

**ITEM 11: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**  
**GENERAL COUNCIL, 20 FEB 2014 - DG SPEAKING NOTES**

*[\*DG will be introduced by Amb. De Mateo, the new GC Chair\*]*

Thank you, Mr Chairman – and welcome.

Let me first say a few words about our departing Chair, Ambassador Fried.

Jonathan, you have done a truly excellent job as Chair of the General Council. You took the position during a critical period in the history of this organization – just as we were trying to maintain the momentum that our success in Bali had provided.

As the year progressed we found ourselves facing one of the most difficult challenges that we have ever faced in the shape of the impasse that we hit last summer.

You played a vital role in steadying the ship and helping members to overcome these challenges. We have now regained the momentum that Bali gave us – and you can take real credit for that fact.

You also played a key role in resolving many other challenges such as the appellate body selection process.

With each problem we faced you brought to bear your remarkable knowledge of WTO history and law.

I know that members are very grateful for the hard work and dedication you have shown – and your staunch commitment to this Organization.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you personally for everything you have done – for the support that you have given to me – and for your tireless efforts.

Countless times during your Chairmanship your counsel led to wiser decisions on my part. It led to adjustments in the course we took – and I'm sure some icebergs were avoided thanks to you.

So, thank you once again. And in keeping with our tradition, I am delighted now to present you with this engraved gavel, as a memento of your time as Chairman of the General Council.

*[\*DG hands Amb. Fried the gavel\*]*

Mr Chairman, Ambassador de Mateo, let me also congratulate you on your election.

We have known each other for a long time.

I have already had the pleasure of working with you in your different capacities, including as Chairman of the Special Session of the Services Committee and, most recently, as Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body.

Indeed, I think this appointment is the recognition of the extensive work that you have carried out for our Organization over the years.

But I shouldn't give too much praise now – let's wait until after you've done the job!

So I wish you all the best during this very important year for the WTO.

Presidente, Usted sabe que puede contar con mi apoyo, así como con la ayuda de la Secretaría. Y estoy cierto de que todos los Miembros le extenderán el apoyo y la colaboración que necesita.

Le deseo mucho éxito en su nuevo papel.