



WTO DG CAMPAIGN SECRETARIAT

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Excellency,

Since my nomination as Kenya's candidate to be the next Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), I have been engaging directly with the WTO membership and will continue to do so as the selection process proceeds. I am listening attentively to Members' concerns and deepening our constructive dialogue. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited the opportunities for face-to-face contact, and I shall continue my efforts to personally reach as many Members as possible. In the meantime, this letter elaborates on the statement I made to the General Council setting out my plans for reforming the WTO and renewing its effectiveness.

The WTO needs an active and impassioned Director General who will combine leadership with inclusiveness. I have the political stature, the commitment and the record of achievement in high-level trade negotiations to do this successfully and to be effective from the outset. Serving as Kenya's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as occupying senior positions in international agencies, has shaped my understanding of what a WTO Director-General can and must do. The persuasive power of the office must be harnessed to offer ideas, convene the Members, and initiate dialogue among them to find common purpose in reinvigorating the WTO.

If selected, I commit to the following actions to build a better and more inclusive WTO:

1. As Director- General I will use my influence to ensure that trade **supports the global recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic**. Over the coming months we must progress from sharing information to fostering cooperation. This must be done in conjunction with other international organizations and regional bodies in order to maximise the impact of collective action. The WTO must play a more active part in supporting Members as they seek to build more resilient supply chains and foster the production and equitable distribution of essential protective equipment and medicines to tackle the pandemic, and of vaccines when these become available. I will make sure that the WTO Secretariat strengthens its monitoring and research capabilities to ensure that Members have the information required to fashion policies essential to recovery.
2. I will support Members to **complete the negotiations on fisheries subsidies and significantly advance the negotiations on agriculture**. Progress here is essential for the credibility and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system.
3. I will launch, and personally take responsibility for, an **informal consultation process on WTO reform involving all Members**. The possible elements of a WTO reform agenda listed below are numerous and wide-ranging, but not necessarily exhaustive. I will actively facilitate the efforts of Members to agree on a balanced and sequenced approach to their consideration. In some cases, it will be possible to draw on work already done.
 - a. Reforming the dispute settlement system, particularly in relation to the Appellate Body;
 - b. Improving notification procedures and the WTO's transparency function;
 - c. Addressing the question of an appropriate balance of rights and obligations among Members, including in relation to special and differential treatment;
 - d. Advancing negotiations on subsidy rules in the WTO;
 - e. Reframing the built-in services agenda and e-commerce work programme.

- f. Addressing sustainability issues relating to environment, climate change and trade;
- g. Building the interface between the work and functioning of the WTO and the virtual economy;
- h. Promoting the participation of women in international trade.
- i. Strengthening the WTO's negotiating function in conjunction with approaches to decision-making;
- j. Exploring ways to strengthen the WTO's deliberative processes in order to support its rulemaking and dispute settlement functions.

This consultation exercise would be aimed at launching an agreed work program on WTO reform at the 12th Ministerial Conference.

- 4. I will be a **strong advocate** for the multilateral trading system. While respecting the WTO's intergovernmental character, I will also set up a more regular, extensive and inclusive programme of **outreach and dialogue** with stakeholders.
- 5. The Director General is required to **ensure that the WTO Secretariat fulfils the needs of the membership**. In order to do this, I will lead the Secretariat in modernising many of its functions as well as reallocating resources to where they are most needed. Actions will include:
 - a. Ensure that the WTO Secretariat continues to improve on gender balance and geographical representation.
 - b. Strengthen the monitoring and analytical work of the Secretariat to better assist Members in their policy deliberations.
 - c. Improve the effectiveness of the Secretariat's contribution to technical cooperation and capacity building.
 - d. Strengthen the Secretariat's use of virtual communication technology to perform its functions with greater efficiency and at lower cost.
 - e. Build closer relationships with other international agencies dealing with matters that impinge on trade-related policy issues.

I know that finding solutions to the problems confronting the multilateral trading system will not be easy. Nonetheless, I am fundamentally committed to meeting these challenges. If I am selected, I will work tirelessly with Members to ensure that the WTO delivers on the promise of an equitable and well-functioning global trading system.

I hope I can count on your support and will continue to seek direct personal interaction with as many Members as possible in the short time we have available to complete the selection process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours *Sincerely,*



**Amb. (Dr.) Amina Mohamed, EGH, CAV
CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**