

**COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT ON THE MULTILATERAL  
TRADING SYSTEM TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**

## Statement

1. We, the Commonwealth Trade Ministers, mindful of the challenges confronting the global trading system, convened in Windhoek, Namibia, on 19-20 June 2025 to reaffirm the strong commitment of the Commonwealth Leaders through the Samoa Communiqué, to a fair, transparent, equitable, inclusive, member-driven, non-discriminatory, open, rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. We reaffirm the provisions of special and differential treatment for developing Members and least developed countries (LDCs), small states and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as an integral part of the WTO and its agreements. We remain dedicated to fostering resilience, transparency, fairness, and predictability in global trade.
2. We affirm the vital role of international trade and investment in fostering inclusive growth and resilient economies and underscore the importance of the Multilateral Trading System for all our Members—especially developing countries, including LDCs, small and vulnerable economies, SIDS, and landlocked developing countries—in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. We recognise the importance of facilitating a sustainable transition for members graduating from LDC status, and we support ongoing work in the WTO on this issue.
4. We express our concern over the rise of trade restrictive measures that undermine the Multilateral Trading System for all member countries. Such measures heighten uncertainty in the global trade landscape, with impact on investment flows and supply chains with disproportionate effect on developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS. In this regard, we are committed to the WTO and its rules.
5. We reaffirm our call for necessary reform of the WTO in all of its functions, including with a view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system that is accessible to all Members.
6. We urge Members to deposit their instruments of acceptance to bring the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies into force as soon as possible. We also encourage all Members to demonstrate flexibility and pragmatism to conclude negotiations on outstanding issues to reach a comprehensive outcome on fisheries subsidies, with due regard to the principle of special and differential treatment.
7. We note the growing significance of the digital economy and digital trade and call on Members to continue active engagement in the WTO Work Programme on E-Commerce, in particular the development dimension, taking into account relevant positions on the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions.

8. We acknowledge the crucial role that trade can play in addressing environmental and climate change challenges. We advocate for increased collaboration with members and other relevant international organisations to explore how trade can significantly contribute to meeting Members' respective environmental sustainability and development goals. We highlight the increasing vulnerabilities due to climate change and the need for building resilient trade infrastructure, accessing green technology, and mobilising climate-aligned trade finance. We underline that trade-related measures taken to combat climate change and other environmental challenges should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or disguised restrictions on international trade.
  
9. We note the ongoing plurilateral negotiations at the WTO for advancing issues of interest.
  
10. We recognise that agricultural trade remains particularly affected by trade and production distorting subsidies, tariffs, and other barriers. We reaffirm our view that economic development lies at the heart of the Multilateral Trading System and that agricultural trade reform is essential to support the individual development needs of all Members, particularly the least developed and net food importing developing countries. We affirm more is needed to reform multilateral agricultural trade rules to address global food insecurity, economic development and environmental challenges.
  
11. We offer our collective support to the Republic of Cameroon to host a successful MC14 and remain committed to working collaboratively with all WTO Members to achieve positive outcomes.