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REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

Statement by H.E. Mrs Hadja Mariama Déo Baldé
Minister of Commerce, Industry and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises

Allow me first of all to fulfil a pleasant duty, that of expressing on behalf of my delegation our profound gratitude to the people and Government of the State of Qatar for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

I should also like to congratulate you on the way in which you have conducted the work of this Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference and we hope that the outcome of our deliberations will take full account of the concerns expressed by the developing countries in general, and particularly by the least-developed among them.

To the People's Republic of China, a friend to Guinea that is now joining us in the WTO, my delegation wishes to convey its warm congratulations. China's presence will make our Organization truly universal.

My delegation is gratified that this Fourth Ministerial Conference is being held at a difficult time for the world economy and one in which the LDCs are increasingly marginalized in the multilateral trading system.

More than other countries, the LDCs are confronted with the problems of integrating into the world economy, because they bear the debt burden, the lack of production and export capacity, something which is compounded for most of them by the constraints bound up with structural adjustment.

As to its integration in the world economy, my country is deeply attached to the rules and principles of the multilateral trading system established by the WTO.

For this reason, Guinea is determined to make trade an instrument of growth and reduction of poverty, in a strategy of lasting development.

However, to do so, account needs to be taken of the concerns which erode the ability of the LDCs to play an ever more active part in the world trading system.

We therefore believe that it is time to find solutions to the problems of implementing the WTO Agreements, as raised by the ACP Group.

Consolidation of special and differential treatment in favour of the LDCs on the basis of firm commitments is something our countries cannot be denied, inasmuch as special and differential treatment is an integral part of the various WTO Agreements.

To enhance the WTO's image and confidence in the multilateral trading system among the public in our countries, we hope that the ACP-EU waiver request will be granted.

The capacity-building and technical assistance we expect from the WTO should be increased to offset the many inadequacies that prevent our countries from fully benefiting from the existing Agreements.

This is the place to welcome the expansion of the Pilot Scheme of the Integrated Framework, the implementation of which we genuinely desire, and it is a priority as far as we are concerned.

The initiatives on market access for products from the LDCs should be continued and improved. For example, the European "All But Arms" and the United States AGOA initiatives are particularly encouraging to the LDCs.

Nevertheless, significant bound market access for our agricultural products should be encouraged, along with the elimination of export subsidies, which distort the international agricultural products market and make the multilateral trading system inequitable.

As far as TRIPS is concerned, we would make an urgent appeal to all Members for them not to use the Agreement as an element of protectionism and not to prevent access to medicines for the sick in the developing countries.

Today, the HIV/AIDS problem has become a public health problem and concerns all countries throughout the world, but above all the poorest countries in Africa.

In this connection, we deem it urgent to find a balance between the public health issue and the TRIPS Agreement on the basis of Option 1 of the draft Ministerial Declaration.

My delegation considers it necessary to fully implement Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement on the transfer of technology, for, without production capacity, exports are not possible.

It is also necessary to implement mode 4 of trade in services, which prevents our populations from moving, and to facilitate market access related to that Agreement.

The special situation of the LDCs in Africa means that they are compelled to form subregional groups to promote trade among themselves and cope with the increasing marginalization that they now suffer.

For these reasons, subregional groups stand in need of all WTO's attention.

Lastly, my delegation endorses the statement by the LDC group, the APC countries and the African Group.
