

*PERMANENT MISSION OF RWANDA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS*



Statement

by

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At the UN

First Drafting Session on Financing for Development
"International Trade"

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Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

Thank you once again for giving me the floor.

At the outset, Rwanda wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by Suriname, Morocco and Benin on behalf of the G77 and China, the African Group and the LDCs respectively. I will, in addition, make a few comments in my capacity as a member of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and will therefore focus on international trade and trade facilitation.

Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

On international trade, we believe that the patterns of international trade ought to change to adapt to sustainable patterns of consumption and production and ensure sustainable development.

Allow me to state in this framework that many countries rely on trade as an engine for development and as a source of resources for both private and public sectors through import and export as well as tax collection. In addition, it has proven to be a source of income generation for many households especially in rural areas through intra, international and cross-border trade.

However, countries like my own that are landlocked are confronted with multifaceted challenges in logistics and transport due to the lack of access to the seaport, a vital link that can only be reached through road transport. This calls for a holistic approach to prevent such countries from redirecting to transport costs, funds that would normally be devoted to development projects or to the pressing needs in education and health as well as to poverty eradication. It is therefore an imperative to foster regional initiatives in the area of trade facilitation in order to eliminate transport bottlenecks.

We are of the view that this is a field where private investment, with appropriate infrastructure for trade and an adequately trained workforce would add value and we are counting on The World Trade Organization (WTO) to negotiate favourable multilateral trade rules that respond to the needs of LLDCs.

Furthermore, in order to curb challenges facing vulnerable countries, the international trading system has to contribute in resolving capacity constraints and in putting an end to trade subsidies in richer countries which make it difficult for developing countries, especially those in special needs, to sustain competition. That state of affairs can result in hampering economic growth and in creating trade imbalance.

In this respect, let me state distinguished co-facilitators, that despite all constructive ways identified by countries to reduce the average time taken to import or export goods both in transit countries as well as the heavy logistics and transport costs, this often leads to trade deficit and to the inability to compete on the global market.

Our status as LLDC calls therefore not only for a lot of interest in Trade Facilitation for the smooth flow of goods vital to economic growth but also for the development partners to respond to funding needs required to facilitate trade.

In the midst of this drafting session geared at shaping the next development agenda, affording adequate means of implementation and engaging all actors in this venture would definitely make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate of this world.

I thank you!