

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(03)/ST/149
13 September 2003

(03-4932)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Fifth Session
Cancún, 10 - 14 September 2003

Original: English

KAZAKHSTAN

Statement by H.E. Mr Adilbek Jaxybekov
Minister of Industry and Trade

(Speaking as an Observer)

Let me start by thanking our hosts, the Mexican people, the Government of Mexico and the WTO Secretariat, for generous hospitality and excellent organization of this Ministerial Conference.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is in a process of accession to the WTO. In our status as an observer, we are honored to be part of interesting discussions taking place here at Cancún, which could have major impact on the future of the global trade system.

We hope that the outcome of the Cancún Conference will contribute to practical implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and help to achieve conciliatory consensus between the developed and developing parts of the world.

The Government of Kazakhstan is committed to continuing its policy of trade liberalization in order to become a full-fledged member of the global economic community.

My country has achieved a significant degree of openness of its economy. Despite continuing slowdown of the world economy Kazakhstan's economy is developing dynamically.

It is clear that the success of economic development of Kazakhstan is very much determined by the degree of its participation in the global trade.

Privatization of many sectors of industry, reforms of the banking and financial sectors and other market oriented reforms have resulted in establishing the free foreign trade regime in accordance with the WTO principles.

We recognize that trade liberalization and accession to the WTO are not the end goal in itself, but rather the key elements of our country's overall growth strategy.

We hope to join the WTO on the terms which will not undermine our key national development priorities.

As an acceding country with economy in transition, Kazakhstan needs longer transition periods in some key areas.

As a land-locked country for fair competition for our goods, we need more flexibility for agriculture.

We are improving institutional capacity for implementation of our commitments to override the short-term costs resulting from the WTO membership.

We consider future membership of Kazakhstan with WTO as a major factor to improve the access of our products to world markets, consolidate business in the country, increase foreign investment and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Let me assure that once becoming a member of the WTO Kazakhstan having huge resources of oil, gas and other natural resources with its open economy will be a good member of this global international organization.

And we hope that the WTO membership would support us in acceding to its family.

In conclusion, I would like to wish success to the Cancún Conference.

Thank you for your attention.
