



**Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of Trade**

**Presentation
By**

**H.E. Hatim ALSIR Ali
Minister of Trade
At The**

**Forum on WTO Accession
Accession Related Technical and Capacity Building
13 July 2017, 9:00 – Room E**

- ▶ *Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Minister of Trade of Liberia,
Distinguish Representatives of Development Agencies and Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Government of the Sudan, I would like to express my appreciation to the WTO Accession Division for organizing this significant forum at the right time simultaneously with the 4th Working Party meeting of the accession of the Sudan to the WTO and the Global Review of Aid for Trade with the theme “***Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and connectivity for Sustainable Development***” .

- ▶ We extend our appreciation to all agencies that supported Sudan on accession process at the early stage such as ITC, UNCTAD ,IDB and our deep gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Government of China for the generous support to Sudan accession.

Mr. Chairman,

- Sudan has applied for WTO membership since 1994 and three meetings of the Working Party had been convened, the most recent one was on 31st of January this year.
- The Government of Sudan distinctly views the WTO Accession process as a critical component of our domestic reforms aiming to improve trade relationship regionally and internationally, therefore the Government is committed and determined to accelerate the accession process towards finalization by the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017, inline with the road-map endorsed by the High Level Committee in Sudan

- ▶ According to the accession road-map, the Government of Sudan has submitted all the required documents such as (Revised Memorandum of Foreign Trade Regime, Revised Offers in Goods and Services, Domestic Support and Export Subsidies in the Agricultural sector , SPS & TBT Check List, Action Plan on the implementation of the SPS &TBT, Action Plan on the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement , Action Plan on the implementation of TRIPS agreement, , Questionnaire on State-Trading Enterprise, Checklist on Implementation and administration of the Customs Valuation Agreement, Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures , and additional questions from the Working Party had been answered and submitted to the WTO secretariat and has been circulated to members of the Working Party. And the Government of Sudan foresees to conduct two Working Party meetings in October and November this year.

During the 3rd Cycle of the Working Party meeting last January, Sudan has conducted bilateral negotiations with USA, EU, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria and India, and yesterday we concluded with Kenya an aspiring to conclude with the rest during this cycle . During the years 2006-2008 Sudan has signed bilateral agreements with Brazil, China and Jordan.

Mr. Chairman

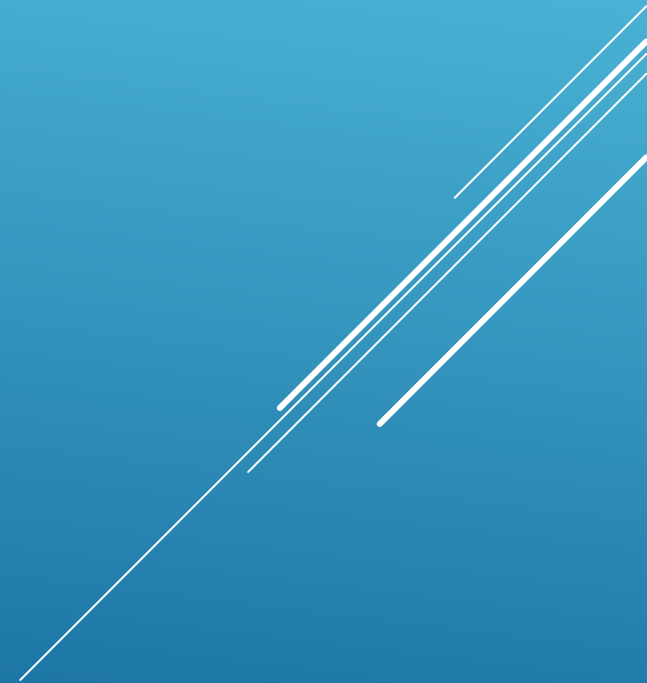
- ▶ The accession process to the WTO is burdensome for the LDCs that lack the human resources and technical capabilities required by the process.
- ▶ The overall objectives of this request to provide for inertia alias, to integrate Sudan into the Multicultural Trading System by enhancing its institutional and human capacities to address trade policy issues, concerns, and mainstreaming trade into national development and poverty reduction strategy.
- ▶ Moreover to accelerate the accession process at a national level, mainly through assisting the Sudanese officials in elaborating strategy for engaging in bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the WTO accession process.

Mr. Chairman,

Sudan is requesting development partners to :

1. Support Human Resources' Development for developing national expertise in various aspects related to trade issues e.g. (SPS, TBT, IP ,Trade Facilitation and Technology Transfer).
2. Establishment of the TBT Enquiry point in Khartoum.
3. Assist in Updating of Sudan Legislations and modernization to be comply with WTO agreements .
4. Establishment of Geneva Trade office to follow-up the WTO activities at Sudan Mission
5. Assisting Sudanese private sector in improving the adjustment cost of WTO membership.
6. Establishment of WTO Reference Centre in Khartoum with Video-Conference Facilities.

7. Narrow the supply side constraints base of export commodities of Cotton, Oil seeds, Livestock, Gum Arabic
8. Lessons learnt from recently Acceded Members
9. Impact Studies on the Implication of WTO membership on Sudan Economy on Various Sectors.
10. Awareness for Sudanese Parliamentarians and Media.



In conclusion allow me Mr. Chairman, to express our deep gratitude to all development partners, donor countries and WTO Secretariat that have supported and facilitated Sudan's Accession process, and looking forward more support during accession negotiations and post-accession programme.

** Details on this request will be submitted to the development partners through Sudan Permanent Mission.*

► **Thank you Mr. Chairman..**

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