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MONGOLIA

Statement by H.E. Mr Chimiddori Ganzorig,
Minister for Industry and Trade

Please allow me, on behalf of the Government of Mongolia and on my own, to express sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico and the World Trade Organization Secretariat for organizing this Conference and bringing together Trade Ministers of the world.

The world community is closely observing the Ministerial Conference. The people of the world expect and hope for positive outcomes of the Conference that would further a fair economic globalization. They expect from us, the Ministers of Trade, the decisions, which would meet the interests of all Members of the World Trade Organization, particularly of developing countries.

The Doha Development Agenda has created more favourable conditions for the Members to further cooperation in trade and its development. Despite the Members' efforts to implement the Development Agenda, there still remain issues that need consensus on.

Among such issues is the Agreement on Agriculture. In this respect, we consider that agricultural liberalization needs to be taken into account not only within the framework of trade, it has to consider, thus, be coordinated with such issues of vital importance to developing countries as poverty alleviation, food security, rural development and improving the livelihood of the rural population.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate and extend gratitude to those Member countries, which worked hard after the Doha Ministerial and put efforts in removing barriers to free trade in terms of cutting their high tariffs, decreasing export subsidies and domestic support.

Mongolia attributes a great significance to the issues of concern to developing countries, especially small and vulnerable ones among them. Dependence on few export commodities and the difficulties associated therewith are the main issues of concern for these countries. Therefore, developing countries are urged to improve the access of such countries to their markets, decrease and eliminate, in the future, domestic support provided to farmers in their countries and to substantiate special and differential treatment to developing countries. We shall be protecting our common interests through our involvement in the multilateral negotiations.

One of the issues of utmost importance to Mongolia's trade with other countries is transit transportation. This is a common problem that land-locked developing countries face. Thus, we deem it necessary to address the issue within the scope of the WTO negotiations so that respective agreements of the WTO incorporate necessary provisions as to reducing transit transportation costs and providing land-locked developing countries with more preferential treatment. A special note has to be taken of the appeal from the Ministerial Conference on transit transportation taken place in

Almaty, Kazakhstan in August 2003. It has called for the importance of addressing trade-related issues of transit transportation within the scope of the WTO negotiations.

On behalf of the Government of Mongolia, I would like to declare our full support for recommendations and actions under the Work Programme on Small Economies, which would allow greater and fuller integration of small and vulnerable economies into the broader framework of multilateral trading system, and a more active participation, therefore, in their implementation.

Taking this opportunity, please allow me to congratulate our colleagues from Nepal and Cambodia on their successful accession to the WTO, as well as to express our support for those countries, which are working on their accession, including Russia and land-locked developing countries.

We, the delegation of Mongolia, are ready to closely collaborate with our counterparts for successful and fruitful accomplishments of the Doha Round Negotiations.

We wish that the Conference be successful.
