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MONGOLIA

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

Allow me first to express on behalf of the Government of Mongolia our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of the State of Qatar, the city of Doha for the warm hospitality extended to us during this IV Ministerial Conference of the WTO. I would, also like to commend the efforts made by the Chairman of the General Council, the Director-General and the Secretariat of the WTO in the difficult lead-up to this Conference.

There is no doubt that the trade is a powerful tool for economic development and prosperity of the nations. The difficult and long preparatory process of this Conference speaks for the complexity and challenges of the world trade agenda we are discussing today. The fact that this Conference has become a reality does indicate that the Members share optimism that the Ministers could bridge our differences and set the new milestones for our concerted actions.

Almost five years have passed since Mongolia became a member of the WTO. During this period the Government of Mongolia has undertaken a series of reform measures directed at opening up our market and bringing our legislation in conformity with the WTO rules. With applied rate of one digit import tariffs and virtually no restrictions on trade Mongolia today is one of the liberalized markets. This is not an easy process, but we will continue our contribution towards further trade liberalization, equitable and rule-based multilateral trading system.

Having said that I would like to stress that Mongolia, alike many developing countries, expects the real benefits of the system for the economic growth, development and increased employment of its less developed members.

In this context we believe that implementation-related issues and concerns must be dealt as a matter of priority at this Conference, addressing existing imbalances and inequities in various WTO agreements. These issues include implementation of special and differential treatment provisions in favour of developing countries as legally binding commitments. Launching of a new round of negotiations will be meaningful if it creates employment opportunities and improves standards of living, gives benefits rather than costs for developing countries.

Needless to say that agriculture is a crucial sector for developing countries. Mongolia shares the concerns of developing countries regarding the lack of progress on the on-going mandated negotiations on agriculture, high level of protection and subsidies on agricultural products in many developed countries. The existing barriers to the exports of developing countries, particularly in agriculture, constitute serious obstacles to their potential export development. Non-trade concerns such as food security and rural development should be also adequately addressed.

The developing countries - a majority of the world trading system, are very diverse by their level of development, size of economy, export diversification, specific geographical location, vulnerability to market and natural forces.

All these factors in one or other way affect the trade primarily of less developed among them. If the WTO is for trade for all we cannot ignore these factors while they exist. In this regard I would like to attract your attention to the needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, like Mongolia, handicapped by their disadvantaged geographical location and remoteness from the world markets. According to the recent UNCTAD studies, the average cost of transport for landlocked developing countries exports is three times greater than the cost of transport for developed countries and almost twice greater for developing countries as a group.

Development aid and debt relief for developing economies could be much supported and materialized by full and unlimited access to exports of the most vulnerable, small and geographically disadvantaged among us.

Mongolia notes that developing countries should receive technical assistance, both in the negotiations themselves and in implementing and benefiting from the agreements. WTO's technical assistance should aim at building the human resource capacity of developing countries and strengthening their institutional capacity. Accordingly, WTO technical assistance is an integral part of broader development efforts of capacity building undertaken by other international organizations in helping developing countries to participate more fully in the global economy. Mongolia is confident that financing technical cooperation through the regular budget would ensure predictability, consistency and continuity in the provisions of technical assistance.

We have to agree on the Ministerial Declaration on Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health. Implementation and interpretation of the TRIPS should be supportive of public health with particular emphasis on access to existing and new medicines for the prevention and treatment of diseases, predominantly affecting developing countries.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the People's Republic of China and the Separate Custom Territory of Chinese Taipei on the successful completion of their accession procedures. We fully support the accelerated accession of Russian Federation and other applicant countries to the world trade community. Mongolia is confident that enlargement of the WTO by leading world trade partners will further strengthen the multilateral trading system.

This is a historic moment when the future of the multilateral trading system is here in our hands. Let us get our "act together" and make progress towards building the truly global international trade organization that is able to offer people everywhere an opportunity for a better life.
