country concluded its WTO membership negotiations on 16 December 2015. After series of negotiations WTO, members concluded historic "Nairobi package" on a series of trade initiative for Africa and the world.

Special Note: During the 10th ministerial conference in the Nairobi, Kenya two new members were added viz. Liberia (163rd) and Afghanistan (164th).

The WTO has received six additional ratifications for the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), bringing up to 63 the number of WTO members that have formally accepted the TFA.

WTO members representing major exporters of information technology products agreed on (16 December) at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference, in Nairobi, on the timetable for implementing a landmark deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 IT products valued at over \$1.3 trillion per year.

The key issues of the Nairobi Ministerial Conference negotiations were:

1. Elimination of agricultural export subsidies by developed countries and providing flexibility to developing countries.
2. Public stockholding programs are used by some developing countries to purchase food at administered prices and distribute it to poor people. While food security is a legitimate policy objective, the public stockholding programs are considered to distort trade when they involve purchases at prices fixed by the governments, known as "supported" or "administered" prices.
3. Establishing a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for use by developing countries has been pursued in the market access pillar of the Doha agriculture negotiating text to implement Doha round Declaration.
4. Domestic support and market access.

DECISION OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The final outcome of ministerial conference concluded in the form of "Nairobi package", which consists of Six Ministerial decisions on Agriculture, Cotton and issues related to least-developed countries (LDCs) as follows:

- Agriculture

- Special Safeguard Mechanism for Developing Country Members (WT/MIN(15)/43 — WT/L/978)
- Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (WT/MIN(15)/44 — WT/L/979)
- Export Competition (WT/MIN(15)/45 — WT/L/980)

- Cotton

- Cotton (WT/MIN(15)/46 — WT/L/981)

- LDC issues in order to assist LDCs secure beneficial and meaningful integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy.

- Preferential Rules of Origin for Least Developed Countries (WT/MIN(15)/47 — WT/L/917/Add.
- Implementation of Preferential Treatment in favour of Services and Service Suppliers of Least Developed Countries and Increasing LDC Participation in Services Trade (WT/MIN(15)/48 — WT/L/982)

With this Nairobi ministerial conference expressed the role the WTO can play in contributing towards achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in so far as they relate to the WTO mandate and the authority of the WTO Ministerial Conference recognizing the role of rule based multilateral agreement based on transparency with aim of reducing trade friction between developed and developing countries by harmonizing rules of trade.