

Fellow ministers, Director-General, distinguished delegates,  
ladies and gentlemen,

During the past few years the world economy has been facing tremendous challenges. Turbulence in the financial markets and problems with sovereign debt have hampered growth and jobs. In some respects, the state of the world economy in the last few years has resembled the dismal situation of the 1930s.

As we gather here in Bali, we should bear in mind the key role the multilateral trading system has played in recent years. As the main guardian against protectionism, the WTO has allowed us to avoid a new Great Depression fuelled by protectionism and trade wars.

Sweden is convinced that a package here in Bali, as part of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, constitutes the best option for the world trading system, global trade, job opportunities, and

development. We also believe that a failure to deliver concrete results will not only mean missed opportunities now, but will threaten the multilateral approach to trade liberalisation in the long run.

Trade facilitation is a vital component of the package we are aiming for. Specifically, the deal which is on the table for this 9th Ministerial Conference would spur trade by cutting unnecessary red tape at borders and by improving customs processes. This would benefit developing countries not least. It is important, however, that countries in need receive the necessary support to implement the agreement. This is why Sweden has decided to support TRAPCA, the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa, in establishing a new training facility aimed at improving the practical implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. And this is also why Sweden would hereby like to pledge, for 2014, an additional contribution of three million US dollars to the Enhanced Integrate Framework for trade facilitation related activities for least

developed countries.

There are clear linkages between trade, development and the climate. All countries must work together to meet the challenges posed by both global warming and a world economy which is still performing well under capacity.

Trade can be a central component in a holistic policy approach to dealing with this nexus of challenges. In this regard, the failure to proceed with plurilateral talks on liberalisation in environmental goods, services and technologies is a serious setback. This issue must be put high on the post-Bali agenda. Furthermore, the lack of progress in updating the Information Technology Agreement is a huge disappointment as trade in ICT goods and services is unique in being able to raise economic output while at the same time lowering the carbon footprint.

In order for the multilateral trading system to stay strong and

relevant, it must be able to deliver concrete results. And these results must be realised now.

Thank you.