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MAKING TRADE WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AFTER NAIROBI

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Times are constantly changing and Trade has to move with the times. Today we have Internet, E-trade, E-commerce and new technologies. The whole world, Africa and South Africa, are compelled to move with the times.

The mere fact that the WTO met in Nairobi in 2015 in a Developing country was history itself and an indication that Africa is rising. This was the beginning of the journey of Africa's role to being leading participants on Trade issues.

The Nairobi declaration expressed a commitment to advance negotiations on the DOHA issues. South Africa and Africa's over-riding objectives are:

- Structural Transformation,
- Industrialization and
- Integration.

Outcomes of the WTO should support these objectives, or at least not undermine them.

South Africa has consistently raised its opposition to industrial tariff cuts. We opposed the 2008 NAMA modalities and the industrial tariff-cutting options in 2015.

While Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) could help protect African economies from unfair imports, linking it to market access would further open out markets and erode preferences without delivering any new access for African exports.

A major concern is that, some of the least developed countries in Africa, have the most minerals, resources and agricultural products in the world! So it is highly appreciated that in Nairobi, preferential rules of origins were a major success and a step in the right direction in opening the way for LDC's.

In order for trade to work in developing countries, the outcomes must be:

- Poverty eradication,
- job creation and
- eradication of illiteracy.

The WTO should really remain a platform for all to negotiate Trade issues, that is the Least Developed, the Developing and the Developed countries.

A significant number of achievements were recorded in Nairobi:

- (1) Information Technology agreement.
- (2) Agricultural Agreements.
- (3) Commitment to advance remaining DOHA issues.
- (4) Discussion of the Implementation of the MC10 export competition outcome.

As a principle, all relations agreements are good, be they Bilateral, Regional or Multilateral. The time has come, for all LDC's and Developing countries, to charter the way for the future generations, the WTO is the correct platform for that, Nairobi, Africa, has set the pace.