

## Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering (Davos, 24 January 2015)

### **Personal Concluding Remarks by the Chair, Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann**

I would like to thank you all for the good and frank exchange of views we had this morning. In concluding the meeting, and in my personal capacity as Chair, I would like to summarise our discussion as follows:

1. 20 years after the Organization's establishment, we shared an understanding that very important objectives are on the WTO's agenda in 2015, and we expressed our confidence that Members will succeed in meeting these objectives in a timely way.
2. We reiterated our commitment to implementing all decisions taken at the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, including on public stockholdings for food security purposes as amended in November 2014.
3. We concurred that, by July, a detailed work programme will have to be defined, setting out a credible and realistic path towards a conclusion of the Doha Development Round.
4. A sense of urgency must be instilled to the work in Geneva. Intensive efforts will be required in the three main areas of negotiations – agriculture, non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and services – but also in other fields.
5. The development dimension, and in particular aspects relevant to least developed countries, will have to remain at the centre.
6. The key issues will need to be identified rapidly and addressed in a transparent and inclusive way. We should be aware of each other's interests and constraints, focus on what is doable, consider new ways of engaging in order to move ahead more efficiently, and be prepared to review longstanding negotiating positions.
7. We welcomed the process set in motion in Geneva towards reaching these objectives and concurred that this shift in gear has to be sustained by a high level of engagement by all Members, also in capitals.
8. Some of us also mentioned the importance of delivering concrete outcomes in plurilateral initiatives, on a most favoured nation (MFN) basis, such as the amendment of the Information Technology Agreement.
9. We furthermore welcomed the decision by Members to hold the next WTO Ministerial Conference for the first time in Africa, and thanked Kenya for hosting that Conference in December in Nairobi (MC10).
10. We agreed to remain engaged in view of making MC10 a success, including by supporting timely ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement.