



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Omar HILALE
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN
On behalf of the African Group**

**Preparatory Process of the Third International Conference on Financing for
Development
First drafting session
Trade
New York, 29 January 2015**

Co-facilitators

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

Trade is an important engine of economic growth and development. There are many regions and countries of the world that have been able to lift their peoples from poverty to prosperity through trade.

The Group is in the view that an improvement in trade related issues requires an international and domestic policy environment that effectively enables private investment, with appropriate infrastructure for trade and an adequately trained workforce.

In terms of regional trade and investments agreements, the African Group sees the merit of such mechanism in the African context, taking into account the specific needs and concerns of the continent, and calls upon the international community to support intra African trade initiative aimed to substantially improve trade within the continent and with the rest of the world.

The Group calls also for the implementation of the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular LDC, LLDCs and SIDs.

The Group is particularly concerned that no progress is achieved in WTO negotiations on issues of special concern to developing countries.

The Group emphasizes on the urgent need to complete the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Group would like to emphasize, among others, on the following issues:

We should address issues of particular concern to developing in international trade to enhance their capacity to finance their development, including trade barriers, trade-distorting subsidies and other trade-distorting measures, particularly in sectors of special export interest to African developing countries, including agriculture; technical barriers and sanitary and phytosanitary measures; tariff peaks, high tariffs and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers; the movement of natural persons; the lack of recognition of intellectual property rights for the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore; the transfer of knowledge and technology;

Enhance the role of regional and sub-regional agreements and free trade areas. Emphasize on the need for international financial institutions, including the regional development banks, to actively support projects that promote sub-regional and regional integration among developing countries;

Developed countries and others should achieve duty-free and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports, as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and improve market access for them;

It is crucial for developing countries to get additional aid for trade, in particular LDCs, LLDCs and align it with regional integration and national strategies;

It is an absolute imperative that the creditor nations and the international financial institutions tackle seriously the effect of exchange rate risks to trade and develop a new mechanism for loans in domestic currencies;

Development partners to fulfill their commitments by developing(-) the table, with