

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FREE TRADE AREA**

Notification from Tanzania

The following communication, dated 2 August 2004, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Tanzania.

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The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania has the honour to notify the World Trade Organization that the respective authorities of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe subscribed to a Protocol on Trade which entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2000 and to an Amending Agreement to the Protocol which was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2000, in the framework of the Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community signed at the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Windhoek Namibia, on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2004.<sup>1</sup>

The Protocol on Trade and the Amending Protocol aim at establishing a free trade area within the meaning of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994, in accordance with a plan and schedule which takes into account the differences in development, trade and financial status of the signatories. Other objectives of the Protocol are listed as follows:

- (i) To further liberalize intra-regional trade in goods and services on basis of fair, mutually equitable and beneficial trade arrangements, complemented by Protocols in other areas.
- (ii) To ensure efficient production within SADC reflecting the current and dynamic comparative advantages of its Members.
- (iii) To contribute towards the improvement of the climate for domestic, cross-border and foreign investment.
- (iv) To enhance the economic development, diversification and industrialization of the Region.

This notification is presented pursuant to part (a) of paragraph 7 of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994 and the WTO Understanding on Interpretation of Article XXIV of the GATT 1994.

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Protocol will be circulated in document WT/REG176/1. Its relevant annexes have been submitted to the Secretariat for consultation by interested Members (office 1174). The Protocol and the Treaty are also available on the SADC Website: [www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)

The signatories to the SADC Protocol believe that the goals of the multilateral trading system should be sufficiently enhanced by the Protocol's programme of progressive lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional trade.

The signatories are ready to contribute to the process of examination of the Protocols and to submit any other information in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements.

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