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## TANZANIA

Statement by the Honourable Juma Aifa Ngasongwa  
Minister of Industry and Trade

Let me extend my sincere thanks to the Government of Mexico for agreeing to host the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference.

Allow me also to express my appreciation to the Government and the people of Mexico for the very warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and members of my delegation, since our arrival in this beautiful city of Cancún. In a special way, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who in one way or another made this important meeting possible.

To me and my delegation, the road to Cancún started with the first LDCs Trade Ministers' meeting that took place in Zanzibar in July 2001 in preparation for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar. The objective of the Zanzibar meeting was for the LDCs to agree on common negotiating objectives for the Fourth Ministerial Conference with a view to address the real dangers of marginalization of developing countries, and especially LDCs, arising out of the current international trade relations. Global trade relations, I am afraid to say, continue to deny LDCs the perceived benefits of global trade liberalization. Trade distorting subsidies in favour of developed countries, and the resultant dumping of artificially cheap products into our open markets bring into serious question the validity of the often orchestrated virtues of free trade. We have to address the problem of double standards pursued by developed countries in respect of trade liberalization.

LDCs, African and ACP countries have ably tabled to the international community our immediate concerns through Ministerial declarations in Dhaka, Bangladesh; in Grande Baie, Mauritius and in Brussels. We demand to be heard and to be meaningfully engaged. We demand transparency in the decision-making process. We demand differential treatment for LDCs as we endeavour to build our capacity to fully participate in the multilateral trading system.

The least-developed countries are a specifically recognized category on UN classification and in the Uruguay Round Agreements and Decisions, where there are provisions for special and differential treatment to address their specific vulnerability. However, due to the very low levels of our economic development, LDCs are unable to take advantage of such special and differential treatment. This factor by itself is a major concern that needs to be addressed by the international community. There are concerns on supply side constraints in respect of undeveloped infrastructure, low human resource capacity, etc. We believe that trade, more than aid, provide LDCs with a better chance for rapid economic development. The form and substance of the multilateral trade regime is of high significance to us as it determines the pace and direction of our economic growth and development. Unfortunately, the commitments to trade-related technical assistance to LDCs has hardly been met. We left Doha with a "development" Agenda. We agreed on deadlines to meet specific targets. We missed most of these deadlines largely because of a shift in commitments by our developed partners. We cannot make progress in negotiating a viable multilateral trade regime while economically powerful countries continuously cling to positions which are driven by national and

corporate interest. As a result "Implementation issues" of interest to developing countries have remained largely ignored while "new issues" of interest to developed countries are thrust upon us when we are least prepared.

I do believe that we do have ample opportunity to carry forward the Development Agenda agreed at Doha. Although the Development Agenda agreed at Doha did not fully address the concerns of developing countries, yet we believe it remains a basis for a viable work programme. We have therefore an opportunity here in Cancún to determine the correct course of action as we take stock of implementation of the Doha commitments. In Doha an idea for a development agenda was agreed upon. Let Cancún provide us with an opportunity for a work programme which will enhance the legitimacy and sustainability of a multilateral trading system.

This meeting, here in Cancún, is very significant as a mid-term review of the Doha Work Programme. We need to address pressing issues such as the crisis in commodity prices, implementation issues and market access opportunities for developing countries. We need to seriously address agriculture and other trade-distorting subsidies and non-tariff barriers. We have serious problems with the definitions of "Boxes" and particularly obvious loopholes in respect of the "Green Box" which has become a convenient container of trade-distorting subsidies that threaten the very survival of hundreds of millions of farmers in Africa and in other developing countries. Of equal concern is the trade-related intellectual property regime that puts poor countries at a huge disadvantage now, and more so in the future. We have no option but to insist on availability of adequate and affordable pharmaceuticals and drugs, especially anti-retroviral drugs which prevent HIV/AIDS infection and progression. For us this is both an economic matter and a moral obligation to save human life. Our responsibility, first and foremost, is the health and welfare of our people, and any multilateral trade agreement on intellectual property rights is therefore a matter of great concern. We do welcome the current progress towards a decision on implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We congratulate the Chairman of the TRIPS Council for this effort. We believe we now have a basis of reaching a consensus on the long-standing impasse on this important issue.

The spirit shown by the negotiating parties on TRIPS and Public Health does demonstrate that mutually beneficial positions can be agreed upon if we all negotiate in good faith. The success of our deliberations here in Cancún and indeed the post-Cancún work programme will depend on the readiness of all parties to take into account the concerns of developing countries. This, I believe, is the only way we can hope to achieve a legitimate and sustainable multilateral trading system.

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