

**STATEMENT OF HONORABLE IMMANUEL NGATJIZEKO,  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE  
11<sup>TH</sup> WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, BUENOS AIRES,  
ARGENTINA, DECEMBER 2017**

Chairperson of the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference  
Chairperson of the WTO General Council  
Director-General of the WTO  
Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

I want to join other speakers in expressing my gratitude on behalf of my delegation to our host, the Government and People of Argentina.

**Madam Chair**

This Ministerial Conference is taking place at a time of notable global political and financial uncertainty, which has negatively affected business and job creation especially in smaller economies. The Namibian economy has equally suffered a notable decline in trade flows where prospects for growth are constrained by low demand and falling commodity prices because of the downturn in the international economy. To mitigate these challenges, Namibia remains committed to multilateralism as a way to promote equitable development, growth and prosperity for all WTO Members. As such, we must remain committed to the DDA mandate, which at the core, aims to mould a multilateral trading system that should deliver on

redressing imbalanced economic development across the WTO Members.

### **Madam Chair**

We believe that for our economies to address socio-economic challenges facing our countries such as poverty, hunger, disease, unemployment and migration, our efforts must lead to the creation of a fair, equitable multilateral trading system that enables developing countries to create opportunities for their people. In so doing, WTO must continue to recognize the different levels of economic development by its Members by allowing the necessary policy space flexibilities on policy space for developing countries to create opportunities for industrialization and diversification of their economies.

Now, allow me to address the specific issues at the forefront of MC11:

**On E-commerce**, Namibia aligns itself with the position of the African Group that has consistently emphasized the need to continue exploratory discussions under the current Work Programme. E-Commerce is not part of the Doha mandate and sizeable group of developing countries do not possess the necessary capacity or confidence to engage on binding commitments at this stage.

**On Agriculture**, it is important to highlight that Agriculture is the sector from which 70% of the Namibian population derive their livelihoods. Therefore, rules set at a multilateral level have the potential to create opportunities for our communities or condemn them to long lasting poverty. Namibia therefore aligns itself with the position of reducing trade distorting domestic support while allowing for the necessary policy space flexibilities for developing countries, particularly for Net-Food Importing Developing Countries.

**On Special and Differential Treatment**, it is important to indicate that without the application of this principle, it will be difficult to bridge the development gap between WTO Members. Namibia fully supports maintenance of the Special and Differential Treatment principle, which is at the centre of the DDA for inclusive growth of developing countries.

**On Public Stockholding Holding**, Namibia is one of those countries, which is extremely vulnerable to and negatively affected by climate change. We support the call for developing countries to be accorded flexibility to support public stockholdings for food security reasons.

**On Fisheries subsidies**, my country considers fish as a vital source of food, nutrition and foreign currency earnings. Namibia supports calls to discipline harmful fisheries subsidies which

promote Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities in our waters. At the same time, developing countries must also be allowed policy space to utilize their fishery resources for the benefit of their citizens.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that the development dimension of the Doha Agenda must continue to be at the centre of the Doha Round. It is therefore imperative that the outcome of MC11 must be true to the Doha mandate.

I thank you