



ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION SPEECH BY AMB. (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMED, EGH, CAV, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SPORTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

**Your Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta
Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta, for nominating me as Kenya's candidate for the position of Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

I am humbled by the confidence His Excellency the President has shown in me and I can assure that I will do my very best to bring honour to Kenya and Africa if selected as the next WTO Director-General. I have spent a significant part of my career advocating for a liberalized trading system that would benefit all countries, particularly African countries.

The rules-based multilateral trading system has been a force for good since its creation in 1948 by contributing to the tremendous expansion of the global economy and increasing living standards in almost all countries. It has helped developing countries, including African countries, to use trade to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and development. Its many achievements risk being overshadowed by its inability to confront recent challenges, including the inability to conclude agreements that would modernize the trading system and enable it to provide opportunities for businesses to expand trade and investment for the benefit of all countries.

The unexpected selection process for the position of WTO Director-General has come at a time when the world is confronting the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, which is expected to trigger the most severe economic contraction since the Great Depression. No country is in a position to manage the COVID-19 crisis alone. That holds particularly true for trade. Indeed, what the world now needs the most is a revitalized WTO that would play an enhanced role in pulling the global economy out of recession.

**Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

If I am selected as WTO Director General, I will work collaboratively and inclusively with all Members to help them reach convergence on reform and renewal of the organization to meet their needs and aspirations. We need a strengthened WTO that would make a difference in the lives of ordinary people.

The role of the Director General has been described as that of a facilitator by Peter Sutherland, who was the first Director-General of the WTO. This means using every possible opportunity for building bridges among WTO Members to advance the work of the organization.

Having served as Chairperson of all the highest WTO bodies, I have demonstrated that I can bring Members together to deliberate and find appropriate solutions to the critical issues facing the Organization. I believe in the transformative power of trade not only to improve the economic well-being of countries but also as an anchor for peace and security in the world.

The trust bestowed upon me by our President, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta with this nomination, will energize me to work hard to convince WTO Members that I possess all the qualities and experience His Excellency has described to lead the organization at this critical time.

Asanteni sana!