

5 March 2024

(24-2041)

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**Ministerial Conference  
Thirteenth Session  
Abu Dhabi, 26 February–2 March 2024**

Original: English

## **LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDC) MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

WTO MINISTERIAL MEETING 2024 (CK4 Am31 8808) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, 25 FEBRUARY 2024, ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The following communication, dated 4 March 2024, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Botswana on behalf of the LLDC Group.

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We, the Ministers of Trade and Heads of delegation of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) met

Development; and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration adopted during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of Foreign Ministers of the LLDCs, held on 21 September 2023 in New York on the margins of the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which called for the convening of a dialog



measures and actions to support LLDC efforts, such as assistance in diversifying their export bases and improving commodity processing, investment facilitation, trade diversification, trade finance, and the creation of a conducive business and trade environment;

We continue to make efforts to mainstream the building of productive capacities in our development strategies and call for international support including financial, technical and capacity-building assistance to support these endeavours;

We emphasize that agriculture, including the role of trade in achieving food security, is of critical importance to the LLDCs and emphasize that the continuation of the reform process in order to promote market access, a reduction of distortive domestic support measures, the total elimination of all forms of export subsidies, and the promotion of fair rules for agriculture sector, will constitute an important tool for the promotion of economic activities and development in LLDCs;

We reiterate our concern that challenges including inadequate infrastructure, limited internet access, high cost of broadband, inadequate digital skills and regulatory and data policies continue to persist. Noting with concern that the LLDCs dependence on their neighboring and costal countries for access to submarine cables and international Internet bandwidth raises the cost of, and reduces the quality of, their Internet access. We call on increased support towards facilitating cost-effective means including ease access to submarine cables and satellite-based internet connectivity;

We aim to foster favorable conditions for the development of the digital economy by creating appropriate enabling environment including the necessary (d)2.1 (u) i Tc 0 Tw ( )TJO.18i.183 Tw -29.67 -, n.7 (o)

