

Commerce Minister HE Khurram Dastgir Khan speech at Mini Ministerial Meeting

Davos, Switzerland, 23 January 2016

Excellencies,

I thank and appreciate the Swiss Government for hosting this event, which is just in time soon after Nairobi, and will help keep up the positive momentum generated at Nairobi.

I would like to acknowledge the laudable role of Host Amina Mohammad, DG Azevedo and WTO Secretariat and Chairs of different Committee, especially our Agriculture Ministerial Chair Ambassador Joshua Setipa, and Ambassador Vengalis our Agriculture Chair for the hard work and success.

Congratulations to all fellow Members for success and positive outcome in Nairobi, and for proving all skeptics wrong, who had predicted “No Meaningful outcome at Nairobi”.

This is an extremely positive development for the WTO and the multilateral trading system. The constructive spirit demonstrated at Nairobi must continue and should become our default mode of operation.

Differences on issues are natural and valued, but this should not result in dysfunctionality. The good thing about Nairobi is that there were no winners or losers, rather it is success of all members and the multilateral trading system.

One way to sustain the positive movement is to have political engagement like this one, in between Ministerial more frequently. This will help keep political differences manageable and help avoid falling back in old rut.

Proof of pudding lies in eating, *“Real challenge is implementation”*, We have pending agenda of Bali, particularly TFA, and now we have to ensure speedy and immaculate implementation of Nairobi decisions.

It is important for the credibility of the system and the Organization vis a vis the Constituents that we focus on implementation.

One lesson of Bali and Nairobi is that we can take big meaningful steps forward incrementally. TFA and abolition of export subsidies is a case in point.

Market access and removal of trade distorting domestic support in agriculture is pending agenda, and major demand of our Constituents, urge members to positively engage with these challenges in spirit of Nairobi.

SMEs are the back bone of our economy, there is a need to integrate SMEs in the global market, members are requested to mainstream this important area in work of WTO.

We need progress in all five areas of WTO work:

- i. Focus on regular work to ensure implementation
- ii. Negotiations for market access and development oriented outcomes, by addressing remaining issues in the light of current challenges and economic landscape.
- iii. Having crossed the 500th mark is a testimony to the fact that members have faith and trust in Dispute settlement mechanism, therefore, it is an important area of work and long queues need to be tackled.
- iv. Trade Policy Review Mechanism is an opportunity to look at inequality within the countries and across countries, WTO and WB joint report of 2015 provides insights to some of the challenges faced by poor developing countries.
- v. Finally, the coherence mandate of WTO for global economic policy making also require adequate attention and more joint publications should be encouraged in collaboration with other UN institutions on all dimensions of economic development.

Another lesson of Nairobi is the extremely important role of Chairs of committees that we need to build on and leverage this learning more proactively.

Finally, key lesson of Nairobi is "Multilateralism is alive and can deliver". Trade is the most effective tool of development, progress and social change

The message to the world from Nairobi is that WTO is a functional organization, multilateralism is the best way to address inequality and Global challenges in world of trade, and that WTO does not wait for the decisions to be made elsewhere.

We need a robust Post-Nairobi dialogue keeping in view all perspectives on development, growth and trade.

I would encourage all Geneva based delegates to remain engaged on the basis of the progress achieved in Nairobi.

WTO is the only institution which provides us the opportunity to work on agriculture subsidies, production as well as trade distortion. We cannot afford any failure to address these distortions.

We must continue our journey of reform particularly in agriculture trade, if we fail here in addressing agriculture reform or decide to go backwards, we will not be serving the poor or the hungry. We will end up undermining the basic principles of development that we want to up hold.

We must accept and recognize that the economic landscape and trade topography of the world has changed considerably since the turn of the century. Technology has transformed the speed and quality of information flows, and the ways with which we communicate with each other. This has also impacted trade and businesses in a big way. We are in the day and age of “Fourth Industrial Revolution” our solutions should be in line with spirit of the times.
