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POLAND

Statement by H.E. Mr Miroslaw Zielinski
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The Polish delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Government and people of the United States of Mexico for their hospitality. We thank His Excellency President Vicente Fox Quesada for his personal engagement and support for the multilateral trading system and the success of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference. We would also like to convey our thanks to the Mexican Organizational Committee and to the Secretariat of the WTO for the enormous effort involved in the organization of such a great venture.

Poland fully supports a further liberalization and a strengthening of the multilateral trading system in accordance with the Doha mandate. Transparent and based on the WTO principles trading system was an important factor of growth for Poland during the period of systemic transformation. Market representation and opening of our economy provided important stimulus for structural reforms resulting in a rapid growth and improvement of the quality of life in our country. We wish to broaden further our participation in international trade, to attract investment advantageous for both parties and thus more broadly participate in the international economic cooperation. We shall act in the same spirit after becoming a member of the European Union.

The economic and political situation of the world remains difficult and complex. Today is the second anniversary of the tragic events of 11 September 2001. We remain committed to international security. International trade and well-being of nations is an important factor contributing to the international cooperation and mutual understanding of nations. Today more than ever we all need a successful outcome from Cancún.

My delegation welcomes the draft ministerial text along with the covering letter. The draft contains many elements with which my delegation may agree and some others where we have objections. Nonetheless, Poland recognizes the draft as a useful base for further work.

We welcome the consensus achieved by the end of August on health and TRIPS. In solidarity with developing countries afflicted by pandemic diseases, Poland agreed to a partial and ultimately complete opt-out from the use of this decision.

Within the framework of a further liberalization of trade in agriculture Poland supports a separate approach to the sector, in view of its specific role in the economy. The non-trade concerns should be considered in all pillars of the negotiations and sensitive character of the agricultural sector makes it necessary to preserve the possibility to apply special safeguards (SSG). We welcome the possibility of phasing out all forms of export support. Poland opts for the right of all WTO Members to implement and introduce domestic support instruments of the "Green box" and "Blue box" category. It is also necessary to preserve the "peace clause".

As to access to non-agricultural goods market, the Polish delegation supports the idea of a substantial reduction of tariff rates and elimination of tariff peaks. The Polish delegation is of the opinion that an ambitious arithmetical formula should be the basic modality of negotiations, as only such a modality will permit to balance obligations and advantages of all WTO Members.

Poland supports a further liberalization of trade in services. Negotiations in this field should be based on a principle of a gradual liberalization with a consideration of national policy aims, the level of development and the size of economies of all GATS members both in the general approach and in individual sectors.

We are for a continuation of negotiations in the sphere of trade and environment on the grounds of the WTO multilateral trading system on one hand and multilateral ecological agreements on the other.

Poland opts for commencement of negotiations on trade and investments, trade and competition, transparency in regulations on government procurement and trade facilitation on the basis of modalities to be established along the lines suggested in Annexes D through G contained in document JOB(03)/150/Rev.1. GATT and WTO were most successful in reducing tariff barriers. Today the non-tariff barriers such as complicated procedures and red tape have become in many instances the most harmful instrument of protectionism. We believe that trade facilitation is one of the most challenging tasks that should be embraced by the WTO, for the benefit of both developed and developing countries.

Poland supports the development dimension given to the New Round by the Ministerial Conference at Doha, taking into consideration the needs and interests of developing countries, and first of all, of the least-developed countries. Poland is also for strengthening and precise formulating of all decisions concerning special and differential treatment (S&D) in WTO Agreements in such a way that would make them more effective on the one hand and would not disturb the delicate balance of rights and obligations of Members achieved after the Uruguay Round on the other.

Therefore, additional special concessions and privileges should be granted in proportion to the economic development level and wealth of beneficiary countries.

Poland notes with satisfaction the growing WTO membership also from among the least-developed countries. This confirms the importance of the multilateral trading system. We welcome the Kingdom of Nepal and Cambodia among the WTO Members and we hope to welcome in WTO in due course more countries including Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The Polish delegation wishes to declare its determination to participate actively in the present Conference and to work on constructive proposals and decisions, the purpose of which will be a further strengthening of the multilateral trading system for the benefit of countries represented here.
