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## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Statement by H.E. Mr Maxim Yu. Medvedkov  
Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade

*(Speaking as an Observer)*

I am pleased to join other delegations in thanking the Chairman of the Ministerial Conference H.E. Mr Luis Ernesto Derbez and the Mexican Government for their hospitality here in Cancún.

I would like as well to extend my most sincere gratitude to the Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, to the Chairman and members of the Working Party on the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO.

The international community is facing global challenges. The world economy is slugging, and the global trade – decelerating.

And the response should be global.

We are inspired by Members' efforts these days that have been seeking to translate the Doha mandate into reform modalities to secure sustainable economic growth and to achieve an efficient, transparent, predictable and fairly balanced multilateral trading system.

In this context we share the view of the prevailing majority of the WTO Members that it is essential to ensure the full integration of the developing and least-developed countries into the world trade. Next, it is crucial to achieve the overall balance in the level of commitments to be undertaken by various countries.

Observing the acute discussions on key topics of the Doha Development Agenda I would like to underscore that we support an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary approach to trade liberalization. The Russian proverb "hurry up slowly" reflects our position in this respect. We also strongly believe that the qualitative aspect of the results of the Round should prevail over quantitative ones, without missing the strategic goals of the Organization.

The accession to the WTO remains one of the top priorities of the Russian Federation. This accession is an integral and important part of our internal economic and legislative reforms. But any process should have its end. And we expect that it will happen rather sooner than later.

The Russian Parliament is expected to complete the harmonization of the domestic legislation with the WTO rules in coming months.

We have intensified bilateral negotiations on market access and now are close to an agreement with our partners.

Russia is going to undertake commitments that reflect the actual level of the national development taking into account specific structural adjustment issues, and in line with the average level of commitments of other Members. We are ready to suggest fair and pragmatic solutions to the remaining problems, and we urge our partners to share such an approach.

We believe it is necessary to intensify without delay work on systemic issues in the Working Party report, which is absolutely important for the market access package as well. We are ready to take on board the proposals by the Members, which may contribute to ensure better and predictable trade within the current rules of the WTO agreements and which take into account the realities of the domestic economic agenda.

At the same time we strongly believe that the Russian accession, like the accession of any other country, should not be used as an experimental platform for ideas and concepts which are still subject to discussions within the WTO itself. We are ready and willing to cooperate on all issues of the DDA from the day of accession, strongly believing that world trade needs adequate solutions.

We thank the Members for clear indications of political support to Russia in the accession process, and are glad to see that in most cases it has been recently converted into practical actions.

We congratulate the Governments and the people of Nepal and Cambodia with a successful completion of the accession negotiations.

We also hope that the next Ministerial Conference will be held with our full-fledged participation, enabling Russia to contribute to the global economic growth using its inherent competitive advantages.

Foreign trade accounts for more than one third of our GDP. Russia's customs territory is one seventh of the cumulative customs territories of the countries in the world.

That is why we are willing to contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system aimed at addressing effectively future challenges, to fostering growth and to achieving a more equitable and prosperous world. That is why we believe that Russia's accession meets the interests of the WTO and its Members.

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